RORAIMA NURSERY

Newsletter No 10 **Summer 2013**

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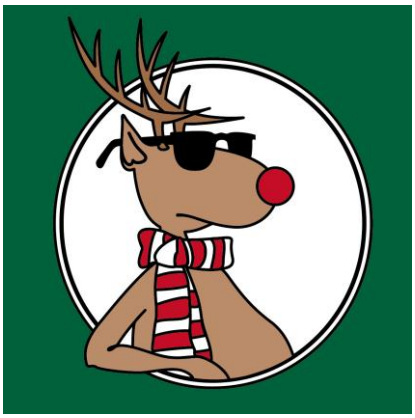

The Staff and Management of

Roraima Nursery

Would like to wish all our customers a

Very Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year in 2014

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.

RORAIMA PLANT PROFILE

Brunsvigia josephinae

Known to be one of only 12 species in the Brunsvigia genus, this is quite a rare bulb available for purchase. Commonly known as Josephine's Lily, it is supposedly named after Napoleon's Empress. This is a South African lily with extra-large red flowers ranging from 30 to 50cm in width. Pictured above is a single flower, being part of the flower head as shown on the left.

Preferring to grow undisturbed in the ground, Brunsvigia josephinae is tolerant of both light and heavy soils providing it is free-draining. Hence, clay soils need to be raised beds or on a sloping property to ensure it does not retain water. Similar to Belladonna Lilies, the bulb is best planted with the neck of the bulb above the ground.

Pictured to the left is Roraima's Brunsvigia josephinae which originally flowered at 17 years. This picture is of a 20 year old bulb. The Brunsvigias generally take 15-20 years from seed to reach flowering bulb stage. Once they flower, they will continue to then flower on a yearly schedule. Foliage appears only in Winter and then dies back for the Summer flower. Brunsvigia josephinae foliage can range from 8 – 12 leaves per bulb. Full sun is the preferred position but it can be grown in part shade.

The image to the right is our energetic staff member Ben, beside an old flower head. This gives you an idea of the actual size of the bulb and flower.

These rare bulbs are available in 10cm pots, pictured to the left for only $7.95 each. Please note at this time of year the young bulbs are deciduous.

SUMMER SENSATIONS

Dasylirion wheeleri

Commonly known as the Spoon Yucca because the base of the leaf resembles the shape of a spoon, the Dasylirion wheeleri is native to Southern United States and Mexico. The strap like blue-green leaves are similar in appearance to a Xanthorrhoea (Grass tree), but are more forgiving plants to clay soils and can be easily grown in most soils. Growing best in full sun and free draining soil the Dasylirion wheeleri can reach a height of 1.5m and a width of 1.2m. The trunk can measure up to 40cm thickness. Pictured to the left is one of Roraima's Dasylirion wheeleris which is 8 years old. It can take 5-10 years to see the flower stem appear with its massive 2.5-3m stem covered in minute straw colored flowers. After flowering they have new growth out to the side of the plant. Ideal as an accent plant by itself or in groups, they are available in 20cm pots as pictured to the left for $24.95 each. Roraima also has **Dasylirion texanum x cedrosanum** available in 14cm pots for $20 each. Last Summer in the Roraima gardens were two of this species flowering which are above to the right.

Parodia leninghausii

Native to South America, and commonly known as Yellow Tower Cactus, Parodia leninghausii is named after Wilhelm Lenninghaus who emigrated from Ennepetal to Brazil where he became a cacti collector for a German grower. It begins as a spherical-looking cactus and grows into a clustering columnar cacti covered in yellow/light brown spines. Brilliant yellow flowers appear in Summer. Roraima's mature Parodia leninghausii, pictured to the left, is approximately 22 years old. Its tallest column measures 80cm. Parodias prefer a well-drained soil/potting mix and grow best in full sun, but can tolerate part shade. Like all cacti, they prefer to dry out between watering. As pictured to the right, they are available in 10cm pots for only $5.95.

