RORAIMA NURSERY

Newsletter No 23 **Autumn 2017**

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We are delighted to announce the opening of Roraima Nursery's display gardens on Saturday 29th of April! Come and see our unique combination of unusual plants with industrial artifacts, recycled materials, and landscaping innovations.
The gardens will be open every day from 9am till 4pm.
Entry will be by gold coin donation.

We are open from 9am - 5pm each day over the Easter break except for Good Friday.

HAPPY EASTER.

The Flametree Café

Now open in the main carpark! Selling barista coffee, tea, hot chocolate, cold drinks, and snacks. Open 9am till 5pm Friday-Tuesday during school terms and 7 days a week during school holidays. The café will also be open 7 days a week for all of May as part of the celebrations of the opening of the display gardens.

RORAIMA PLANT PROFILE

Phoenix canariensis

Commonly known as the Canary Island Date Palm, and native to the Canary Islands, this impressive and popular palm is often seen in tourist locations such as the Geelong bayside, Johnstone Park in Geelong, and The Esplanade in St Kilda. It is a very attractive tree that when mature can not only be a dramatic feature but also provide some shade. Single-trunked, it can grow 10-20 metres high locally as pictured above and is a very easy tree to maintain. It prefers a full sun/part shade position and can handle winds, salt, and droughts (once established). If you want a tropical look or a feature tree, this is the plant for you! It is available in a range of sizes beginning with 20cm pots for $18.95, 30cm pots for $75, 50cm pots for $150, 400 litre bags for $950, and larger 1000 litre bags for $5,500. Come and have a look at the many beautiful specimens available!

AUTUMN ARRIVALS

Canna lily

For anyone wanting a tropical-look garden, this is the ideal plant. Canna lilies come in a range of sizes so you can have short ones in tight spots or tall ones in larger areas. They also do well in pots. Flowering for long periods over Summer through to mid/late Autumn, they brighten up the garden not only with their flowers but also with their foliage that can be several colors including variegated (left). Winter is the time to cut Cannas down. They die back in Winter and require a cut back and feed to make them ready to begin growing again in Spring. Cannas prefer full sun/part shade and a rich free-draining soil and are a low maintenance plant ideal for the busy lifestyle. They are available in 20cm pots (right) for only $24.95 each.

***SPECIAL – Buy 3 or more Cannas for just $20 each! ***

Agave attenuata

Commonly known as Lion's Tail/Foxtail/Swan's Neck is the Agave attenuata. Native to Mexico, this is a fast growing and multiplying succulent. It has a green/blue tinge which creates a different shade of green in the garden. Preferring full sun/part shade and a free-draining soil, it is an easy plant to maintain. It does not like frost areas and it is best to plant it in a frost-free position. Pups can be removed to create other plants in the garden when they are a reasonable size. As pictured to the left is a spectacular flower stem that appears when the plant is mature and displays hundreds of flowers on the one stem before the flowers become pups. Thanks to Roraima's neighbors for allowing us to use this image of their flowering Agave attenuata.

They are available in 20cm pots as pictured to the right for only $14.95 each.

Agave attenuata 'Nova'

Wanting a blue colored plant in your garden? This is perfect! It has similar features to the standard Agave attenuata above, but is a lovely shade of blue as illustrated in the image to the left. Agave attenuata 'Nova' does not multiply as fast as Agave attenuata, but it flowers the same and requires similar conditions to successfully grow. It is available in 20cm pots as pictured to the right for only $40.

Cussonia sphaerocephala

Native to South Africa and commonly known as Natal Forest Cabbage Tree is this rare beauty. It has been a long time since Roraima Nursery has had these for sale. It is the tallest, but slowest growing of the Cabbage Trees, and can reach of height 10 metres in Victoria. It prefers a full sun/part shade position and free draining soil. The flowers are a cream/green like other Cussonias. Roraima's Cussonia sphaerocephala, as pictured to the left, is approximately 14 years old and stands 3.4 metres high. Minimal stock at present, so be quick! Pictured to the right is an image of a flower stem from Cussonia paniculata,(which is very similar) and the 20cm pots currently for sale at $30 each.

