RORAIMA NURSERY

Newsletter No. 4 **Winter 2012**

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With their huge variety of form and colour, and general hardiness, succulents are ideal for creative planting and garden design. This newest feature in Roraima Nursery is a custom-made three-tiered planter designed to resemble a water fountain. Planted with a variety of rosetting succulents, the fountain is topped with a grassy-leafed Dasylirion wheelerei to suggest a spray of water, and each tier is edged with cascading plants such as Sedum nussbaumerianum, Graptoveria cv. 'Golden Goddess', and epiphytic cacti, to represent water flowing from one level to the next. As the plants grow and mature, our dry fountain will come into a life of its own

WINTER WONDERS

Aloe plicatilis

Aloe plicatilis is a stunning architectural South African plant with strappy foliage suitable for a full sun position in a well-drained or raised garden bed. Planted singly or as a multiple grouping, Aloe plicatilis can eventually reach 5m in height. Flowering in Winter/Spring with an orange/red bloom that attracts nectar-eating birds like honeyeaters and wattlebirds, the Aloe plicatilis is a must for all those gardeners who love birds.

Aloe plicatilis is available in four sizes as pictured from left: 10cm pot $5.95, 14cm pot $9.95, 20cm pot $14.95 and 40cm pot $95.00

Ledebouria cooperi
(syn. Scilla cooperi)

Native to the eastern part of South Africa, Ledebouria cooperi has olive-green leaves with dominant purple stripes. Petite pink flowers appear in early Spring. It is best grown in part to full shade. In cooler areas, the foliage can sometimes die back over winter, but will reappear when the warmth returns.

Ledebouria cooperi is available in 8cm pots for $7.95 as pictured to the right.

Cotyledon tomentosa variegated

This very striking variegated plant is covered with dense felty hairs. Growing to only 15cm, Cotyledon tomentosa variegated is excellent in pots or garden beds and provides a strong contrast between decorative pots and/or other plants in the garden. It has orange/red flowers that appear 10-20cm above foliage. It is best planted in a part shade position.

Cotyledon tomentosa variegated is available in 10cm pots as pictured above for only $5.95.

Massonia depressa

Commonly known as the hedgehog lily, Massonia depressa is a deciduous perennial and part of the Hyacinthaceae family. It is native to the southern tip of Africa, an area famous for having nearly 1200 species of bulbs. It flowers in Winter, generally with a white flower, but it could also be green, cream or pink.

As pictured below, Massonia depressa is available in 10cm pots for $5.95.

Agave cv. ‘Blue Flame’

This is a relatively new Agave to the retail sector. A hybrid of Agave shawii and Agave attenuata, it is of a soft leaf clumping form reaching 75cm in height and 1m in width. If left undisturbed, it can form large clumps up to 2-2.5m wide and 1.2-1.5m tall. Preferring full sun to part shade, it can tolerate temperatures as low as -3°C. If growing in a hot dry climate, it is best in part shade to avoid burning of the foliage.

Agave cv. ‘Blue Flame’ are available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for $15.95
Many thanks to Geoff Stein for his image of a mature Agave ‘Blue Flame’

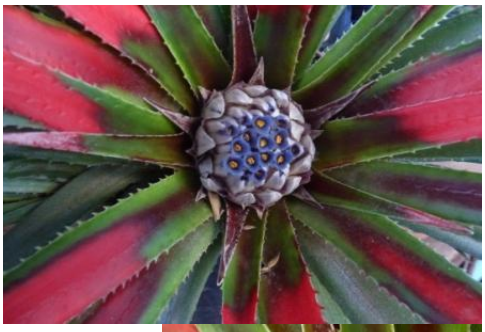
Agave cv. ‘Blue Glow’

Another new Agave to the retail sector is the beautiful Agave cv. ‘Blue Glow’ with its blue-green leaves and stunning red margins. A hybrid of Agave attenuata and Agave ocahui, it has solitary rosettes growing to 60cm in height and 90cm in width making it an Agave suitable for any sized garden. It prefers a full sun to part shade position.

As pictured to the right, Agave cv. ‘Blue Glow’ is available for $30 for a 20cm pot.
Thanks again to Geoff Stein for the image of the mature Agave cv. ‘Blue Glow’ as shown on the left.

RORAIMA PLANT PROFILE

Fascicularia bicolor



This is one of the five Fascicularias that originate from Chile, South America where they grow in exposed areas and on rock cliff faces.

Only two species are found in cultivation today. Pictured to the right is the flower that appears late Autumn/early Winter. The flower starts forming when the centre foliage begins to turn yellowish before fiery red splashes appear. Slowly the blue centre becomes brighter and the yellow stamen make their presence known. Tight clumping offsets form over time creating a massive group of grey-green foliage.

The best position for these amazing plants is full sun. They can reach approximately 60cm in height and the width is unlimited. They can be grown in most soil types and tolerate up to -7°C. The clump pictured below is ten years old. Weeds find it extremely hard to creep through these clusters of Fascicularias, making them a must in a low maintenance.

As shown above, they are available in 20cm pots for $25.00

WINTER GARDENING

The coolness of Winter has well and truly set in. It is the perfect time for deadheading those succulents that have finished flowering. Winter creates a chance to clean the garden in readiness for Spring growth.

The pruning of fruit trees and roses is best done once the cooler part of Winter is over. This ensures that the frost will not have the chance to damage new growth.

Keep the weeds under control before Spring arrives.

CARING FOR CACTI

Very little or even no watering of the cacti is required over Winter. Garden beds with cacti do not need any water in Winter. Those cacti in pots that are undercover require even less watering than they received in Autumn. Take care not to overwater during Winter.

We hope you have enjoyed the Newsletter and welcome your comments and feedback. If you have any queries please contact us at enquiries@roraimanursery.com.au or by phone on 5282 8704.

Happy gardening,
From all at Roraima Nursery