RORAIMA NURSERY

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See Roraima Nursery at this year's

Mount Macedon Plant Lovers' Market!!

For the first time in several years, Roraima Nursery is making a return to this special gardening event. The ever-popular Mount Macedon Plant Lovers' Market features specialist plant nurseries and growers from all over the state. It will be held next weekend, Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th of September, at the Mt Macedon Horticultural Hall, 583 Mt Macedon Road, Mt Macedon. For more details visit www.mtmacedonhort.org.au/events/plantlovers

Lyle will be taking a wide variety of rare and unusual plants, sure to be of great interest to the collector. Numbers of each type will be limited. Please call in at our stall and say hello to him!

RORAIMA PLANT PROFILE

Beschorneria yuccoides

Native to Mexico, commonly known as Mexican Lily, this is a striking clump forming plant with lance shaped grey/green foliage with rough edges that will reach 1m height and 1.5m width over time. Red flower stems bearing clusters of bright green flowers encompassed by red bracts appear late spring, and towards the end of summer the spike will measure 1.5 – 2m height. The number of flower spikes can vary from year to year ranging from one to many, depending on the conditions over the prior 12 months. For a young plant, it might take 2-3 years before a flower stem appears.

Beschornarias require a sunny position with reasonable drainage. For solid clay soils, all they need is a slightly raised bed. Once established, they can tolerate strong winds, frost, and both hot and cold environments. Avoid planting under trees to enable the flower stem full access to the sun and prevent fallen leaves being collected in the plant.

Suitable for both garden and pots, this is a low maintenance plant that only requires fertilizing in autumn and spring. Beschornerias, like all plants, respond well to water during the growing season.

As pictured from the left, Roraima has 4 different Beschornerias to choose from: Beschorneria yuccoides, Beschorneria yuccoides ‘Reality’(available in 14cm and 20cm pots), Beschorneria tubiflora and Beschorneria septenrionalis. Prices range from $8.95 to $31.95.

SPRING SENSATIONS

Kalanchoe sp.

This Kalanchoe species is a perennial succulent with a stunning tubular red flower that appears in mid-Spring. Nectar eating birds are attracted to the mass of flowers that display for several weeks. This Kalanchoe species does best in full sun to encourage a mass of impressive red flowers with vibrant yellow lips. As pictured to the right, these are available in 10cm pots @$5.95 each.

Velthemia bracteata

Velthemia bracteata is a beautiful South African bulb with wavy-edged, deep green glossy leaves. Salmon colored, long lasting flowers, similar in appearance to Aloes, appear in late Winter through to mid-Spring. Velthemia bracteata is an absolute treasure to have in the garden. It is available in 14cm pots from $9.95

Rothmannia globosa

Previously known as Gardenia globosa, this is an attractive evergreen shrub, native to South Africa, with upright stems and branches of dark green glossy foliage. Commonly known as Tree Gardenia, it produces cream bell-shaped flowers in Spring followed by black fruits. Growing to 3-4m and preferring rich acidic soil, it can withstand temperatures down to 0°Celsius. It is **not available until November**, but we are happy to take orders to ensure you do not miss out this striking plant. It will be in a 14cm pot for $11.95

Epiphyllums

We currently have on offer, 28 different colored blooms to choose from. These pastel to very bright coloured flowers will be the talking point of your garden. Generally best in hanging baskets/pots positioned in part shade to full shade, Epiphyllums are quick growing succulents with flowers ranging from 5 – 20cm diameter making their appearance late Spring/early Summer. They are sold as cuttings for $5.00 each. All you need to do is let the cut end harden off for a few days in a cool/shady position before planting in a rich, well-drained soil or potting mix. For a selection of the colors we have available, just look under Epiphyllums on our site: www.roraimanursery.com.au or call into the nursery to look at our photos of available cuttings.

Rebutias

Rebutias are mostly clump-forming spherical or columnar cacti. They are a very easy genus of cacti to grow. They prefer full sun but can be successfully grown in part shade. We have a large range of Rebutias flowering in Red, Orange, Pink, & Yellow. Pictured to the right, they are priced at $5.95 in 10cm pots, and are a bargain.