Agapanthus inapertus

Native to South Africa, and commonly known as the Drooping Agapanthus, this plant has dark blue to violet flowers on stalks up to 1.2m height which flower from January through to March. They are drought tolerant once established, growing to large clumps which can be divided to begin new plants. These will then need to be re-established. Once divided, Agapanthus may not successfully flower the next season due to disturbance. They prefer full sun and will also grow well in part shade, but may not have the amount of flowers that a full sun Agapanthus would bear. They are available in 14cm pots for $7.95 as pictured on the right.

Ceasilpinia gilliesii

Native to Argentina and Uruguay, this fine-foliage shrub is both eloquent in its greenery and flowers. The Desert Bird of Paradise, (as it is commonly known), has large bright-yellow flowers with long red stamens. Roraima's Desert Bird of Paradise is approximately 8 years old and has been flowering for the last 5 years. It is not only very attractive to birds, but also our customers who see the flowers and want to purchase one of these plants! It is not a common plant and can be very hard to find in nurseries. Here is your chance! Preferring full sun it will survive in part shade, but will not produce the same amount of flowers that the full sun encourages. It can reach 3m height x 2.5m width and flowers late Summer to early Autumn. These will be available in 10cm pots for $7.95 from mid to late Summer. To obtain one of these rare shrubs, please call us to put one aside for you before they are placed in the nursery for sale.

Pachystegia insignis

Commonly known as the Marlborough Rock Daisy, (due to the rocky native environment this New Zealand plant inhabits), this small-growing glossy green-leafed bush has new growth with a soft silver-white colour and furry texture. The underside of all the leaves is a creamy coloured velvety tissue, creating a two-toned bush that bears large white daisy-like flowers with a bright yellow center in late November through to mid-January. It reaches 1m in both height and width, and prefers full sun/part shade. It is available in 20 cm pots for $19.95 as pictured to the right.

Ceropegia stapeliiformis

Native to South Africa, this is a plant that people take notice of, especially when it flowers. Commonly known as the Snake Creeper, it has very different looking flowers that are tubular shaped with a dark burgundy colour, a white/burgandy inner centre, and a green/burgundy marbled pattern on the outside of the petals. The flowers measure 5-7cm in length.

In its native area Ceropegia stapeliiformis grows naturally under trees in the fallen leaves and climbs up other plants, sending out roots to make itself a new home. When flowering at Roraima during February and March, this plant always attracts attention. Our display plant is approximately 9 years old, but has been trimmed several times to allow us to take cuttings and grow rooted plants available for sale to our customers. Full sun to part shade in a free draining soil or potting mix are the best conditions for growing this plant. It has been known to grow successfully indoors in a well-lit situation. Pictured to the right is one of our 10cm pots for sale at $7.95

Calodendrum Capense

Cape Chestnut is the common name given by explorer William Burchell who saw a similarity to Horse Chestnut in respect to the flowers and fruits of this tree. Native to Africa, this is a must for those who enjoy masses of white to pink sweet-scented flowers in Summer. Although it is evergreen in the subtropics, it will possibly lose its leaves during the cold months in the cooler parts of Victoria and will only grow to a height 7-10m as opposed to 20m in its native forests. Preferring full sun/part shade, the Cape Chestnut's dense rounded canopy and smooth trunk will enhance your garden and it is a very easy tree to grow in most conditions, including clay soils. The image of the flowering tree above is only 3 years old and already 1.2m height. It has flowered for the past two years. Very little care given to it! Available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for $8.95

Erythrina christa-gallii

The Cockspur Coral Tree, as it is commonly known, is native to South America and is the national flower and tree of both Argentina and Uruguay. There are over 100 species of Erythrina on the tropical continents around the world and this is one of the showiest species with its large red blooms appearing in Summer. Erythrina christa-galli can reach 5-8m height. When the blooms are finished, brightly colored bean-like fruit appears adding another stage to the Erithryna growth. The extremely ripple-like textured trunk can possess a girth of up to 50cm. The ripple texture of the trunk becomes more dominant over time. A very appealing tree for any garden, it is also drought tolerant once established. As pictured to the right it is available in 20cm pots for only $20.