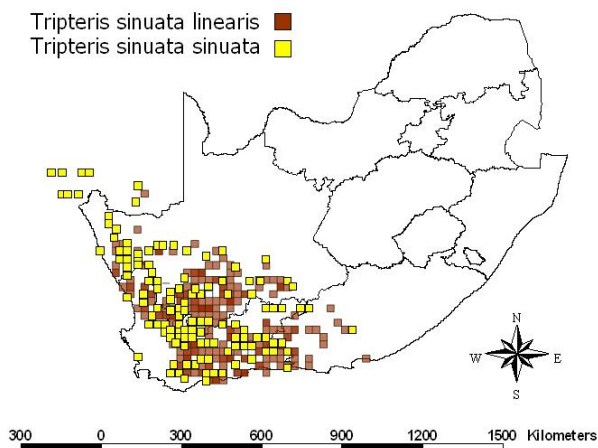


# *Osteospermum sinuatum*

Common name: Karoo bietou, skaapbos

Family: Asteraceae

Habitat: Widespread throughout the Karoo fine-textured, bottomland soils. Tolerates brak (alkaline and saline) soil.



Map based on PRECIS data from <http://sibis.sanbi.org/>.

Plant description: Broad-leaved, drought-deciduous shrub 30-50 cm high. There two varieties, *T. sinuata linearis* having narrower, more sticky or hairy leaves than *T. sinuata sinuata*. Flowers after every major rainfall event (2-4 times annually). Fast-growing reaching maturity in first year in absence of competition from other plants.

Palatability: ★★★★★ Both forms are highly palatable to game and livestock

Seed description: The fruitlets are pale-brown with transparent “wings.” Each fruitlet contains a single seed that is enclosed in a hard case. Seeds have no dormancy and 95% viability when fresh. Viability decreases by about 20% per year.

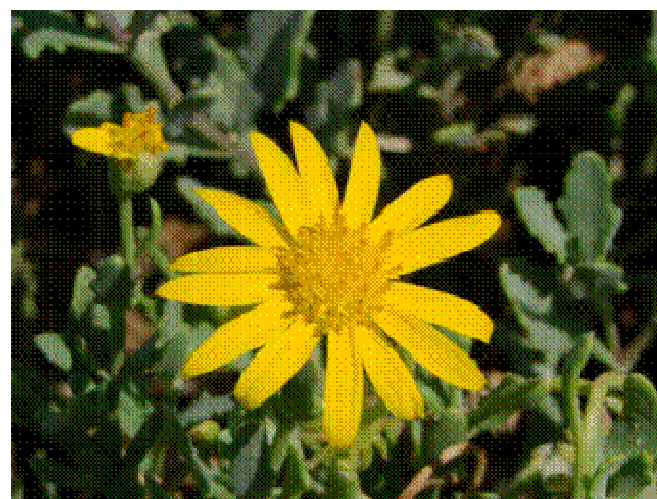
Viable seeds per kg: 62,200

When & how to plant: Can be sown at any time of the year and germinates in 7 days after rain or irrigation. Recommended rate 6kg/ha. In old lands plant in furrows at a depth of 1 cm. In natural veld sow into hap-ploeg or hand-dug hollows, and cover with thorn branches to protect from grazing animals. It is essential to retain water and avoid erosion – so

rip on the contour, not down the slope. If veld is dominated by unpalatable plants, first thin them out, but do not totally clear the vegetation because this will cause erosion.



Scale: 1cm



Scale: 1 decimeter

## References

Van Breda, P. A. B., and Barnard, S. A., 1991. Veld plants of the winter rainfall region. Department of Agricultural Development. Pretoria.

PRECIS data on southern African plant distributions and taxonomy <http://sibis.sanbi.org/faces/SearchSpecies/>

Renu-Karoo unpublished data