RORAIMA NURSERY

Newsletter No 9 **Spring 2013**

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Roraima Nursery is turning TWELVE

and we are celebrating with a huge

20% off all plants* and 10% off all pots

4 days only!!

Friday 30th August till Monday 2nd September

Don't miss out!!

*Discount does not apply to online sales or advanced bottle trees

RORAIMA PLANT PROFILE

Doryanthus

There are only 2 species in this genus of spectacular native flowering plants, both bearing bright red flowers in Spring. Although it may take a minimum of 7 years from seed for these plants to bear their giant flower stems, it is worth the wait!

Both Doryanthus species do best in rich free-draining soil, and prefer full sun/partial shade. The foliage can handle mild frost although the developing flower stem must be protected from frost. The flowering period is 4-9 weeks which provides a long flowering plant to your garden. Doryanthus are monocarpic, meaning that new offsets will appear around the flowering rosette prior to the slow death of the original flowering plant.

Doryanthus excelsa (pictured above and to the right), commonly known as Gymea Lily, is native to the central coast of New South Wales. Sword-like leaves will grow over 1.2m in height and clump up to 4m in diameter. Doryanthus excelsa have measured up to 2.5m in leaf length at The Sydney Botanical Gardens. The stunning flower stem can reach 3-6m in height and generally blooms in Spring in Victoria. It can bloom in Autumn to Spring in warmer states. The vivid red trumpet-like flowers are clustered together in a head measuring approximately 30cm in diameter.

Doryanthus palmeri (pictured below), or common name of Giant Spear Lily, is native to the McPherson Ranges of south east Queensland. It can grow up to 2m in height and 3-4m in diameter. The 3m flower stem is a lengthy cluster of small bright red blooms that can become so heavy that gravity takes hold and the flower stem ends up bending over and touching the ground for support. Similar conditions to Doryanthus excelsa are required to obtain the large flower stem.

Thanks to Gemma for allowing us to photograph her flowering plants.
Both species are available in 20 and 30cm pots ranging from $20-$65.

SPRING SENSATIONS

Wigandia caracasana

Native to Venezuela in South America, Wigandia caracasana is a tall-growing, robust, evergreen, woody perennial shrub that has dense hairy leaves and large clusters of purple flowers which appear in Spring and Summer. It prefers a rich well-drained soil, full sun/part shade and can reach 3m in height. It is known to tolerate a light frost. Whether it be for hiding an ugly fence or appreciating the large foliage and flowers, this is an underrated plant and is not regularly spotted in people's gardens, so if you are looking for something different, here it is! It is available in 20cm pots for $25.95 as pictured to the right.

Melianthus major

There are only 6 species of Melianthus, all native to South Africa. Commonly known as Honey Flower, the Melianthus major is an evergreen shrub that has beautiful light blue-green ruffled edge leaves that can grow to 50cm in length. Adding a contrast in the garden amongst green foliage plants, it can reach 2.5-3m height and width. Bearing its distinctive dark reddish-brown flower spikes in Spring that appear above the foliage, this plant is a favorite with both people and birds. If it does become untidy or too large, it can be easily cut back in late Autumn without damaging the plant. It prefers full sun/part shade and well-drained soil. It is available in 20cm pots for $14.95 as pictured to the right.

Crotaleria agatiflora

Native to Eastern Africa, this is commonly known as Canary bird bush because when it is in bloom, the bright yellow and green flowers resemble canaries sitting on a branch. At Roraima this has been photographed in flower during Spring, Autumn and Winter. During the hotter months of the year, the flowers tend to subside. According to most records it flowers in Summer and Autumn. It is frost sensitive (can handle temperatures down to -3ºC), and can be cut down after the cold season to promote new growth. Regular pruning will assist with keeping a bushy shrub. It can reach 2.5m in height and does best in full sun/part shade and a well-drained soil. It is available in 20cm pots as pictured to the right for $19.95

Furcrea foetida 'Mediopicta'

Commonly known as Mauritius Hemp it is similar in appearance to an Agave, but there are no thorns on this plant! Adding contrast in color to any garden or pot, the large striking variegated leaves can reach 1.5m height x 2.2m wide. It does best in morning sun or filtered light. The Furcrea foetida 'Mediopicta' is frost tender so it needs to be planted near a wall, under an evergreen tree, or ensured protection from frost. Once established, very little watering is required. After several years (7-12) a tall flower spike will appear producing cream flowers that will turn into bulbils that eventually grow to adult plants before flowering themselves. The adult plant dies after flowering like the Agaves, but well and truly worth witnessing the amazing flower spike in its growing/flowering/seeding stages. It is available in 14cm pots for $9.95 and 20cm pots for $14.95 as pictured to the right.

Agave vilmoriniana

This single bluey-green rosette is capable of reaching 1.2m in both height and width. Resembling an octopus with its many long arms waving about, the Octopus Agave as it is commonly known, grows best in full sun/part shade and prefers a well-drained soil. Like most Agaves, vilmoriniana generally takes 7-10 years to flower; but when it does, it puts on a show with a tall, graceful stem made up with masses of bright yellow flowers, which eventually turn into bulbils, enabling you to multiply your Agave vilmoriniana collection. Growing best in full sun, Agave vilmoriniana can also tolerate part shade. It is available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for $9.95. Many thanks to Geoff Stein, 'Palm Bob' of Dave's Garden for his images

Agave cv. 'Nova'

Commonly known as the Blue Foxtail Agave, and so much bluer than the regular Agave attenuata, it can reach 1.2m in both height and width over time. Drought tolerant once established. This exquisite blue-leaved Agave is frost sensitive, so it is best to provide coverage over the cooler months or grow in a protected position. When it flowers, the 1.5-2m tall flower spike has an abundance of lemony-yellow flowers opening up to the sun. Some of these are currently on order so hopefully they will be available soon at around $35-40 for a 20cm pot similar to that pictured on the right. Orders can be placed.to ensure you receive an Agave 'Nova.'

Hymenosporum flavum

Commonly known as native frangipani, this plant originates from the eastern sub-tropical/tropical coast of Australia. This is a beautiful tree with glossy green leaves and a sweet-scented flower suitable for most gardens. Growing approximately 8-10m height in Victoria, the native frangipani has beautiful 3-4cm diameter flowers that begin cream, turn lemon/yellow and then finally a deep yellow. Masses of these three-colored flowers cover the tree during Spring and go through until early Summer making this a very appealing tree for the garden. Once flowering is complete, pear-shaped seed pods adorn the tree before they split adding yet more interest to the tree with their opened seed pods hanging on the branches. The tree to the left is 3.5m height and only 6 years old. Growing in clay soil and receiving strong southerly and northerly winds, it still manages to show this magnificent array of flowers in Spring. The native frangipani tree is appealing at all times of the year. It grows best in full sun but can handle part shade. As pictured to the right they are available in 14cm pots for $8.95.

NURSERY NEWS

Roraima Nursery is now on facebook! Follow us on facebook for the latest in news and new arrivals.

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