



FIBER ROOFING

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CAPE REED "THAMNOCHORTUS INSIGNIS"

Cape Reed "Thamnochortus Insignis" grow wild in mainly two areas in the southern Cape Province in South Africa. The combined areas cover approximately 100 square kilometers.

The natural grow process is quite slow and reed will take 4 to 5 years to grow to a 1.2m to 1.4 m length. Ideally Cape Reed should only be harvested after a 7 to 9 year growth cycle. After the initial growth faze only about 100mm is added every year in length, but a natural preservative called "Tannin" in formed in the core of the reed. The tannin acts as a natural preservative and delays the natural compost-station process of the cut reed considerably.

The above mentioned growth patterns are influenced quite a lot by the weather conditions. The 100square kilometer area that the reed is found in, experience a winter rainfall pattern, pretty much identical to the Mediterranean. Dry spells and extremely wet spells influence the growth and the natural formulation of tannin.

Unfortunately it is impossible to determine the tannin content in reed, unless examined under a microscope in a laboratory.

We found that the life achieved with our cape reed tiles is often influenced by the climate, location, local rainfall quantities, ultraviolet exposure percentages as well as the application methods (particularly the pitch at which it is installed)

The life time expectancy of tiles depend on many varying factors and it can definitely have substantial differences that occur if comparing one years harvested reed to the next.

Additional factors that play a role in the Cape Reed life expectancy is:

Harvesting reed before a sufficient growing period (7-9 years) has occurred.

osure (witch in Cape Reed's case is a good thing) as this burns away undergrowth competing for the natural nutrients in the soil.

Over the years we have managed to build up a group of reputable suppliers that harvest the reed after allowing enough years for growth. We are also represented by a local agent in the Cape Reed region that assures the quality of the reed supplied to us.

We assure you that we have always been, and will always be 100% committed to source and provide the best quality product available.

