

# NEWSLETTER

## PLANTS OF TASMANIA

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*Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Good Friday*

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**Hello, and welcome to the Autumn newsletter for 2012!**

## **Autumn Sale**

Autumn is a great time for planting, and in order to get as many plants into the ground as possible we are having MASSIVE SALE that will run from Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. ALL PLANTS will be discounted by 20%, and if you bring in a copy of this newsletter we'll knock off another 5%. Our plants are looking a treat at the moment, and just ready to go into the ground. We have good numbers of nearly all our list, so come in and buy some old favourites or try a few that you've never heard of before!

## **News from the nursery**

One of the big jobs for us in Autumn is to sit back after all the propagation we've done in spring and have a look at the nursery. There are always little things that niggle us that need fixing, and we often see new possibilities that can't be seen when our heads are down in the potting shed. This year we've turned a couple of plant storage areas into new displays. We've opened up a new area near the rainforest plants that has more advanced plants for wet/shady conditions, such as peppers, dogwoods, leatherwoods, ferns and blueberry ashes. We've also pulled down the old shadehouse that used to be next to the food plants area, and now have a good display of landscaping plants, all for sale. The display is broken up into bird-attracting, drought-tolerant and small and larger hedging plants. There is also a good selection of new pots available, and we'll soon have some of Mark Watson's wonderful bird baths.

We have also been rejuvenating a few other areas of the nursery, including replacing the somewhat decrepit covering to the rainforest section with shade cloth, and cutting down a few trees that were beginning to block a little bit too much light. It's a pity that I can no longer direct people looking for the toilet to 'over behind the gum tree in the corner'.

## *New plants*

We've added some new plants in the last couple of months, and grown others for the first time in many years. A few of these are:

*Leucopogon parviflorus* – a wonderful medium shrub for drier and coastal conditions. Small white flowers are followed by white berries that are some of the best Tassie bush tucker.

*Xanthosia pilosa* – we haven't had this little herby shrub for quite a while. It has hairy leaves and small cream flowers that dry to a rusty brown, and would look good either in block plantings or as a background to more spectacular plants.

*Scaevola aemula* – this is an extremely rare plant in Tasmania, though common on the mainland. 'Our' form is an open scrambling groundcover with large mauve and yellow fan flowers. It grows naturally in dry, rocky areas of the east coast, so should do well in low water gardens.

*Ozothamnus reticularis* – a striking coastal everlasting bush with thick, white stems and quite fleshy bright green leaves. The white daisy-like flowers occur in compact heads. Good for drier or coastal conditions.

*Ozothamnus expansifolius* – a rare natural cross that has grey green leaves and masses of white flowers in spring.

*Olearia algida* – a large-leaved subalpine daisy that grows to about 50 cm high and spreads to 1.5 m. White flowers in spring-summer.

*Olearia ramulosa* – we have found a lovely form of this plant up the east coast that we now have in the nursery. This one has white flowers, but look out for a pink-flowering form in the next year or two.

*Acacia mucronata* Silver Leaf – a lovely new colour form of a very useful hedging and screening plant. Fast growing and wallaby-resistant!

That's about all from us this Autumn – I'll carry over the promised further discussion of Proteaceae to Spring, if I am allowed. We hope to see you up at the nursery soon for the sale (and your 25% off)!

*John, Linda, Pete, Sam, Qug, Karen and Jonno*