RORAIMA NURSERY

Newsletter No. 11 **Autumn 2014**

20 Swan Street Lara Vic 3212
Ph: 03 5282 8704
Email: enquiries@roraimanursery.com.au
Website: www.roraimanursery.com.au

While rabbits are not normally welcome in any garden, the Easter Bunny certainly is! Easter is a great time for gardening, after the heat of Summer is gone, and the cold of Winter is yet to set in.

This Easter Roraima Nursery will be closed on Good Friday only and will trading as normal from 9am till 5pm on all other days.
We will also be trading as usual from 9am till 5pm on Anzac Day.

RORAIMA PLANT PROFILE

Ceiba speciosa

Ceiba is a genus of trees native to tropical areas including Mexico, Central America, South America, America, the Bahamas, the Caribbean, West Africa and Southeast Asia.

Ceiba speciosa, commonly known as the Silk Floss Tree, is a semi-deciduous native of South America. Formerly known as Chorisia speciosa, it prefers a full sun/part shade position away from strong winds and can reach 6m height and 5.width over a period of 9 years in Victoria. In their native habitat they reach 20m height, but in Victoria are known to reach 10-15m. In cooler climates like Lara, Ceiba speciosa may lose its foliage over winter when the colder weather arrives, but reappears as the warmth returns.

Once established the drought-tolerant Ceiba speciosa can handle light frosts. Not only are the striking pink flowers a highlight of this tree, but so is its thorny trunk that give this tree a pre-historic appearance. You will find it to be a conversation point in any garden.

Available in 3 different sizes as pictured to the right. Large in 40 cm pots $150, small in 20cm pots $35 and medium in 25cm pots $90.

AUTUMN ARRIVALS

Iochroma coccinea

Iochroma is a genus of approximately 34 natural species and many cultivars ranging from shrubs to small trees. Native to the forests of South America, these beautiful trumpet shaped/tubular flowers are a delight not only for the gardener to admire, but also bees and nectar-eating birds. As a flowering ornamental this particular species can reach 3m in height and 2m in width. The flowers are known to be present for 2-3 months. It is easily grown in pots and is popular as a patio plant. It can be kept to the desired height and width with regular pruning. Prune hard after flowering to promote new growth for the following year. A full sun/part shade position and free-draining soil are best for Iochromas. They are available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for only $7.95.

Haemanthus coccineus

Native to coastal areas and rocky slopes of South Africa, Haemanthus. coccineus is commonly known as the blood lily and is one of 11 species of Haemanthus. Coccineus, being the Latin word for red/scarlet, comes to life between February and April when the striking red flower appears. The flower head is made up of 6-9 upright vibrant red petals with a mass of explosive yellow stamens clustered inside. Flowers are followed by fleshy berries ranging from pale pink to dark red in colour. The leaves then make their appearance. There are normally 2 glossy broad green leaves per bulb, but sometimes they have been known to have 3 leaves. The flower stem always surfaces above the foliage. It is best grown in dappled shade. These bulbs like being planted with the top third of the bulb above ground. Roraima's Haemanthus coccineus are available in 20cm pots for only $20 as pictured above right. An absolute bargain when compared to mail order companies selling these at nearly double the price! Please note the bulbs are currently dormant. The flower spikes will make their appearance shortly. We also have Haemanthus Form A as pictured in flower to the right available in a 25cm pot for $70 and Haemanthis coccineus x albiflos (evergreen) in a 30cm pot for $70. Both are collector's plants and only a couple of each are available.

Haemanthus albiflos

This is the easiest of all the Haemanthus to grow. This particular species is evergreen and foliage can reach 25-30cm height and width over time. As the botanical name “albiflos” indicates, it has cream/white flowers that appear with a mass of vibrant yellow stamen during Autumn, lasting through till early Winter. After flowering, the seed pods also put on a show being brightly orange/red in color. Haemanthus albiflos is best grown in dappled shade. The bulbs should be planted with the top third above ground. They are available in 20cm pots for $20 as pictured to the right.

Sparmania africana

Native to Africa, South Africa and Madagascar, Sparmania africana is one of seven species of Sparmanias. Commonly known as African Hemp or Cape Stock Rose, it is an easy to grow shrub with hairy stems for a part shade area. Preferring a rich, well-drained soil, Sparmania africana will easily reach 4 metres height. It can tolerate light frosts and clay soils, but will not grow as quickly. It is an appealing bush when masses of the white flower with yellow/red stamen appear in late Spring and early Summer. It is also attractive to the nectar lovers of the garden. It is available in 20cm pots as pictured to the right for $20.

Sparmania africana ‘Flore pleno’

Similar to the Sparmania africana but with an astonishing double flower (twice as many petals). It is available in 20cm pots as pictured to the right for $20.

