RORAIMA NURSERY

Newsletter No 14 **Summer 2014**

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Merry Christmas
from
All at Roraima Nursery

During the holiday period, Roraima Nursery will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. We will be trading as normal from 9am till 5pm on all other days.

RORAIMA PLANT PROFILE

Brachychiton acerifolius – Coming from a family of 30 species of Brachychitons, the Illawarra Flame Tree, as it is commonly known, provides a stunning burst of color beginning late Spring and showing right into Summer. With its maple-like foliage it is mostly an evergreen tree, but will lose leaves when the scarlet flowers make an appearance. It takes quite a few years before you receive a full tree of red flowers, hence it is considered partially deciduous. As pictured both left and right, you can see the masses of red flowers that are on these mature trees in North Geelong and Geelong. Native to parts of New South Wales through to the top of Queensland, the Illawarra Flame Tree can handle a large range of temperatures and soil conditions. Preferring full sun/part shade and a rich soil, it can also successfully grow in solid clay soils, like Lara, if well drained. Reaching a height of approximately 10-12metres in Victoria as opposed to 40metres in its natural habitat, this can become a feature tree on your property. Generally it takes approximately 5 years before it begins flowering and the volume of flowers increases as it ages. We have seen an 8 year old tree which has only just begun to fully flower this year after observing only a few branches each year prior to this that flowered. By the time the tree is 20 years old it should be flowering like the images above. Either a mass of green or red, this tree is striking 12 months of the year. It is also drought tolerant once established, making this another reason for wanting one of these on your property.

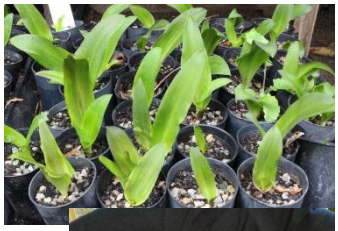
Pictured to the right these are currently available in 25cm pots for $40, and 60cm pots $250.

SUMMER SENSATIONS

Tigridia pavonia

Commonly known as Jockey's Cap Lily and Tiger Flower, this brightly colored Mexican bulb flowers during early Summer. The speckled center grabs your attention no matter what the color of the flower, which can range from white, yellow pink to red. Roraima's Tigridia pavonia is red as pictured to the left. Reaching a height of 40cm and approximately 20cm width, it is the perfect flower height for the front row of borders or pots. This bulb is known as being food for the Aztecs called cacomitl. It is supposedly best if boiled or baked. Definitely not to be eaten raw. Available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for only $8.95 each**.**

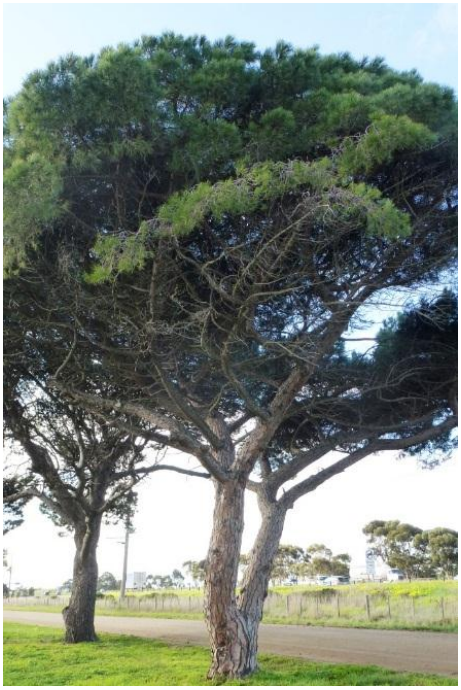
Eucomis sp.



The name Eucomis is derived from the Greek word Eukomos which means "beautifully haired". Native to South Africa, and commonly known as PineapplASe Lilies, these appealing bulbous perennials have rosettes of glossy leaves that appear during Spring, showing before Summer reveals their stout flower stem covered with a mass of star-shaped flowers ranging from green/cream, cream, pink, burgundy/purplish and bicolored. A very hardy plant that will tolerate not only temperatures as low as -5ºC but also Winter rainfall during their dormant season which means they can survive in the ground and do not need to be temporarily removed like other bulbs. If growing in pots they are best planted in shallow pots as opposed to deep pots. Several species are available with either green or burgundy foliage in 14cm pots ranging in price from $9.95 – $15.95. There are also small tubes for only $2 each as pictured to the right.

Euphorbia millii

Native to Madagascar, commonly known as Crown of Thorns and part of the Euphorbiaceae family, is this impressive plant. Euphorbias can range in height from ground covers to 25m. This species of Euphorbias is a succulent plant that can reach 40 – 80cm cm height locally with its bright green foliage, thorny stems and prominent grey spines. Like all Euphorbias it prefers well-drained soil/potting mix and full sun/part shade. As with all Euphorbias you need to be aware of their white sap which can affect **some** people with skin irritation from itchiness to swelling. If touching the sap, it is best to wash hands and tools clean immediately to prevent a skin reaction. As pictured to the right they are available in 10cm pots for $7.95 each.



Pinus pinea

Commonly known as Stone pine, and native to the Mediterranean, this umbrella-shaped tree is known to reach approximately 15m height locally as is the specimen out the front of Roraima Nursery which is estimated to be 100 years old. Pictured to the right, you can see the texture of the trunk that has evolved. Similar conditions are required as to the Aleppo Pine featured in the Spring 2014 newsletter, which makes an easy to care for tree that will become part of the family household and be there for years to come. It is drought tolerant **once established.** It is available in 20cm pots for $19.95 as pictured to the right. It will also be available in a couple of months in 30cm pots for $60.00. Don't hesitate to pre-order one of the 30cm pots.

Austrocylindropuntia sp

Sensational magenta-colored flowers are seen from this Austrocylindropuntia species as pictured to the left, during early Summer. The color is never shown well on images, must be seen in person. It can grow to approximately 2 – 3m height and 2m width. This plant loves full sun and free-draining soil. Available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for only $10.95 each.

Tephrocactus articulatus fa. inermis

Part of the cactus family, and native to Argentina, is this very spiny, but interesting Tephrocactus. It is extremely easy to grow and prefers full sun and free-draining soil. If knocked, the top section of growth snaps off very easily and if left, begins a new plant all by itself. It can reach up to 30cm height. Pictured to the left is a 5 years in-the-ground plant that was purchased from the Nursery as a similar size to what is currently available. Striking white flowers with yellow stamen appear in Summer. It is available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for only $7.95.

Schotia brachypetala

Commonly known as Tree Fuschia and African walnut is the vibrant red-flowering tree which will make a statement in your garden. It can grow 5 - 8 metres high in Victoria. Native to South Africa, it generally grows 11 - 16m but has been known to reach a height of 22 metres. The Schotia grows naturally in warm dry areas of deciduous woodland and scrub forest generally close to rivers. Pictured to the left are the deep red flowers that appear in masses early Summer on old wood. It prefers a well-drained rich soil and full sun/part shade. It is available in 20cm pots as pictured to the right for only $18.95

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 Summer 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