



Proteaceae

Leucadendron and
Leucospermum

Proteaceae

- Interesting family originally found in Southern Hemisphere areas with Mediterranean climates: Southern Africa and Australia
- Growth habit- Woody shrubs and trees and includes:



A close-up photograph of a Leucadendron flower. The flower has a central, cone-shaped, greenish-yellow structure with small black dots. It is surrounded by long, narrow, reddish-pink petals. The background is blurred green foliage.

Leucadendron

“Cone Flower”

A close-up photograph of a Leucospermum flower. The flower is a dense, rounded cluster of many long, thin, reddish-orange stamens. The background is blurred green foliage.

Leucospermum

“Pincushion Flower”

Floriculture



Leucadendron

- Originally found in Southern Africa and Madagascar
- Growth: Most are shrubs 4-8 feet tall and 4-6 feet wide. Some tree species that can reach 40 feet tall.
- Evergreen- Thick/waxy leaves arranged in a spiral around the stem
- Dioecious
- Flowers are terminal and, in most cases, not very noteworthy, but they are prized for their leaves and the brightly colored BRACTS that surround the flowers.

Leucadendron



Leucospermum

- Originally found in Zimbabwe and S. Africa
- Growth: most shrubs /small trees 4-12 feet tall and 4-6 feet wide.
- Evergreen- Leaves arranged in a spiral around the stem
- Monoecious- compound inflorescence
- Flowers are also terminal, but as opposed to Leucadendron, they are extremely showy.
- Flowers have prominent styles (female part of the flower that connects the stigma to the ovary), which is how they got their name.

Leuc



Proteoid Roots

- Grow horizontally from the plant, near the soil surface
- Easily damaged
- Very effective at water absorption
- Do not form symbiotic relationship with mycorrhizal fungi
- Very good at pulling nutrients from poor soils, especially Phosphorus “P”.



Horticulture Requirements

- Prefer **Acidic**, well-draining, soils
- Drought tolerant after established
- Need full sun and space (air circulation)
- Heavy mulch and no disturbance around roots
- Thrive in nutrient poor soils, do not need heavy fertilization (NO Phosphorus “P” fertilizer- can be deadly)
- Cold sensitive
- Should be pruned hard (1/2 of the flower stem, but never down to bare wood, and never just “deadheading”)





