

N E W S L E T T E R

PLANTS OF TASMANIA
NURSERY AND GARDENS
65 HALL ST RIDGEWAY 7054

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - 9am - 5pm (Winter 9am - 4pm)
(Closed Christmas day, Boxing day, Good Friday, and Targa afternoon)



ph (03) 6239 1583 fax (03) 6239 1106 Newsletter 18 Autumn 2007

Hello, one and all! I trust this autumn finds you hale and hearty! Ready for some wholesome gardening in this mellow changing of the seasons. And once again, such an interesting season! As I usually start each newsletter with a comment or two on our recent climate, a quick flick back through previous newsletters indicates that the seasons are seldom 'normal'!

Nor this one. A perilous bushfire season commenced unusually early, the warnings were dire, and we rushed around preparing ourselves for the inferno-laden summer ahead. Luckily for us down here in the south-east, the weather was benign, then we had two welcome outbreaks of considerable rainfall, balm to our gardens and souls alike. And now our crisp autumn has arrived, right on queue, and seemingly very normal. But, it's dry again now (and very dry up in the north & northwest of Tassie).

So we'll talk about plants for dry, a little later on, because we do have a large selection available, well suited to our more 'arid' Tasmanian garden areas.

SALE

We have a selection of older, not-quite-up-to-scratch and excess-to-our-needs, plants on special. You could call them, special needs plants! (ie. they especially need to be planted out in someones garden).

The plants in square tubes are **10 plants for \$10** (or \$1.50 each)

Round tubes are **10 plants for \$15** (or \$2 each)

Larger pots are priced from \$3.

Walking round the nursery the other day I was admiring tray after tray of healthy, weed-free plants, all propagated and raised by our competent staff. And the same goes for the plants potted up into the larger sizes - lots and lots of terrific looking plants! It is the best time of year for us for being fully stocked and for having plants at their absolute prime! And, by a marvellous coincidence, it's an excellent time to be planting!

Some species really caught my eye, the following particularly:

***Dianella tasmanica* Forest Flaxlily / Tasman Flaxlily**

We have a couple of batches of beautiful seed-grown *Dianellas* at the moment. When I first started the nursery, I used to divide our *Dianella* (a very slow way to propagate) and the resultant plants were a bit tall and gangly. However in recent years we have had some good germination from seed, and the plants that grow on from seed are just so delicious, you could eat them! (sorry, don't do that)

And it's such a hardy plant too! Very adaptable, although it doesn't want to be really, really dry. In the wild, *Dianella tasmanica* is found from coastal dunes to wet sclerophyll and rainforest, to altitudes of 800m and in lots of dampish areas in between! In the garden it can be used informally in clumps or drifts, or formally as an edging, or as regularly spaced plants with its sculptural foliage, or as a handsome plant in pots! The broad arching leaves will grow to about 50cm, or to a metre or more in shady situations!

The foliage alone is reason enough to grow the *Dianella*, but wait, there's more. Although not a rampant flowerer, if you have enough of them, every spring, slender flowering stems arise to about 60cm with delightful little pale blue and yellow flowers, which are followed in summer by globular, glossy, purple-blue berries! Beautiful!

Another feature of *Dianella tasmanica* is its ability to spread by rhizomes (underground stems). Thus a small clump, can over time become a large clump! In some areas this is a delightful result, but if not required, they are easily kept in check. At the other end of the scale, a native plant enthusiast's garden in Howden, I visited years ago, had *Dianella tasmanica* as its signature plant in the sandy soil. It was all through the garden to varying degrees! In some parts of the garden, there was just *Dianella*, some tree trunks and winding paths! It was beautiful!

We have really, really nice *Dianella tasmanica* available at present, for \$3.85 in square tubes. To celebrate their wonderfulness we are offering newsletter readers and friends, a 23% discount, to make them available for \$2.95, until the end of June 2007. (Please mention this offer at the counter when you bring your plants through).

***Leucochrysum albicans* subspecies *albicans* var. *tricolor* Grassland Paperdaisy / Midlands daisy**

Wow, what a name! On our plant label we just call it *Leucochrysum albicans*. However, I reckon we could just as easily call it Albie!

I'm very fond of this delightful little daisy. Having grown it successfully in the first years of running the business, for some reason I lost it, and it's lovely to have it back again! Welcome back Albie.

In the wild it hangs out in the midlands (but it's rare) and on sub-alpine plateau, (for example - along the road into Cradle Mountain) so it gets about in pretty cold country, some of it dry and some of it wet!

However in the garden, Albie doesn't have the same robust countenance as the *Dianella*, and it's not the easiest plant to grow, but it's a beautiful contender for pot culture for a three to five year period, and is very rewarding in spring and summer, with its shapely flower buds, often tinged pink, which open to white yellow-centred everlasting daisies, well displayed above the soft, grey-green foliage.

What's more, it's one of the few plants we stock that actually grows quite readily during the winter months! Thus, plants potted up into bigger pots this autumn, in some of our excellent potting mix, will be bigger and better for a fine flowering next spring.

We've got lots of lovely Albies in square tubes at present for \$2.85 and once again, till the end of June '07, for newsletter readers and colleagues, a special discount of over 30% makes them just \$1.95 each!

Plant a handful in a bigger pot and be assured of florific display on your deck or balcony this spring and summer!

