RORAIMA NURSERY

Newsletter No. 7 **Autumn 2013**

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A Happy Easter to our valued customers from the staff and management of Roraima Nursery

Easter Trading Days: The Nursery will be closed on Good Friday only, and will be trading as normal from 9am till 5pm all the other days of the Easter Holidays.

RORAIMA PLANT PROFILE

Draceana draco –

Dragon Tree or Dragon's Blood Tree

Native to the Canary Islands this slow growing evergreen succulent tree with a very attractive sculptural appearance will make a mark in anyone's garden. Preferring well drained soil, full sun/part shade, the Draceana draco will very slowly grow to 8m high by 8m wide. It will tolerate extreme heat, winds and even the salty spray in coastal areas. Draceana draco is a sought-after tree world-wide because of its architectural shape and is said to be facing a risk of extinction in its natural habitat.

The Draceana draco will branch out after flowering or being damaged. When mature, greenish/white flowers appear in early Summer, followed by clusters of berries. When the bark is cut or bruised, red sap appears which is used as resin to stain wood, hence one of the common names used – Dragon's Blood Tree. The ends of the branches hold clusters of long sword shaped leaves. Roraima's Draceana draco is 18-20 years old and only measures approximately 3m height.

Pictured to the left and top left are Dragon Trees in Lotusland, Santa Barbara U.S.A. where there are over 60 planted in a group. They are around 8m height and approximately 100 years old.

Dragon trees can handle very hot temperatures and will also tolerate occasional colder weather. Our Winter here got down to -4°C and our Draceana draco is still happily surviving in the garden. It is best to water deeply and minimally to avoid rotting.

It is available in 14cm pots for $9.95, 20cm pots for $22 and ranges from $400-$900 for larger sizes.

AUTUMN ARRIVALS

Bursera fagaroides - Elephant Tree

Native to Mexico/Arizona, this is a plant with a difference. It is a very slow growing plant that does best in a well-drained soil. A majority of people grow these in pots so that they can be relocated easily. In their native habitat, the stem can reach 30 cm in diameter, and the height could eventually reach up to 8m if in the right location. In Victoria they will only reach approximately 2m height. It is a deciduous plant and therefore can handle the cold Winter that we receive in Lara, (i.e. it gets down to -4°C).

Bursera fagaroides does best in a well-lit position with minimal watering during Winter if in a pot. It bears minute cream/green flowers in Spring.

It is available in three sizes: 10cm pots $19.95, 25cm pots for $95, and 35cm pots for $150 as pictured to the right.

Aeonium ‘Emerald Carpet’

This is a bright green plant that forms a cluster of permanent ground cover plants that help reduce the amount of unwelcome weeds we all experience. A stem of long lasting tiny yellow flowers appear in Spring. Preferring partial shade to full sun, a clump of the Aeonium ‘Emerald Carpet’ can reach up to 1m diameter and approximately 50cm height. They are available in 14cm pots for $5.95 as pictured to the right.

Asparagus densiflorus ‘Meyersii’

Previously known as Asparagus meyeri and commonly called Foxtail Fern, this is a plant that can be grown in both full sun and part shade. Feathery and soft, its tiny needle-like leaves form a dense cluster of brilliant green foliage year-round that magically brightens up any garden. Minute white flowers appear in Summer followed by bright red berries in Autumn. This Asparagus fern can get up to 60cm height with a width of 1.2m. It is available in 20cm pots for $29.95 as pictured to the right.

Austrocylindropuntia subulata – Eve's Pin Cactus

Native to Ecuador & Peru, these plants are grown for their architectural tree-like shape and appearance. They are not a regular flowering form of cacti, but when they do, their 5-10cm red flowers are very appealing. Quite a quick growing plant, this particular species can handle extreme weather conditions from hot dry weather to cold frosty conditions. It is known to handle temperatures down as low as -4°C It can reach up to 4m in height and 3m width. This can, of course, be 20 years in age. Once established, Austrocylindropuntia subulata can survive without watering. It is available in 20cm pots for $14.95 as pictured to the right.

Adromischus phillipsiae

The meaning behind the name of this plant Adromischus is 'stout stalk'. It is native to Cape Province, South Africa. Slender stems with tubular bright orange/red flowers appear in late Summer/Early Autumn. Perfect for hanging baskets, this rarely-seen-for-sale plant will flow over the sides of the basket and, in no time, create a waterfall effect. It is best grown in part sun/part shade. As pictured to the left, these vibrant flowering plants are available in 10cm pots for only $7.95.

Brugmansia x candida
Angel's Trumpet

A shrub with very fragrant double-white trumpet-shaped flowers that bloom profusely over two seasons, Summer and Autumn. It prefers full sun but can handle part shade and will not produce as many blooms. No sooner than the blooms seem to come to an end, another set of blooms appear. The sweet scent is very noticeable both in the early morning and evening in open areas, but in sheltered areas, it is noticeable all day. Another fascinating thing about the Brugmansia plants is that their foliage changes position over a 24 hour period. From horizontal to pointing almost totally vertical, the leaves move to protect the plant from the cooler temperatures at night. Similar movement occurs with the flowers. The buds begin growing upright and, as they are maturing, they gradually turn until they are pendulous. The shrub can reach 3-5m in height and 2-3m in width. It can be trimmed in late Winter to create a bushy shrub for the following season. It is available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for $8.95.

Pereskia aculeata 'Godsffiana'
Yellow Rose Cactus

Native to West Indies, Eastern Southern America, this evergreen shrubby looking climber may be grown upwards or downwards. As pictured to the left, it has been placed up on a tree trunk to allow the plant to naturally cascade to the ground. It can also be trained to grow up a trellis or something similar. New growth is always reddish in colour. Pereskia aculeata does best in filtered light, can reach 10m height and 5m in width, and will handle temperatures down to 5°C. Orange flowers appear in Autumn but only once the plant has reached approximately 1m height. It is available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for $7.95.

Acer palmatum 'Atropurpureum'- Japanese Maple

This Acer is a small, dense tree with excellent year-round color. Magnificent bronze-purple foliage is combined with a good shape and a useful size to make an attractive specimen tree for a protected area in the landscape. Five-lobed, rich crimson-red new leaves appear in Spring, turning to bronze-green in Summer, and then finally to rich crimson-red in Autumn. Even in Winter, the frame of the tree is colorful. It has a slow to moderate growth rate. Full sun/part shade and a well-drained soil are preferred. The Japanese Maple will reach 3.5m in height and 3m in width. As pictured to the left they are currently 1.7m height for $80 and waiting to be planted in your garden.

We hope you enjoy your Autumn gardening and should you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact us at Roraima Nursery. Be it in person, online or by phone, we will do our very best to look after you and your gardening needs.

Happy gardening,
From all at Roraima Nursery