RORAIMA NURSERY

Newsletter No 21 **Spring 2016**

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CAN YOU BELIEVE

RORAIMA IS 15

COME AND CELEBRATE OUR 15TH BIRTHDAY WITH US.

from Friday 2nd September
to Monday 5th September
9am - 5pm

To celebrate we are taking

25% Off All Plants*

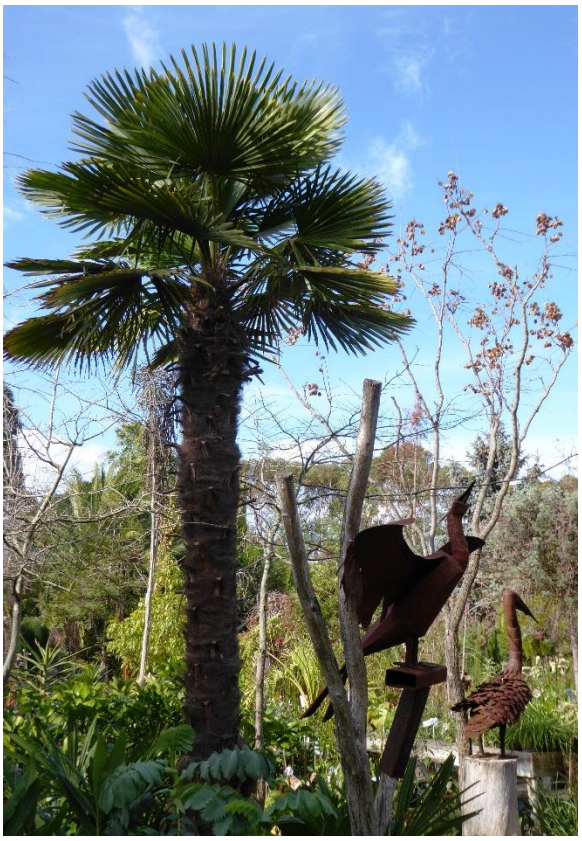
&

15% Off All Pots

4 Days Only

*Discount excludes online purchases and some advanced trees

RORAIMA PLANT PROFILE
Trachycarpus fortunei



Currently standing at 3.5-4m tall in Roraima Nursery is this 20 year old Chinese Windmill Palm as pictured to the left. Native to Asia these slow growing palms, with a fibre-covered trunk, can tolerate both hot and cold seasons which makes them an easier plant to successfully grow in Victoria where we get both extreme hot and cold weather. Have been known to handle -10 degrees centigrade, so areas like Ballarat and Bendigo who normally have to worry about regular frosts and extreme cold temperatures can easily grow this palm in their garden. The Trachycarpus fortunei can reach 7m height and 3 metres width over time!

Preferring full sun/part shade they are easily grown in most soil types. Appreciate regular watering over the warmer months and being fed in both Autumn and Spring. As pictured below, they are available in 20cm pots for $20 and 30cm pots for $75. Do you have the perfect spot for this tree in your garden?

SPRING SENSATIONS

Sisyrinchium striatum ‘Aunt May’

Commonly known as Pale Yellow-Eyed Grass is this evergreen perennial that forms a clump of erect variegated leaves and bears stems with clusters of pale yellow flowers during late Spring. Preferring full sun/part shade, well-drained soil, it will multiply in time allowing you to divide and begin a new clump in your garden. Does not like wet feet in Winter. Free draining soil will prevent this. Available in 14cm as pictured to the right for only $9.95 each.

Schotia afra var. angustifolia

Native to South Africa and commonly known as Karoo boer-bean is the water-wise tree that can be pruned to shape. As pictured to the left is Roraima’s Schotia afra var. angustifolia which is 10 years old and currently stands at 1m tall and 3.5m wide. Not only are the tiny foliage and reddish/pink flowers attractive, there is also the contrast provided by the smooth white stems. Flowers appear around October. Prefers full sun/part shade and a free draining soil. Can grow 2-3m height and width. Nectar eating birds are also attracted to this plant. Currently available in 20cm pots for $29.95 each. Only a couple of these available at present. 14cm pots will be available at the end of the year. Put an order in if you would like one of these.

Virburnum burkwoodii

Botanically known as Viburnum x burkwoodii (which is a cross between Viburnum carlesii and Viburnum utile) is this semi-deciduous shrub with glossy lime green foliage that can grow up to 2.5m height and approx. 2m width. A strong scented white/pink flower appears during Spring before turning into a red fruit that eventually turns black. Prefers full sun/part shade and a free draining rich soil to obtain maximum growth and flower numbers. .Available in 20cm pots for $24.95

Crassula
'Polly's Pink'

We previously had this listed as 'Thomasina' but it has now flowered and we have been advised it is Crassula Polly's Pink'. A shrubby little succulent that has creamy white flowers with a pink centre. Preferring full sun/Part Shade and a free draining soil. Available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for only $5.95 each.

Zephranthes grandiflora

Native to Central/South America and commonly known as Rain Lilies as they often bloom after it rains. Zephranthes grandiflora is known as Pink Rain Lily and grows well in full sun/part shade, free-draining soil. Multiplies over time and can be left in the ground so long as only minimal water/natural rainfall is received in its dormant period. Available in 17cm pots as pictured to the right for only $14.95.