Duranta erecta cultivars

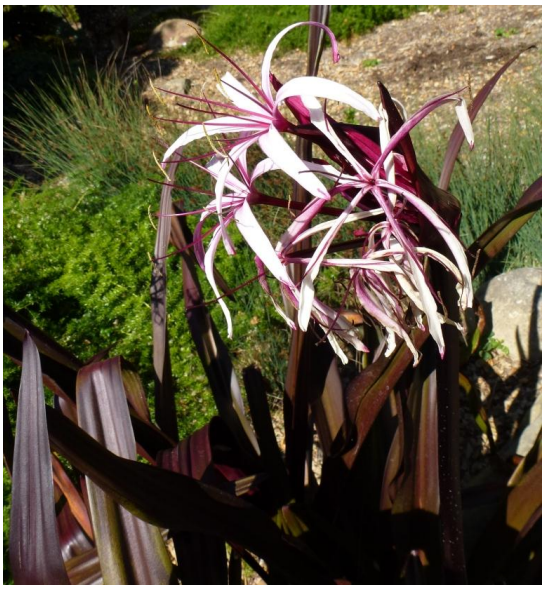
Previously known as Duranta repens, and native to Mexico, South America and the Caribbean, this dense shrub is available with either striking purple or vivid white cascading flowers measuring approximately 2cm width. The flowers emerge in late Summer and go through to mid-Autumn when the ornamental fruit appears. Commonly known as pigeon berry or golden dewdrop, it is an easily maintained plant preferring a full sun/part shade position. It performs best in rich soil with frequent pruning to maintain a bushy appearance. As pictured to the right, it is available in 14cm pots for $8.95.

Furcreae 'Jetstream'

This plant is very similar to Furcrea foetida 'Mediopicta' (previously featured in the Spring 2013 Newsletter), the difference being that the lighter color is on the inside of the leaf as opposed to the margin of the leaves. Like all Furcreas, it flowers at maturity, which can be 5-10 years, before the tall and impressive flower stem emerges from the centre of the Furcrea. It produces hundreds of flowers that turn into bulbils to begin a new generation of Furcreas. What a sight! Preferring a frost-free area with morning sun, and a free-draining soil, it is available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for only $5.95 each. If you are wanting to make a statement in your garden, this plant will do just that, especially if used in multiples! Many thanks to Geoff Stein for the image of the mature Furcreae.

Oxypetalum caeruleum

Native to South America, and previously known as Tweedia caerulea, this evergreen perennial bears pale blue star-shaped flowers which are long-lasting whether kept on the plant or cut for a vase flower. Blooming in Summer, the blue flowers slowly turn purple before revealing a boat shaped seed pod which is also quite attractive. The heart-shaped velvety-textured foliage is a grey/green color that creates contrast in the garden with other green foliage. Preferring full sun and a well-drained soil, this plant is available in 14cm pots for only $8.95 as pictured to the right.



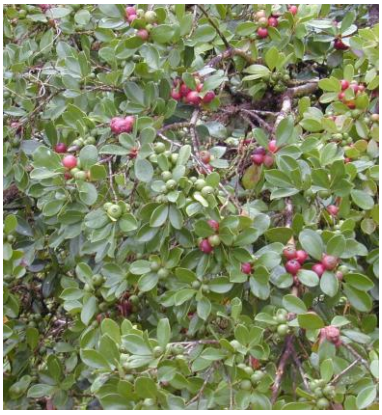
Crinum hybrid

This is not the normal Crinum that we usually see with green foliage and white flowers. It has uniquely colored burgundy foliage reaching approximately 40cm in height and displaying striking pink flowers above the foliage in Spring/Summer. Crinums are part of a large flowering bulbous perennial family native to the tropics and sub-tropics, including South Africa, and therefore prefers a warm position away from frost. It enjoys a part shade/full sun position and a rich soil. If you want to be one of the first in your neighborhood to own one of these, now is the time to contact us. At only $20 each for a 14cm pot as pictured to the right, they will not be in the nursery for long. Limited amounts of these are available. Order quickly!!!

Euphorbia tirucalli 'Firesticks'

A striking South African plant, Euphorbia 'Firesticks' can brighten any garden. Giving the appearance of coral it has been put to good use in the gardens at Seaworld U.S.A. as pictured to the left. (http://www.orangetvfl.net/central-florida-gardening/florida-friendly-landscaping-coral-reef-at-seaworld-video_09e3391e9.html). Back in local soil, this plant can easily reach 1.7m height when grown in the right conditions. Being more yellow in the Summer months, Euphorbia 'Firesticks' turns shades of orange and red through Winter as pictured lower left, varying hues in your garden year round. Preferring full sun and well-drained soil, this plant is best grown under an eave to avoid excess rainfall during the wet months, or planted in a pot that can be moved out of the rainfall areas in Winter. The Euphorbia 'Firesticks' images to the left are planted in clay soil under an eave and very rarely watered, (approximately 3 times a year). If you are lucky, in Spring you may observe small soft red leaves that appear temporarily before dropping off. As part of the Euphorbiaceae family, Euphorbia 'Firestacks' has milky sap inside the plant that may cause rashes/itchiness to the skin. It is best to take precautions and wash any sap off the skin immediately and clean gardening tools after trimming the plant. Euphorbia 'Firesticks' is available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for only $9.95.

Psidium cattleianum



Native to eastern Brazil and commonly known as Strawberry Guava, this is a drought tolerant plant once established. Preferring a full sun/part shade position and rich soil, it grows 2-3m in height and bears small red fruit which become darker when fully ripened. Strawberry Guava may be eaten with or without skin. If the skin is removed a sweeter flavor will be experienced. It is available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for only $7.95.

Don't forget to have a look at us on Facebook. Keep your eyes open for new plants and **special offers**.

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