RORAIMA NURSERY

Newsletter No 13 **Spring 2014**

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Roraima Nursery is turning 13!!

To celebrate we are taking

20% Off All Plants*

and

10% Off All Pots

4 Days Only

Friday 29th of August – Monday 1st of September

*Discount excludes some advanced trees and online purchases.

RORAIMA PLANT PROFILE

Araucaria bidwillii

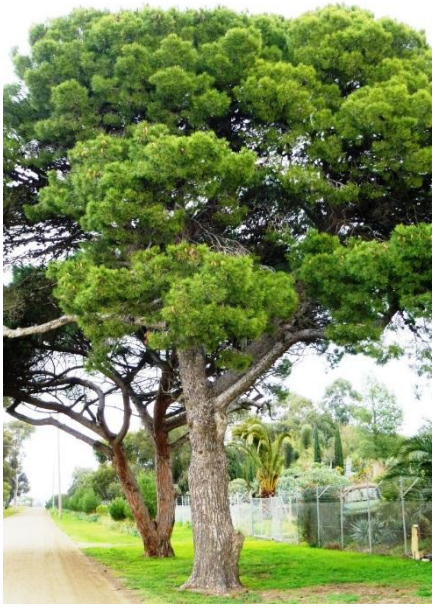
Commonly known as the Bunya Bunya Pine, this tall tree is native to south-east Queensland. An historic looking tree when it obtains some height is what makes this tree appealing to many people. If you want to create your own Jurassic Park, this is where to begin. The Bunya Bunya Pine can grow 20 - 30 metres in the local area, produces extremely large cones measuring 30cm in length, 20cm in width, and can individually weigh up to 4kg. The seeds are large and also edible. Pictured above and to the right is a mature specimen in the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Notice the cars at the base of the tree! Preferring full sun/part shade and well-drained soil, these trees are drought tolerant once established. As pictured left to right below, they are currently available in 20cm pots for $25, 40cm pots for $79.95 and 200 litre containers for $250.

SPRING SENSATIONS

Scilla peruviana

Native to Portugal and Spain, this evergreen perennial provides a stunning blue flower, as pictured to the left, in mid to late Spring and even early Summer. With no need to dig it up after flowering, unlike most other bulbs, Scilla peruviana is a maintenance free bulb that is easy to care for. Preferring full sun to light shade and free draining soil, if watered and fed, they will multiply easily in your garden. Feeding these bulbs only requires some fertilizer, (blood and bone/bulb fertilizer/dynamic lifter etc.) in late Winter/Early Spring. You will receive a large clump of blue flowers in just a few years. As pictured to the right, they are available in 14cm pots for just $8.95.

Pinus halapensis



Commonly known as the Aleppo Pine and native to the Mediterranean, this tree can grow 20 metres tall. Generally in the local area it reaches approximately 15m. Once established the Aleppo Pine is a very hardy species withstanding poor soils, droughts and high winds. Can tolerate limestone soils and grows easily in both acidic and alkaline soils. The Aleppo Pine does not produce any flowers but both male and female cones. Foliage begins a silver grey that darkens with age and becomes a purplish-brown or grey-black. Available in 30cm pots for $30 and 40cm pots for $79.95 as pictured to the right. Pictured to the left is a mature species out the front of Roraima Nursery, estimated at 100 years old and currently stands approximately 15m tall.

Kalanchoe ‘Cosmic’

A very attractive white flowering Kalanchoe that requires a little love and attention to be successfully grown. Kalanchoes are native to tropical regions of Africa and Madagascar, hence appreciate a warm area with free-draining soil in the garden and definitely out of cold winds and frost. This cultivar is a frost tender plant and should be kept undercover in frost areas. Available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for only $5.95 each.

Cleistocactus strausii

Commonly known as Wooly Torch and part of the Cactaceae family is this striking hot pink Spring flowering cacti with the contrasting mass of white hairs that cover the stems. Native to Bolivia and Argentina it can reach up to 3m height and yet only approximately 8cm width. Prefers full sun and free draining soil. Available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for $11.95 or cuts, measuring 20cm to 100cm. $10 per 10cm.

Hippeastums

Hippeastrums are also known as Amaryllis are native to Central and South America. With a common name of Knight's Star Lily there are about 80 species and over 600 hybrids available. An evergreen bulbing plant that is left in the ground/pot all year round. Preferring a sunny position, to be planted in a rich soil with the neck of the bulb above ground (similar to Belladonna lilies), will provide endless brightly colored trumpet flowers to the garden during Spring to early Summer.. The slugs and snails absolutely love the greenery, so be prepared to do nightly slug/snail hunts or distribute snail bait around the plant. Best kept moist during their growing season and allowed to dry out over winter, only receiving natural rainfall. They will be available in 14cm pots for only $9.95 which contains one bulb.

Keep an eye on future newsletters for a variety of Hippeastrum that flowers during Winter and is rarely seen in nurseries.

Rhipsalis paradoxa

Native to Brazil and commonly known as Chain cactus, this is the perfect plant for hanging baskets. Foliage that appears flattened grows rapidly during Spring Preferring morning sun or shady position, this plant is extremely easy to grow. Early Spring is when multiples of the delicate looking cream flowers appear. Available in either hanging baskets for $19.95 or 10cm pots for $5.95 as pictured to the right.

Aristea capitata

From the same family as the Iris, formerly known as Aristea major and native to South Africa growing 1 - 1.2m high these long lasting spectacular bright blue flower stems appear in Spring and brighten up the garden for several weeks with their color. This clump forming perennial with leathery strap-like leaves prefers well drained rich soil and full sun. Low maintenance plant once established and suitable for busy gardeners. Available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for only $8.95 each.

Aeonium aizoon

Not a very common Aeonium and rarely found in peoples gardens is this low growing groundcover Aeonium. Bearing bright yellow flowers in Summer, it will add a colorful scene to your garden/patio. Formerly known as Greenovia aizoon, it is native to The Canary Islands and will grow best in morning sun, but will tolerate afternoon heat if cared for. Pictured above left is a cluster of Aeonium aizoon taken by Rudolf Schulz growing naturally in the Canary Islands. Aeonium aizoon will not go totally dormant like the Aeonium aureum does in Summer. As with all Aeoniums, when they flower, that particular plant will die but should have produced pups prior to flowering. Available in 10cm pots as pictured to the left for only $5.95 each. Many thanks to Rudolf Schulz for allowing us to use the image of the Aeonium Aizoon.

Pseudopanox ferox

Commonly known as Toothed Lancewood and native to New Zealand, this eye catching tree is certainly a talking point for any garden. Successfully grown in both garden beds and pots, it will eventually reach 6m height. There are three different species of Lancewoods native to New Zealand of which they have been recorded as growing 15m high and bearing a trunk width of 50cm. In Victoria, they have not been known to grow this high.
Slowly growing it finally reaches maturity around 15-20 years when the long thin serrated colorful foliage become shorter wider dark green leaves. The form of the tree begins to change from a single trunk to a branched tree. It takes this long before you see small greenish/yellow flowers turn into purplish-black fruits that appear in autumn and winter.
As pictured upper right, you can see the interesting trunk of the tree which will grow to a width of 25cm. The trunk is highly textured which is just another eye catching feature of this tree. Roraima's Pseudopanox ferox is 10-15 years old and currently stands 2.7m tall, pictured to the left. Available in 20cm pots as pictured to the right for only $30 each.

Keep an eye on our site for future release of sculptured plantings of this species which should be available in a couple of years.

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 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