# RORAIMA NURSERY

**Newsletter No 19** **Autumn 2016**

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**Happy Easter to all. Enjoy our early Easter and hope to see you in the nursery to view our wide range of strange and collectable plants along with the everyday ones. Plenty to choose from. Come and have a look!**

**We are open 9 -5 each day over the Easter Break (except for Good Friday when we will be closed.)**

**Pop in and say Hi.**

# RORAIMA PLANT PROFILE

## Gardenia thunbergia

This is one of the six Gardenias native to South Africa. Gardenias are named after a Scottish doctor Alexander Garden. The species name thunbergia commemorates Swedish botanist Carl Thunberg who studied botany of The Cape. This large shrub or small tree, commonly known as White Gardenia is something that you will all enjoy. Be it for the sweet perfume of the large petal white flowers,(approximately 8cm diameter), the decorative seed pods, the texture of the glossy leaves, the contrasting color of the stems or the art in the shape of the short branches, there is something here for everyone's likes. Generally flowers locally around the end of February/early March. The seed pods will remain on the plant for years as we do not have any antelope eating the pods in our gardens like they do in their natural habitat of South Africa. Imagine one of these in your garden in full flower! Prefers full sun, free-draining rich soil. It is slow growing and can reach 3 – 5 m in both height and width. Available in 30cm pots for only $90 as pictured to the left.

# AUTUMN ARRIVALS

## Cortaderia selloana 'Aureolineata'

Previously known as 'Gold Band' this is a stunning ornamental, variegated, cascading grass that is very easy to grow. A form of what some of us know as Pampas grass, it displays plumes of white flowers in autumn that last for several weeks/months. Pictured to the left is a plant that has been in its location (Lovely Banks) for over 6 years and currently stands at only 1m high by 1.5m wide. If this plant were in an area like Wallington that receives more rain, it could range in height from 1.5m to 3.5m height. Preferring full sun/part shade it is tolerant in both dry and moist soils. Once established it is drought tolerant. Unlike the weedy Pampas grass, this plant does not self-seed which means it is safe to plant in a position and not have it spread to unwanted places in your garden. Available in 26cm pots for only $40 each as pictured to the right.

## Crassula lactea

Native to South Africa and commonly known as Taylor's Parches is this low trailing succulent that bears clusters of fragrant white star shaped flowers during late Autumn. Can reach 25-30cm height and 60cm width in the right conditions. Coming from a Summer rainfall area in South Africa means that you will need to water this during Summer to obtain maximum growth and presentation. Preferring part shade and a free draining soil this is a very low maintenance plant worth having in your garden. The Crassula lactea is available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for only $7.95 each.

## Crassula perfoliata - form lime green

This is very similar to Crassula perfoliata. The difference is the lime green foliage as opposed to a blue/green foliage we normally see. The flowers are more an orange than red/orange found in Crassula perfoliata. Long flowering season can occur from November through to and including March. Prefers sull sun and free draining soil. Drought tolerant once established, this Crassula provides color and texture that makes it noticed in the garden. Pictured to the left are both the normal and lime green form Crassula perfoliatas. Pictured to the right is the lime green form in bud and our 10cm pots available for only $7.95.

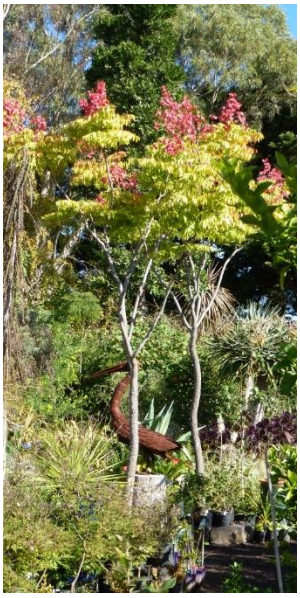
## Senecio nyikensis

Previously known as Senecio abyssinica is this upright succulent with bluey-green leaves and fiery orange-red flower balls with yellow stamen. Pictured to the left is our stock plant which almost resembles a caudiciform plant because we continually trim it to grow saleable plants. This is a plant that is rarely seen for sale in nurseries.

Prefers full sun/part shade and free-draining soil. As pictured to the right this Senecio is available in 10cm pots for only $7.95.

## Hymenocallis littoralis

Native to Mexico and Guatemala is this white sweet scented lily. Commonly known as several different names - Spider Lily, Sacred Lily of the Incas, Peruvian Daffodil and Sea Daffodil which proves you really need to know the botanical name of a plant when trying to purchase the correct plant. Stems can reach 70-90 cm height and hold several flowers. Prefers rich free draining soil, full sun/part shade. Available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for only $9.95each.



## Koelreuteria bipinnata

Native to southern and eastern Asia the Koelreuteria bipinnatas, commonly known as Chinese Flame Tree, is a deciduous tree that displays clusters of bright pink seed pods at the end of the branches during Autumn. Roraima's are currently standing approximately 5m high and this would generally take 10 years to achieve this if planted in the ground. Preferring full sun and a free draining rich soil that is regularly watered, it is not a hard tree to grow. Currently available in 20cm pots for only $24.95 as pictured to the right.

# Hylotelephiums

Hylotelephiums are another genus of plants that have had a name change in the last few years. Being part of the Crassulaceae family and formerly known as Sedums they are herbaceous perennials as opposed to the Sedum succulents. Hylotelephiums will die back over Winter and reappear in Spring with new growth. Masses of flowers are long lasting from late Summer to late Autumn. This year they have begun flowering early. Preferring full sun/part shade and a free draining soil, they are very easy to grow and reward you with masses of blooms.

All our varieties are available in 14cm pots for only $5.95 each. Here are just a couple of them:

## Hylotelephium 'Iceberg'

A clumping form of Hylotelephium is the 'Iceberg' bearing clumps of white star shaped flowers. It can reach 20 to 50cm height and width. May take up to 5 years to achieve 50cm height.

## Hylotelephium 'Thundercloud'

This is a dwarf form of Hylotelephium reaching approximately 30cm in height when in flower. Can reach 50cm width. Clusters of white flowers with a touch of pale pink and the miniature serrated foliage are the attraction of this plant.

## Hylotelephium 'Pure Joy'

This cultivar can reach 30-40cm height and 40-60 width. Clusters of mid pink/purple flowers brighten up the garden or patio.

# Hylocereus species

Hylocereus are often referred to as night blooming cacti and several species have edible fruits. This Hylocereus species that we are selling by the cuts is an edible red fruit commonly known as Dragon Fruit. Pictured to the left is an image of a Hylocereus species growing in Hawaii, hence it loves the warmer conditions and cannot handle frost. Best position here in Victoria is undercover, well-lit and free draining rich soil. Must be out of frost and heavy winter rain areas. Grows best with regular fertilising and adequate Summer watering. The fruit is often seen in restaurants as a garnish, and now becoming more common and sometimes available in supermarkets.

Currently have some cuttings available at $10 each.

## Words/terms for this season

***Herbaceous -***

A plant having little or no woody tissue: - eg: Hylotelephiums, Herbs.

***Perennial -*** A plant that transforms the garden with its flowers for generally one to three weeks and lives for more than 2 years as opposed to shorter life cycle plants referred to as annuals or biennials.

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