

leucadendron



LEUCADENDRON MACOWANII
CONEBUSH

BOTANICAL NAME

Leucadendron spp. (loo-ka-DEN-dron)

COMMON NAME

Conebush

DESCRIPTION

These flowers grow as showy trees and shrubs. There are many naturally occurring varieties of *Leucadendrons*, and all have interesting characteristics. Some are stark and dramatic, and others are slender-stemmed and bushy. *Leucadendrons*' "flowers" are actually stiff, colorful bracts that surround conelike flowers.

COLORS

Leucadendrons are available in hues of red, burgundy, green and yellow. Some are bicolored.

VASE LIFE

Leucadendrons will last for up to three weeks, depending on variety and care.

AVAILABILITY

Leucadendrons are available year-round from world markets, but supplies will vary. Order in advance from growers or wholesalers to ensure availability.

vase-life extenders

REFRIGERATION Keep *Leucadendrons* in coolers at 33 F to 35 F with good air circulation and high humidity to help them last longer and prevent leaf blackening.

ETHYLENE SENSITIVITY These flowers are not believed to be sensitive to ethylene gas.



LEUCADENDRON 'SAFARI SUNSET'

LIGHT Keep the lights on in floral coolers when storing *Leucadendrons*. The flowers should be displayed where there is plenty of light.

challenge

LEAF BLACKENING This is a common postharvest problem with *Leucadendrons*. Prevent it with proper refrigeration, correct use of flower food and adequate light.

quality checklist

Purchase bunches that appear fresh and crisp. Watch for blackened foliage or petals and for any sign of fungus inside the sphere-shaped heads, which will range from the size of a thimble to the size of a golf ball. Avoid new growth because these stems wilt easily.



LEUCADENDRON LAUREOLUM
'COLIN LENNOX' YELLOW TULIP,
GOLDEN CONEBUSH



LEUCADENDRON SALIGNUM
COMMON SUNSHINE CONEBUSH

fun facts

FAMILY *Leucadendrons* are members of the *Proteaceae* family. Relatives include *Banksias*, *Grevilleas* (silk oak) and *Proteas*.

MEANING The name comes from the Greek words "leukos" for "white" and "dendron" for "tree," referring to the silvery-colored foliage on some species. The *Proteaceae* family was named for Proteus, the Greek sea god who had the ability to assume many forms.

ORIGINS *Leucadendrons* originate from South Africa, along the south and southwestern coastal mountain ranges.

HISTORY The *Proteaceae* family of plants was first grown in the United States in California about 40 years ago. Later, Hawaiian growers began producing *Proteaceae* as well. The environmental conditions in these locations are similar to those of their natural habitats.

DEEP ROOTS The *Proteaceae* family is ancient and is perhaps one of the oldest known groups of flowering plants. Scientific studies of plant life show they were present 300 million years ago. The first illustrations of *Proteaceae* appeared in the early 1600s.

Some information provided by:
Hawaii Tropical Flower Council, www.htfc.com
California Protea Management,
www.californiaproteamgmt.com
The International Protea Association,
www.ipa-protea.org
The Chain of Life Network®,
www.chainoflifeflowers.com
Society of American Florists' (SAF) Flower &
Plant Care manual

Reach "Cut Flower of the Month" writer Steven W. Brown, AIFD, at sbfloral@aol.com or (415) 239-3140.

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