RORAIMA NURSERY

Newsletter No. 6 **Summer 2012**

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The Staff and Management at

Roraima Nursery

Would like to wish all our customers a

Very Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year in 2013

Christmas Trading Days: The Nursery will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day. We will be trading as normal from 9am till 5pm all other days.

SUMMER SENSATIONS

Ficus palmeri

This plant is native to Mexico and can be grown as a caudiciform (thickened water-storing trunk) plant in Victoria. Ficus palmeri prefers to be in a protected position out of excessive rainfall and cold winds and can also be grown indoors. It is an easy-to-grow caudiciform plant when in a free draining potting mix. If grown in the ground, it will not develop a caudiciform look but will have a straight trunk and will reach approximately 4m height, provided it has perfect conditions. Our Ficus palmeris are $19.95 for a 14cm pot as pictured to the right.

Cynara cardunculus

Native to the Mediterranean region, and commonly known as Cardoon or Artichoke thistle, this is a silver-grey foliage plant with leaves reaching 1.5 – 2m height. From the beginning of Summer it bears a striking, vibrant purple flower head above the foliage. Although it has a common name of thistle, **it does not bear any thorns** to discourage you from finding a suitable place in your garden. Instead it is a long-lasting talking point flower both on the plant and as a cut flower making it a must for the gardener who loves plants that make a statement! Minimal watering is required once established. The Cynara cardunculus prefers full sun/part shade and is currently available in both 14cm and 20cm pots at $7.95 and $14.95 respectively as pictured above right.

Punica granatum 'Flore Pleno Alba'

Commonly known as Pomegranate, the 'Flore Pleno Alba' is a very appealing ornamental cultivar with a double white flower that blooms throughout the Summer. Once established, very little maintenance is required for this extremely hardy plant. Its preferred position is full sun, and it can reach 3m height x 2m width in time. Not only are the exquisite blooms a credit to this cultivar, but so are the mini pomegranates appearing in Autumn. The Pomegranate is deciduous through the winter allowing it to cope with the cooler temperatures and prepare for the Spring growth. As pictured to the right, it is available in 14cm pots at $9.95. This plant is a must for all those gardeners with insufficient care and maintenance time.

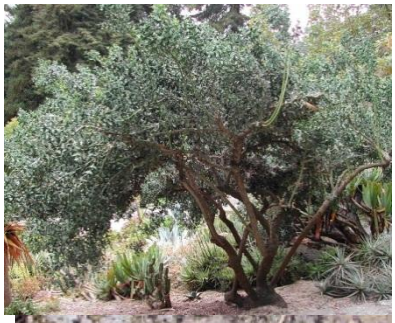
Punica granatum 'Andre le Roi'

Similar to the ‘Flora Pleno Alba’ in height, the ‘Andre Le Roi’ is also a double-flower cultivar of Pomegranates but with a striking salmon-coloured flower. It is also available in 14cm pots at $9.95 as pictured above with the ‘Flore Pleno Alba’.

Solandra maxima (syn. solandra nitida) and **Solandra maxima variegate**

Native to Mexico and extremely fast growing, these climber plants can reach 8m x 8m easily if not trimmed. What begins as a large fragrant creamy-yellow flower slowly turn to a deep golden yellow, make both the plain and variegated Solandras worth growing. They can begin flowering late Spring and will continue flowering well into mid-Summer. They will grow in full sun or part shade and only require minimal watering to maintain a healthy look once established. The new foliage has a purple tinge to it and, as the leaves age, the purple becomes green/variegated. Solandra is a very colorful plant to admire year-round with or without flowers. Severe frost will cause most of the leaves to drop off the stems and it is possible that the stems may blacken and die back, but vigorous growth will reappear when the temperature elevates. Here in Lara, the frost does not have such a bad effect. It is only the ends that are temporarily stunted when we have got down to -4°C. Solandras are available in 20cm pots for $14.95 as pictured to the left.

Limonium perezii is an evergreen plant native to The Canary Islands and is an easy-to-grow and maintain plant that fills those patches in the garden that require some color. Commonly known as statice, it is a long lasting mauve-blue flower both on the plant and in a vase. It prefers well drained soil and grows best in full sun/part shade. As pictured to the right, it is available in 14cm pots for $9.95.



Colletia cruciata

Commonly known as Anchor Plant or sometimes The Jet Plane Plant, Colletia cruciata originates from South America and can reach up to 3m in height over time. It can also be grown as a bush and trimmed to shape. Preferring full sun/part shade, this plant becomes loaded with petite white almond-scented flowers that appear in Autumn. Depending how it is pruned, this plant can have the appearance of a bush or single/several stem shrub. It is considered to be a leafless shrub with flat triangular stems that resemble either anchors or an aeroplane's propellers. The Colletia cruciata has been known to have fine juvenile foliage, in several forms, which will mature as the plant ages. This will rarely be seen on cutting grown plants. Not an easily obtainable plant, Roraima Nursery has limited stock and advises you to purchase one before it becomes unavailable. This is a plant that should be placed well away from children and pets due to its sharp thorns. It is available for $9.95 for a 10cm pot as pictured to the right.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT PROBLEMS?

With Christmas fast approaching and those hard-to-buy-for friends and family that we all have, here is the answer to your problems: Our living landscape planter bowls begin at $35 and contain a variety of plants from smooth succulents to prickly cacti. Each living landscape contains an ornament and decorative stones to tell a story. There is something suitable for everyone.

RORAIMA PLANT PROFILE

Dioscorea discolor - Ornamental Yam

Dioscorea is a genus of plants with over 600 species in the Dioscoreaceae family. Named after the Greek physician/botanist – Dioscorides, they originate from the tropical and temeperate regions of the world, and there are only minimal species available in Australia.

Dioscorea discolor is one of the species available and is a very attractive plant with brightly colored tropical-looking foliage. It will grow across a wide range of climates and the vines can vary in length from 2 - 12m depending on the conditions. At Roraima Nursery the foliage has been seen to reach 3m in length. It does go dormant over Winter in the cooler parts of Australia. Growth reappears in late Spring/early Summer. The heart-shaped foliage has an impressive marbled look on one side and a bright pink/purple back, making it a stunning contrast to the surrounding area. The leaves grow larger as the season warms up. The indistinct Dioscorea discolor flower is made up of six minute yellow/green petals.

This Dioscorea can be grown in full sun/part shade and does best if not watered much during the dormant season to avoid bulb rotting. Dioscorea discolor does not form a caudex like the **Dioscorea elephantipes**. The yams multiply underground and are a smooth textured form of yam as opposed to the knobly texture of the caudex Dioscoreas. They are available in 20cm pots for $25.

Happy gardening,
From all at Roraima Nursery