***Aotus ericoides* Golden Pea**

We've grown a fine batch of this useful garden plant from seed this year (we normally do cuttings), and they do look very nice! Small at present, but nice. There's just **something** about seed grown plants!

The golden pea is a great plant for sandy and well drained soils, growing quickly to about 60 - 80cm high and wide. It puts on a delightful display of yellow pea flowers in spring. It is hardy and easily pruned.

Interesting. I've just looked up that very useful reference, 'Grow, What, Where' and it lists *Aotus ericoides* for:

rockery plant, cottage plant, heavy and clay soils, sandy soils
wet in winter - dry in summer, temporary inundation, dry conditions
second-line coastal, usually frost resistant, container plant, bird
attracting - insect eaters & seed eaters, butterfly attracting.....

So there you go, what a great plant!

Tasmanian plants for dry areas

One of the challenges for landscaping in the new world order of possibly-very-little-water, is to design gardens that use hardly any water, but still look somewhat verdant! This will be of major interest on much of the mainland, and in some of Tassie. There are a number of plants that need very little water but still present a lush green look - these will be very useful plants. I suspect a hugely increased turnover in artificial lawn, and a real improvement in the visual quality of the same. It'll make hair transplants look like chicken feed!

Also for the trompe l'oeil, where we have a painting on an outside wall, most likely depicting a shimmering lake or a waterfall surrounded by lush vegetation! A well designed painted landscape with some real foliage in the foreground and surrounds could well be an important aspect of many gardens in the future. Some gardeners will however, revel in the challenge of landscaping with drought tolerant plants and thoroughly enjoy the look they achieve. Decks, gravels and paving will be the choices for surfacing.

From the Tasmanian palette, we have many plants to choose from to use in our dry gardens. Most of these plants would not do well in mainland dry, but are quite adequate for Tassie.

To achieve best results, initial preparations are vital, followed by wise choice of plant material. Where possible cultivate the soil to a depth of 20-30cm, (ripping the subsoil deeper is great if it can be organised) ensuring the topsoil is kept on top. Incorporate composted organic matter in as much quantity as you can afford, up to 50% of the soil layer, or if in minimal quantity, at least incorporated in the soil around the plants. Water retention crystals are useful too. On sloping or very well drained soils, plant in small depressions so that even small showers will run into the soil around the young plant. The plants on a slope can even be planted in contoured ditches that will collect water, and pool it so it will sink in to the soil. Beware the influence of existing advanced shrubs or trees - they will compete strongly for moisture and nutrients - cultivate the soil well if you can.

Tasmanian Plants Suitable for Dry Gardens (some of the best)

Low Plants and Groundcovers

Acacia genistifolia (low)	Carpobrotus rossii	Leucophyta brownii
Acacia suaveolens	Correa backhouseana (low)	Ozothamnus obcordatus
Aotus ericoides	Dillwynia glaberrima	Ozothamnus reflexifolius
Banksia marginata (low)	Euromyrtus ramosissima	Ozothamnus scutellifolius
Bossiaea cinerea	Kennedia prostrata	Pelargonium australe
Bracteantha bracteata	Kunzea ambigua (low)	Pimelea humilis
Bracteantha papillosa	Lasiopetalum macrophyllum	Pultenaea pedunculata
Calocephalus lacteus	Lasiopetalum micranthum	Spyridium vexilliferum
Calytrix tetragonia	Leptospermum scoparium (low)	Zieria littoralis

Grasses, Lilies and other Tufties

Austrodanthonia sp	Diplarrena moreae
Bulbine glauca	Lomandra longifolia
Dianella brevicaulis	Poa sp
Dichelachne sp	Themeda triandra

Shrubs (1.5m - 6m)

Acacia genistifolia	Callitris rhomboidea	Leptospermum scoparium
Acacia myrtifolia	Correa alba	Lept. scoparium var. eximium
Acacia sophorae	Correa backhouseana	Leucophyta brownii
Acacia stricta	Daviesia latifolia	Leucopogon parviflorus
Acacia terminalis	Dodonaea viscosa	Melaleuca pustulata
Allocasuarina littoralis	Hakea epiglottis	Myoporum insulare
Allocasuarina monilifera	Hakea megadenia	Olearia stellulata
Allocasuarina verticillata	Hakea nodosa	Pomaderris elliptica
Banksia marginata	Indigofera australis	Pomaderris pilifera
Bursaria spinosa	Lasiopetalum macrophyllum	Pultenaea daphnoides
Callistemon pallidus	Leptospermum glaucescens	Solanum laciniatum
Callitris oblonga	Leptospermum grandiflorum	Westringia brevifolia

Trees

Acacia dealbata	Eucalyptus barberi	Eucalyptus risdonii
Acacia mearnsii	Eucalyptus morrisbyi	Eucalyptus rubida
Acacia melanoxylon	Eucalyptus perriniana	Eucalyptus tenuiramus
Eucalyptus amygdalina	Eucalyptus pulchella	Eucalyptus viminalis

Note 1. We have catalogues available if you need to interpret any, or all of these botanical names.

Note 2. We welcome and urge customers to bring their own cloth bags and baskets to take their plants home. However if you do happen to build up plastic bags at home, and have excess, we would be delighted to recycle them for the use of customers who forget to bring their own containers.

We hope you have a great autumn and winter, and that it rains quite a bit (at night).

Horticulturally yours; Will, and trusty staff, Peter, Linda, Paulette, Lydia, Sam and Qug.