Cortaderia 'Silver Stripe'

Native to South America, and commonly known as Pampas Grass, this Cortaderia is a cultivar that does not self-seed like the weedy Pampas Grass does. This is one of the shorter cultivars of the Pampas Grass, making it more attractive to suburban blocks. Bearing silver-striped leaves, it can reach 1.5 metres in height with the feathery blooms yet another metre above the foliage. Preferring a full sun/part shade position and free-draining soil, it is capable of handling strong winds and coastal beach frontages that normally create problems for plants. It is available as pictured to the right for only $24.95 each. Be quick as only minimal stock is currently available!

Sedum burrito

Closely related to the common Donkey Tails (Sedum morganianum), but chunkier, is the delightful Sedum burrito. Preferring morning sun/part shade and a free-draining soil, this plant is great for hanging baskets or pots as pictured with the mature plant on the left. This plant is approximately 6 years old and has already been trimmed at the back to provide plants for the Nursery. The pot it is planted in is 1 metre tall. It is a great talking point in the garden! It bears mid-toned pink flowers in Summer with nectar that honeyeaters absolutely love. Pictured above right is the flower of Sedum morganium which is very similar. It is easily grown from cuttings so that you too can have this look in your garden in no time at all. It is currently available in 14cm hanging baskets as pictured to the right for only $11.95 each.

Ceropegia woodii

Native to South Africa, and commonly known as Chain of Hearts, is this evergreen succulent vine that can grow to long lengths over time. Preferring a rich free-draining soil, this easy-to-grow plant is suitable for hanging baskets in a light shade/morning sun area. Small, pale pink, parachute-shaped flowers that are approximately 3cm long appear in late Summer/early Autumn. Make sure the soil dries out between watering as it does not like to be overwatered. It is available in hanging baskets as pictured to the right for only $11.95 each.

Caryota obtusa

Native to India, Laos and Thailand, this tropical plant is commonly known as the **Giant Fishtail Palm**. It provides a beautiful tropical look in the garden as seen in the image to the left. This has been through a Winter in Roraima Nursery but it does not like frost so you need to ensure it will not be in an open space if living in a frosty area. Care must be taken when it is under 2m height. It is expected that this will reach 5-7 metres in height in the Lara area. Each of the leaflets are triangular in shape which makes them a bit different to most other palms. They slightly resemble a fish tail, giving the tree its common name. Please note that the fruits of this palm are toxic to pets. This plant is monocarpic, which means it will die after flowering, but it will give many years of enjoyment before then. It is available in 10cm tubes as pictured to the right for only $20 each.

Phytolacca dioica

Native to South America and commonly known as The Ombu Tree is this massive evergreen tree that over time will form a large canopy. Capable of reaching 10-15 metres in height and 10 metres in width here in Victoria, this tree can be the focal point of your garden. Large, lush-green leaves will provide plenty of shade. Pictured to the left is one in the display gardens at Roraima. They are 14 years old with a height of approximately 6 metres. The trunk of Phytolacca dioica is known to be fire resistant as the trunk tissue stores water, making it a great tree to have in bushy areas that are fire hazardous. It bears white flowers that form drooping **racemes**. Preferring full sun/part shade, this tree can grow in both clay and sandy soils. It is also a very good tree for bonsai. It has a large root system so plant well away from buildings, structures, etc. The sap is known to be poisonous so take care when pruning or handling foliage. It is available in 20cm pots as pictured to the right for only $29.95 each or $120 for 50cm pots.

Words/terms for this season

Racemes – (As in the Phytolocca dioica) A flower cluster with separate flowers attached by short stalks on a central stem.

We have lots of images for you to peruse so please join us! Note we are using Instagram to show you images only. Please send any questions via email or Facebook.

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