

Plants

Yellowboy (*Tecoma stans*) (1) is widespread on the lower slopes of the Mountain, growing by the side of the Ramps.



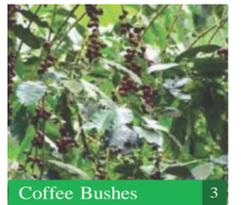
Yellowboy 1

Prickly Pear (*Opuntia vulgaris*) (2) can also be seen growing by the road. A cactus, it was introduced to enrich the soil and prevent evaporation of moisture. It has spread very rapidly, and in 1974 a moth (*Cactoblastis cactorum*) was introduced in an attempt to control the plant's expansion.



Prickly Pear 2

Arriving at the car park below the Red Lion you will see, above the wall, **Coffee bushes** (*Coffea Arabica*) (3). These are likely to be recent introductions, when unsuccessful attempts were made to grow coffee commercially.

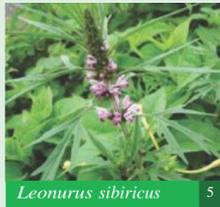


Coffee Bushes 3



Bananas 4

Across the road are **Bananas** (*Musa sp*) (4) which were introduced in the early days of the Garrison and can be found around the Mountain. On Cronk's Path is Banana Bridge, which spans Banana Ravine, where some impressive banana trees grow.



Leonurus sibiricus 5

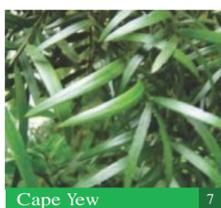
(*Leonurus sibiricus*) (5) is an upright herb with purple flowers and feathery leaves.



Goat Weed 6

Goat Weed (*Ageratum conyzoides*) (6) has small blue fluffy flowers and a pungent smell.

Cape Yew (*Podcarpus elongata*) (7) was introduced in the first half of the 19th century. A tall tree, it can grow up to 30m and has brown flaky bark and dark green slender leaves.



Cape Yew 7

Koster's Curse (*Clidemia hirta*) (8) has distinctive veined leaves and small white flowers followed by round black berries.



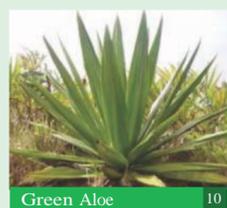
Koster's Curse 8

Glory bower, Lady Nugent's Rose

(*Clerodendrum fragrans*) (9) is a shrub with large dark green leaves and clusters of faintly fragrant pinkish white flowers.



Glory bower 9



Green Aloe 10

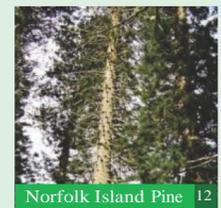
Green Aloe

(*Furcraea gigantea*) (10) one of many of the rosetted plant that grow on the Island, when mature the Green Aloe produces white flowers on a stalk of 25 to 30 feet long.



Ascension Lily 11

One plant not to miss is the **Ascension Lily** (*Hippeastrum reginae*) (11) with its striking red flower. It has a large bulb which helps it to survive through drought. Large swathes of the lily grow around the Pines.



Norfolk Island Pine 12

Norfolk Island Pine

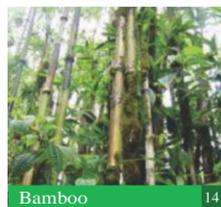
(*Araucaria excelsa*) (12) were introduced to provide timber for sailing ship masts.

Ginger (*Alpinia speciosa*) (13) is an early introduction that has established well. It makes good wind breaks along many of the Mountain paths. It is sometimes called the Shell Flower because the waxy flowers resemble sea shells. The stem, or reed, was used for making shelters. In the 1930's a summer house of ginger reeds stood in the garden of the "San" (now the Residency).



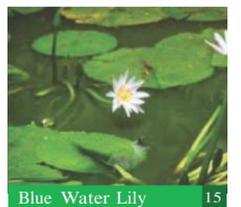
Ginger 13

Walk up to the Dew Pond and on the highest peak you will find a forest of **Bamboo** (*Bambusa sp*) (14) surrounding the path, this was planted in the late 19th century.



Bamboo 14

On reaching the Dew Pond you will be rewarded with the sight of an abundance of **Blue Water Lily** (*Nymphaea capensis*) (15).



Blue Water Lily 15

Other plants introduced for food include:

Raspberry (*Rubus rosifolius*) this grows in abundance on the Mountain paths. The stems are very prickly with bright green leaves, the red fruit has less flavour than the English Raspberry, but is edible.

Found in the same areas is the **Cape gooseberry** (*Physalis peruviana*) - farm records show this was established in 1825, providing a supply of fruit for the Garrison.

Guava (*Psidium guajava*) is widespread on the lower slopes of the mountain. The white flowers are followed by round green fruits which turn yellow when ripe. Attempts were made in 1900 to remove the shrubs, but today Guava remains one of the most common shrubs on the Island.

Background information

Although Ascension Island was discovered in 1501 it was not until 1815, when Napoleon Bonaparte was held on St Helena, that the Island was settled. At that time there was only vegetation on the higher slopes of Green Mountain - mostly ferns, mosses and some grasses. Please see the "Endemic Plants of Ascension Island" leaflet, which identifies the remaining endemic plants on Green Mountain.

All other plants have been introduced since that time. Gardens were established on the Mountain to grow vegetables and fruit for the Garrison, these evolved into a farm, which was eventually abandoned in the early 1990's.

Additional information

This leaflet covers a small number of the plants you will see on your walk. Please refer to "Flowering plants of Ascension Island, South Atlantic Ocean" by Wendy Fairhurst for identification and more detailed information on all plants found on the mountain.



Code of Conduct

- 4 Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- 4 Leave gates and property as you find them
- 4 Protect plants and animals
- 4 Do not create fire hazards
- 4 Take your litter home
- 4 Keep dogs under close control
- 4 Consider other people
- 4 Only park vehicles in designated areas
- 4 Enjoy and appreciate the environment



For more information contact: Ascension Island Conservation Centre, Georgetown, Ascension Island ASCN 1ZZ

✉ conservationenquiries@ascension.gov.ac ☎ + (247) 6359 🌐 www.conservation-ascension-island.gov.ac