RORAIMA NURSERY

Newsletter No 18 **Summer 2015**

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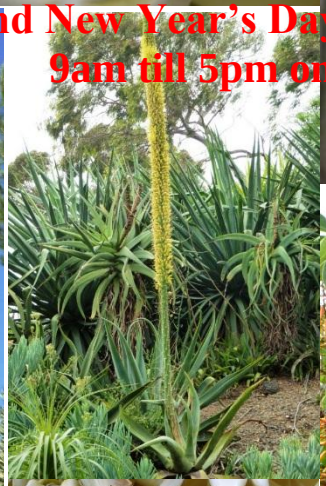
Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year from Management and Staff at Roraima Nursery

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

Chamaerops humilis

The Chamaerops humilis is commonly known as European Fan Palm or Mediterranean Dwarf Palm. Native to the Mediterranean region, it tolerates both sand and clay soils, medium frosts, full sun/part shade, wind and is known to be drought tolerant once established. Not a fast growing but small clustering Palm worth the patience to eventually form a dome shape rather than the trunk with greenery at the top. This then creates a different palm appearance to what we are all used to. For all of those who want a tropical looking plant/garden in the cooler part of Australia, here is your answer.

Roraima's (pictured lower right) is approximately 20 years old and measures 2 m high by 3 m wide. Had been in a pot for quite a few years prior to planting in the ground. Available in a range of sizes from 20cm pots @ $29.95, 30cm pots @ $90.00 to 45 litre bags for $250 as pictured below. Growing well in both sandy and raised clay beds makes this plant a must for those who have struggled to successfully grow palms

SUMMER SENSATIONS

Agave ovatifolia

Native to Mexico and commonly known as Whale's Tongue this is a solitary Agave. This is the first time we have had this rarer Agave for sale. Can reach .6-1.2m height and .6 -.9m wide. Prefers full sun/part shade and a free draining soil. Can withstand both extreme hot and cold conditions, so all of you in those areas that receive a frost, this may be a plant for you. Many thanks to Geoff Stein (Palmbob) for allowing us to use his image of a mature plant. Available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for only $11.95.

Cotyledon orbiculata flanaganii

Native to South Africa and commonly known as Pig's Ear is the Cotyledon family. Clusters of orange/pink bell shaped flowers appear late Spring and last through until Autumn providing endless color in the garden. Can be grown in soils ranging from sand through to clay, so long as clay beds are slightly raised to avoid the plant sitting in wet soil. Preferring full sun/part shade to obtain quantity of flowers, it is available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for only $9.95 each.

Brachychiton 'Bella Donna'

For those of you who love the Brachychitons but feel they are too tall, the 'Bella Donna' is for you as it only grows to 8.m height. Most Brachychitons are considered to be a semi-deciduous tree as they lose their leaves just prior to flowering. This is applicable to 'Bella Donna'. Beginning as a small tree it will be several years before they flower and they will then flower in sections before you receive a year of a tree fully flowering. Worth the wait! Preferring full sun/part shade and a free draining soil. Adaptable to both clay and sandy soils. Available in 20cm pot for only $39.95 as pictured above right.

Brachychiton discolor

This is just one of 30 Brachychitons native to Australia. There is only 1 other Brachychiton species and it is native to New Guinea. The Brachychiton discolor has several common names - Lacebark Tree, Pink Kurrajong, Scrub Bottle Tree, White Kurrajong, Hat Tree and Sycamore. Grows naturally in dry rainforest areas from northern New Souths Wales to northern Queensland. Adaptable to both clay and sandy soils.

This Brachychiton can be semi-deciduous whilst in flower. All Brachychitons are **monoecious**. (separate male and female flowers on the one tree). Available in 32cm pots for $80 and 200 litre bags for only $595.00 as pictured to the right.

Cussonia paniculata

Cussonias have approximately 25 species, 8 of those are Native to South Africa. Commonly known as Mountain Cabbage Tree is this eye-catching plant. Not only is the silvery/green foliage appealing, but also the textured trunk. Cussonias were named after French botanist Pierra Cusson. The species name refers to the **panicle** or branched **inflorescence**. A very noticeable plant to have in your garden if you want something different. Prefers full sun/part shade and free draining soil. Can handle both raised clay and sandy soils and also strong winds, so for those of you who have problem areas, this plant is worth considering. Available in 20cm pots for $24.95 and 30cm pots for $90 as pictured to the right

Euphorbia leucadendron ssp oncolada

Pictured to the left is the cylindrical mature plant in Roraima's back garden currently standing at 1.3m tall and similar width. Displaying clusters of bright yellow flowers at the top of the stem during late Spring through to mid-Summer is this pre historic looking plant. Native to Madagascar and having the common name of Cats Tail Euphorbia this plant is drought tolerant once established. Prefers full sun/part shade and a free draining soil. Can be grown easily both in sandy soil and raised clay soil beds. Available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for $7.95 each.

Urginea maritima

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Part of the Hyacinth family (Hyacinthaceae) is a very easy to care for bulb that is supposedly poisonous to rodents therefore they will not be tempted to eat them. This is a plus to all of those with rabbit and rat problems. Native to Africa and the Mediterranean it is commonly known as Sea Squill, Sea Onion and Martime squill. If in the right conditions the bulb can reach a diameter of 30cm over time. Glossy green foliage that appears late Spring reaching 30- 50cm height before dying down and then allowing the flower stem to appear late Summer/early Autumn and reach approximately 1.2m height. Prefers full sun/part shade and a free draining soil. For those of you with clay soil, it is very successful in raised clay beds. Like Belladonna Lilies, these bulbs are best planted with one third of the bulb above ground level. .This is a bulb that can be left planted in the ground, hence very little care and maintenance required. A long lasting cut flower. Available in tubes for $4.95 and 14cm pot for only $9.95 as pictured to the right.

Limonium peregronium ‘Pink Statice’,

Limoniums are native to South Africa. Although this is a cultivar it still requires the same conditions as the common Limonium, which is full sun/part shade and free draining soil. A low maintenance plant with green leathery foliage, it produces a mass of long-lasting mid pink flowers through late Spring/Summer. Reaches 60cm height, drought tolerance once established. Available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for only for only$12.95 each

Burchelia bulbalina

Endemic to South Africa and commonly known as The Wild Pomegranate, this attractive evergreen ornamental shrub has glossy dark green foliage and colorful orange tubular flowers that are always in groups. Can handle both full sun and part shade, but frost tender. Prefers free draining rich soil and can tolerate both raised clay beds and sandy soils. Can reach 2.5m height and 1.5m width. Regular pruning is advised to maintain a bushy appearance. The Burchelia bulbalina is a monotypic genus meaning there are no other Burchelia species. Not too many Genus of plants are like this. Available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for only $9.95 each.

Words/terms for this season

Monoecious means a single plant or animal having both the male and female reproductive organs. Walnuts, Chestnuts, Pines and Dragon Fruit plants are a couple of monoecious plants. An earthworm is also monoecious.

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Panicle means a loose branching cluster of flowers.

Inflorescence means a condition or time of flowering. A condition or period of great vigor.

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