**WATER-WISE ALTERNATIVES**

*Revelstone www.revelstone.co.za*

Living in the Western Cape is an asset, for its access to nature and its landscapes of endless scenery. However, as the years pass us, the drought gets ahead of us, giving us specific restrictions on water usage. Water is the source to freedom: to grow in the environment, to life and for our survival. So, when its scarce, we need alternative solutions. When it comes to the garden area, large areas of grass are no longer an option, as they need a continuous amount of water to sustain their greenery.

Replacing your lawn area with a waterwise option is the best option you can give yourself and the environment. Pavers, mulch, straw, cobblestones, peach pits, bark chips, moss, artificial turf and lawn make for a great setup when it comes to landscaping the outdoors. Even though mulch is brown in colour, as opposed to the greenery we so desire in the garden, it adds an attractive quality to the overall look. It needs no water, is generally associated with local forests and riparian areas, where leaves, shed bark and twigs make up the ground and comes at a low cost.

Artificial turf is becoming more and more popular as it gives our senses the impression that it’s green, but it doesn’t need weekly maintenance and lawn mowing or any watering. It works in both indoor and outdoor areas.

Cobblestones and concrete paving is leading the way forward and allowing people to have options into the layout, design and aesthetic, while still leaving small spaces for succulents and grass to grow in between, which requires less water. You can create spaces that surround garden beds or stone paths that lead throughout the property, giving you a creative dynamic that preserves the environment and beautifies the climate and flora challenges. Amongst our various solutions is Gravel Fix, a recyclable stabilization system for gravel. Designed to provide a solid and stable sub-base for the professional application of gravel on paths, driveways, car parks and roofs. Bera Gravel Fix is manufactured in Europe using renewable energy sources under stringent quality and environmental control. We also employ 60% hand-capped staff involved in various parts of the manufacturing process, from sample boxes to packaging.

A new and exciting product for South Africa’s challenging climate change, is BERA Green Roll, Green Cubes and Green Flocks aimed at high water saving qualities. Made from natural rock minerals and being environmentally friendly, the applications can be used under lawns, general garden beds and when planting new trees. The systems have achieved up to 70% water saving in various applications and can last for decades!

See our website for further details www.be- ra-bv.com or contact me on franko@bera-bv.com

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**GREEN SOLUTIONS**

Franko Maritz - Bera South Africa

Having started in South Africa in August 2016, BERA BV from the Netherlands felt the time was opportune to invest in southern Africa’s future business growth. Being a green solutions company for the landscape and construction industries, our products fit in well with the vast varieties of climate and flora challenges.

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**CAPE GREEN TIMES**

Newsletter published by the Cape Green Forum
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This is the 90th publication of the Cape Green Times Newsletter, a monthly newsletter that was post ed to members, over time the format changed and for a period we only published an online version. But more recently, as requested, we have reintroduced the printed newsletter which are distributed at the 2 Cape Green Trade Days. This newsletter includes the exhib itors, their contact details and products, something to keep on file.

It also has two lovely, somewhat different articles, both inspired by songs from Elveskoen, Marlaen and Area.

**RED SESBANIA**

http://invasive.org.za

The City of Cape Town has a water crisis and invasive plants also play a huge role in water loss because they have a high demand for water.

The red sesbania used to be a popular ornament al tree, but its heavy seed load and floating pods enabled it to escape into wetlands and riverbanks across the country.

It also invades wastelands, roadsides and ditches in the river parts of the city. Dense infestations in riverine situations exclude indigenous species, block access to water and hamper water flow, with the result that rivers burst their banks and cause erosion of the waterways.

Red sesbania (Sesbania punicea) is a small, deciduous tree of South American origin. It is characterized by pinnate compound leaves, bunches of attractive, bright red to orange flowers and pods with four longitudinal grooves. In terms of the Alien and Invasive Species Regulations (AIS), National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No 10 of 1997) contact Di - info@capegreenforum.co.za / 082 376 0377

For more information regarding the Cape Green Forum, please visit www.capegreenforum.co.za or the master press section of the site. Contact Di - info@capegreenforum.co.za / 082 376 0377

The view expressed are not necessarily those of the CGF. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the contents. The CGF cannot be held responsible for any errors.
There was a time that few of us would have used the "f" word without good reason. And if we did, our Moms would have quickly washed our mouths out with soap. It is a word we have all started to fear because your plight and despair is also mine. This has settled in the forefront of my mind so much, that it is starting to have an effect on my personality and daily behavioural patterns. I can prove this as while writing this piece, there is a genial, half-blind handyman fixing my shower door's wheels. "It has apparently become brittle and broke off due to a residue of old soap, erosion and a lack of lubrication and ambition" I told him. I can explain this small domestic problem which arose, as I have decided that in solidarity with the rest of my trade colleagues and friends whom are also not able to survive it! We have now reached a time where we often say the "f" word, not in anger at Mother Nature, but in utter despair within ourselves. And, no one will even think of washing out the mouths it came from, it will be as a waste of water!

We are also scared to use the "d" word, as it represents what we have all started to fear more than anything else! Drought and how to survive it!

There is hope. Where there was a tithe of us, we have now become a tithe of hundreds, thousands and millions of us united and connected. We all have the power to make a difference!

We need to act now, do not delay, do not let inertia rule and do not stall!

All of us can make a difference! We need to act now, do not delay, do not let inertia rule and do not stall!

It is not too late to protect and save our planet - the time is now! Everyone of us has a role to play in this. We all need to take responsibility and act now!

We need to reach out to each other, to support and to encourage each other. We need to be strong and united.

Let us all work together to make a difference!

There is still hope. Let us all work together to make a difference!

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