Sonchus acaulis

Native to the Canary Islands and commonly known as sow thistle/hare thistles or hare lettuces. During Spring is the time when these golden yellow flowers appear brightening up the garden. Sonchus acaulis grows .8 -1.2 m in both height and width and is a plant that can either be successfully grown in a pot or in a garden bed as it does not get too large. Like all Sonchus, it can easily self-seed. If you do not like this idea, make sure you cut the dead flower stem off prior to setting seeds. Preferring full sun/part shade and free draining soil, it is available in 14cm pots for $9.95.

Kalanchoe sp No. 4

Kalanchoes are mostly native to Africa and Madagascar. This is one of our Kalanchoes we do not know the name of yet. Such a beautiful gold/orange flower that appears during mid-Winter to mid-Spring providing such a long burst of color. Green succulent foliage that looks artificial until touched. Preferring full sun sun/part shade, frost free area and a free-draining soil. Available as pictured to the right for only $5.95 each.

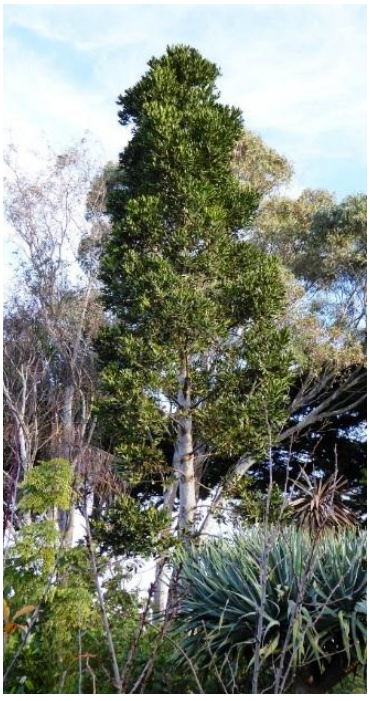
Lophophora williamsii

Commonly known as Peyote and native to Mexico is this spineless cacti that only grows to approximately 10cm height. Multiplies over time and becomes like the mature plants pictured to the left which are currently overflowing the pots. This has taken 15-20years to achieve. It is possible for these Lophophoras to reach 15cm diameter but will take a long time. Flowers of this cacti are white to pale pink as pictured above right.

Prefers full sun, free draining soil and frost free area. Beginning at $20 they are available in a range of sizes. Pictured to the right in 10cm pots are $20 and $50 Lophophora williamsii. Limited stock available at present, so be quick!

Ixia viridiflora

Not a regularly seen plant is this beautifully colored flower that has a common name of Turquoise Ixia. Native to South Africa the corms under the ground will multiply over time providing the mass of flowers that are pictured to the left in Roraima's pot being approximately 5 years old. It is a Winter growing, Summer dormant perennial. Lyle has lifted these every couple of years to spread them out more. Preferring full sun and a free-draining soil, they are a bulb that can be left in the ground 12 months of the year. Available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for only $9.95 each.



Agathis robusta

As pictured to the left is Roraima's Agathis robusta being approximately 20 m tall by 3m wide and its age is 25 years old. Commonly known as Queensland Kauri Pine, it is native to Queensland and can grow to 30m height in Victoria as opposed to 50m in Queensland. The light trunk is also an appealing part of this tree as seen in the left image. Preferring full sun/part shade and a free-draining soil, they are easy to maintain in the right position. Can handle most soil types. Locally where we have clay soil, it is best to raise the clay soil level to avoid continual dampness during Winter.

As pictured below, these are the trees planted in Harbor Esplanade docklands (near Channel 7 Offices) where they are certainly a feature. Next time you are in the city have a look at these. Thanks to Sam at Care Transplanters for allowing us to use their image.

Currently available in 30cm pots as pictured to the right for only $90.00.

NOTE: At the time of publication of this newsletter, the plants listed are either currently for sale or ready to take orders for plants expected to be available soon. If you are reading an older newsletter, please understand we may not have all of these featured plants in stock.

Words

Grandiflora have you ever noticed how many botanical names of plants have grandiflora in them? The meaning of grandiflora is great/big flower. So the likes of Magnolia grandiflora, Gardenia grandiflora means that the plant has a **large flower** as does the Zephranthes grandiflora (in this newsletter) or it has a **great flower** like that of Rhipsalis grandiflora whose flower is small.

Spring jobs to do

Now that the weather is warming up you, need to prepare your garden for the approaching Summer. **Weeding**, **Feeding** and **Mulching** are the maintenance jobs to be done. Spring is also a good time of the year for planting. The soil is warmer and gives the plant a couple of months prior to the warmer weather to try and establish roots lower in the ground. Always remember to pay attention to newly planted plants over Summer, even if they have been in the ground for a few months. Their first Summer is the most critical time for them as if those roots are not established enough, you may lose a plant that has been planted for 6 months. Make sure enough mulch is applied around the plants to try and keep some of the moisture in the ground.

We are now on Instagram. Lots of images for you to peruse through. Join us. Please understand we are using Instagram to show you images and not answer questions. Questions will be answered 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 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