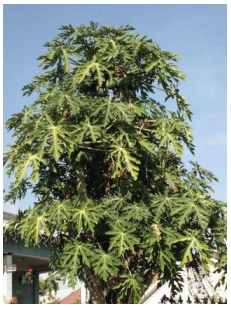
Senecio kleinia

Previously known as Kleinia nerifolia, and native to the Canary Islands, this plant is a **rare** sighting in nurseries. It is a Winter grower that displays purple veins on the thick, fleshy branches when young. Foliage can vary from green to glauca (bluish), depending on the plant's position. Reaching 2-3m height over time, this Senecio bears yellowish/white slightly scented flowers. Depending on the preferred appearance, it can be grown in full sun as pictured to the left, or part shade as pictured to above right, and will tolerate cold temperatures down to -2°C. Available in 10cm pots, as pictured to the right, for only $7.95

Synadenium grantii

Commonly known as African milkbush, Synadenium grantii is an evergreen, semi-succulent shrub grown for its attractive foliage that adds a tropical feel to the garden. Native to East Africa, it can range from a bright green to a rosy red, holding its striking colours year round. Frost tender, this plant needs to be protected from the cold by placing against a wall, under an eave, or in the partial shade of a tree. Regular pruning (late Winter) can be done to maintain the required shape. A word of caution: The white sap can have an irritating effect on the skin. Always make sure you wash your secateurs and hands after contact with the sap from the Synadeniums. They are available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right, for $7.95

Carica pubescens



Commonly known as Mountain Paw Paw, this is the hardier of the Paw Paws. Reaching 2-3m height, it is frost tender and requires full sun and rich soil. In colder areas it might defoliate in Winter due to cold weather, but will regrow when warmer Spring arrives so long as the frost has not damaged the stems. Flowers appear from spring followed by fruit that take several months before they ripen. As the fruit ripens you will notice a fruity fragrance in the air. This plant is **not available until the end of November**. We are happy to take orders to ensure you do not miss out on this spectacular plant. It will be available in 20cm pots for $30.

Iresine herbstii

With a common name of Bloodleaf/Beefsteak plant, Iresine herbstii is a bushy red stemmed and leafed plant with dominant pink veins. Preferring well-drained soil, it must be grown in a frost free area and can be trimmed to a preferred shape after the Winter temperatures have passed. Sought after for its foliage, the flowers on this plant are insignificant. Reaching 60cm height and 45cm width, it is often treated as an annual in cooler areas. It grows well in pots or garden beds. It will be available in 14cm pots for $7.95 **from October**. We are happy to take orders to ensure you do not miss out on this plant.

Cotyledon tomentosa ssp tomentosa

Cotyledon tomentosa ssp. tomentosa is native to Cape Province, South Africa, and is commonly known as Bear's Paw. The entire plant is covered in dense felty hairs with serrated tips on the end of each 'paw'. This fuzzy green leaved plant is frost tender and prefers a full sun/part shade position in a well-drained soil. It can reach a height of 25cm with the striking orange/yellow flower protruding above the foliage stems.

SPRING GARDENING

Spring is the time for weeding, feeding and planting. As the cold weather moves away, the ground will begin to warm up, encouraging new growth to the garden.

For natives such as Banksias/Grevilleas/Hakeas,(being part of the Proteaceae family),we suggest using only a native fertilizer on these. Other natives like Eucalypts, Acacias etc. are more tolerant to the level of nitrogen that they can handle, and other fertilisers may be used so long as you follow directions for correct application. If you have a mixture of natives in your garden being made up of both the Proteaceae family and other native families (Mytraceae, Mimosaceae etc.) it is best to stick to just the native fertiliser to ensure that no damage is caused to any of your Proteaceae plants.

Spring is also a good time for mulching around your plants. Place mulch around the plants leaving a gap of about 15cm away from the central stem to allow the rain and hand watering easy access to the soil. Over past years where only small amounts of rain have fallen, it has not penetrated through the mulch, hence the plant has suffered. Then apply mulch thickly to the surrounding area (approximately 10cm thick), to retain moisture in the soil and also reduce the amount of weeds.

A lot of the Aloes have or will be completing their flower cycle. The flower stem now becomes a woody skeleton stem which can be seen as an architectural feature in your garden. Try leaving the bare stems on the Aloes for a few weeks just to alter the look of your garden.

Pictured is the stunning architectural Aloe arborescens x ferox in flower in Roraima's display gardens that are currently under development

CARING FOR CACTI

Dynamic Lifter – used carefully around your garden, this is a beneficial fertiliser for Cacti and Succulents. Making sure that you follow package directions for the distribution rate, and not applying too close to the plant, this fertiliser works well in slowly placing nutrients into the ground. For potted cacti, a slow release fertiliser can be applied following directions for application rate. Liquid fertiliser (worm/seaweed/fish) can alternatively or also be applied at regular intervals making sure not to over-fertilise if using both forms of fertiliser.

In late Spring a lot of the cacti will begin to brighten up your garden with their beautiful brightly coloured flowers. Taking regular photographs of your plants in flower is a way of keeping records of when they flowered and how many flowers and to what quality of flowers they were.

NURSERY NEWS

We celebrated our 11th Birthday on the first weekend of September with our once-a-year sale. The sun came out and the weather was glorious, with the first real warmth in many months. Thank you to all the people who came and supported us.

We hope you enjoy your Spring 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