RORAIMA NURSERY

Newsletter No 8 **Winter 2013**

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The records continue to tumble with our weird weather. One of the wettest Winter's on record last year was followed by among the driest and warmest Spring's, Summer's and Autumn's ever. But at last the weather has turned with yet another two new records - the wettest June in our district ever, and the longest cold spell with night after night of frost! Much needed rain has fallen at the Nursery since the 1st of June. It's amazing how quickly everything responds and greens up! We hope, wherever you are, you have received some good rainfall too.

RORAIMA PLANT PROFILE

Aloe arborescens x ferox

This striking plant with its brilliant colour in Winter and architectural shape all year round, is an excellent choice for anyone's garden.

If you want to attract honeyeaters, or any of the nectar-loving birds, to your garden, this easy-to-care-for, fast-growing, brightly-coloured, long-flowering plant is ideal!

loe arborescens x Aloe ferox can reach up to 2.5m in height and 3m in width over time, or it can be pruned to the required size to maintain the look you like.

Drought tolerant once established, this Winter-flowering Aloe with its vivid orange flowers brightens up the garden and makes Winter more bearable to those of us that do not like the cold!

Here at Roraima Nursery, we have had Aloe flowers displayed in a vase at the counter and the local New Holland honeyeaters continuously visit to enjoy the nectar the flowers have to offer. It is a beautiful scene to witness at such close proximity.

Growing best in full sun, Aloe arborescens x Aloe ferox can also tolerate part shade. It will handle most soil types providing it is not growing in a damp area.

We have a large size range of these Aloes from 14cm pots for $7.95, 20cm pots for $19.95 (as pictured to the right), 45cm pots for $150 (as pictured to the left). Cuttings are $10 for offsets, and $150 for mature ones with a lengthy stems are also available on request.

WINTER WONDERS

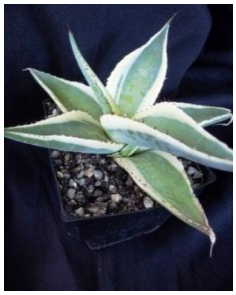
Mahonia japonica

Native to China & Taiwan, this is a bird-attracting upright evergreen shrub with deep green glossy spiny leaves and long sprays of fragrant yellow flowers appearing in late Autumn and lasting through to Spring. The flowers then become blue berries creating another attraction to this plant. It can reach 2m in height, 3m in width, and prefers a part shade position and moist free-draining soil. Mahonia japonica withstands temperatures down to -10°C which makes it a perfect plant for the colder regions of Victoria. It is available in 20cm pots for $14.95 as pictured to the right.

Agave mitis cv. 'Multicolor'

This is a newly released medium-sized Agave with grey/green rosettes and a wide creamy border reaching 60cm in height and width. This species is supposedly a tender Agave similar to Agave attenuata which does not like frost, so a protected pposition would be best. Tolerant of full sun/part shade, and requiring minimal watering, this low maintenance plant is drought tolerant once established. Like all Agaves, being monocotyledons, it will be quite a few years before you see 'Multicolor' flower and then, of course, once the flower has made its showy appearance, the plant will die. Ideally it will have produced some pups prior to flowering which will enable you to continue growing and enjoying this beautiful architectural plant. It is available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for $15.00 each. Many thanks again to Palmbob - Geoff Stein, Dave's Garden Website for the images of both the mature 'Multicolor' and 'Crème Brule' below. Greatly appreciated.

Agave guiengola cv. 'Crème Brule'



This is another new Agave that will be slightly taller and thicker than 'Multicolor', possibly reaching 0.8m tall and 1m wide. Displaying a pinkish tinge around the edges when stressed, this Agave has tiny brown teeth which accent the leaf margins. As with most Agaves, the 'Crème Brule' is best suited to a full sun/part shade position. Pictured to the right, they are available in 10cm pots for $15 each.

Rhipsalis pilocarpa

Native to Brazil, the small fragrant white/cream flowers of this succulent appear in Winter. Unlike any other Rhipsalis, the stems of Rhipsalis pilocarpa are covered with fine white hairs which can become slightly red in the sunlight. A very easy plant to grow provided it is not in full sun, it is the perfect plant for hanging baskets or raised pots and does best in morning sun or light shade. It is available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for $5.95.

Acacia baileyana (prostrate form)

Commonly known as the Cootamundra Wattle, this is a thriving shrub in the Victorian region. This prostrate form is grown as a standard. It has soft blue-grey foliage year round with masses of bright yellow spherical flowers appearing in Winter. The narrow upright Acacia baileyana plant is ideal for pots, small gardens, or those enjoy the mass of color in their gardens. As pictured to the left these are available in 36cm pots for $179.00 each. They have a height of approximately 1.7m.

Clivias

Native to South Africa, the ever popular Clivias do best in partial shade/shade and well-drained soil. They are evergreen bulbs with Agapanthus-like leaves varying in width, and thick fleshy roots. Many long-lasting flowers appear on each stem from mid/late Winter through to Spring, ranging from clusters of long tubular flowers to larger bell-shaped flowers. Ideal for planting under trees where they are protected from the hot sun in Summer and frost in Winter, they are shade-loving plants that can be grown in either the ground or in pots. Roraima Nursery has yellow, orange and red Clivias available in 14cm pots ranging from $15.95 - $35 and 20cm pots from $35 - $64.95.

Cephalophyllum pilansii

This is a mat-forming finger-like groundcover succulent from South Africa that bears masses of yellow daisy-like flowers. A full sun position is best. The flowers only open in the sunny part of the day. Cephalophyllum pilansii can handle temperatures just below 0°C. As pictured to the right they are available in 10cm pots for $5.95.

Fockea edulis

This caudiciform (has an enlarged woody stem, or caudex) plant has been grown with its caudex partially above ground for display purposes. As seen in the images to the left, no two plants are the same as they all have their own characteristics in shape and form. Fockea edulis is a perfect plant for those beginning to collect caudiciforms and can be grown in pots or in the ground. Every few years, the caudex of the plant can be raised higher above ground level to obtain more of a visual impact. In time, the caudex can become more than 30cm thick and 90cm long. Fockea edulis will handle occasional mild frosts and tolerate full sun if the caudex is buried, but looks its best in partial shade with an exposed caudex. If growing in a pot, you will achieve a better caudex if the pot is a shallow pot.

Fockea edulis is available in 14cm pots for $19.95 or in 20cm pots for $45 as pictured to the right.

WINTER GARDENING

The onset of frosts over the last week is a timely reminder of how some plants in the garden may be damaged by the Winter cold. Tender plants such as Brugmansias, Tradescantia purpurea, Crassula ovata etc. can be spared the effects of frost by spraying them with a protectant like Yates Drought Shield which coats the plant with a fine film of protective cover that helps repel light frost.

We hope you enjoy your Winter 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