

SUMMER 2011



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NEWSLETTER



It's been a dry old spring but with much needed rain summer is looking like a great time for the garden. Plants will soon start to flush with new growth and flowers so an application of slow release fertiliser and a dose of liquid feed will really help them along. Unfortunately the weeds also like the heat and rain so spread some mulch around, about 50mm thick. This will also help enable the roots of your plants to remain cooler and moist.

Grevillea Droopy Drawers is a new, low shrub reaching a height of around 1m and 1.8m wide. It boasts pinkish-red toothbrush flowers on the ends of weeping branches all year round. The stiff, grey-green foliage contrasts well with the bright flowers making this a highly ornamental shrub for any sunny, well drained spot in the garden. They would be ideal in a mass planting, as an erosion control, or in large pots. Being grafted onto a Silky Oak root stock ensures you have a tough, low maintenance plant. If you like Grevilleas with silly names this is the one for you! The price is \$24.99 in a 200mm pot.



Droopy Drawers

Nielsen's Marine
Mates

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Another great native for that hard-to-grow spot in the garden is *Leptospermum Shore Tuff*. This drought and frost tolerant shrub grows 50cm tall and around 1.2m wide making it a good weed suppressant. It can also be used as a hedging plant, around pools, coastal plant or on an embankment. The silver leaves are quite striking and contrast well when planted next to something with a darker foliage. White flowers will smother the shrub in early spring.



It sure is tough

Looking for a living Christmas tree but short on space? We now have Daintree Pines in 200mm pots. These aussie beauties stand around 400mm tall and have a natural, bushy, Christmas tree shape with soft wispy leaves. Needing very little care and attention they will survive indoors over the holiday season but afterwards will need a sunnier spot. They make a fantastic small tree in the garden and as they are slow growing can be kept in pots for many years. Small, attractive cones are produced on the ends of branches which give the plant a true conifer look.



Daintree Pine

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I have been asked many times over the years for an attractive tree that doesn't get too big. There are many to choose from such as Little Evodia which gets beautiful pink flower clusters up the branches and only reaches 5 metres high. The grafted Eucalypts such as Summer Red and Summer Beauty get to a similar height and bear showy red or pink flowers in the warmer months. Birds love them due to their high nectar content. One of my favourites would have to be Turkey Bush (*Leptospermum madidum*). This 6m high tree has branches with fine leaves that gracefully weep, almost to the ground. Small white flowers and a smooth white trunk make this a highly ornamental shade tree for any yard. These are just a few suggestions and all three are planted around the nursery for you to look at.



The stunning Little Evodia

Sticking with the hardy shrubs for a moment let me introduce Loropetalum "Plum Gorgeous". The deep, plum coloured leaves are the stand out feature of this 1.5m high by 2m wide plant. Contrasting nicely with the foliage are the vivid, hot pink tassel flowers which are borne in Spring and Autumn. This new form of China Pink is for those with brown thumbs as it basically looks after itself. Just the occasional prune and application of fertiliser will give you great results. Uses include specimen shrub, hedges or potted plant. Plant in full sun to part shade.



What a contrast

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We stock water plants all year round but summer is definitely the best time for range and quality of water lilies, water poppies, rushes and reeds, and marginals. The always popular water lilies come in a huge variety of colours and grow well in dams, ponds and water features. The water poppy has small, round leaves and bright yellow flowers for a lot of the year. It's great for ponds with shallow water. We carry two types of Milfoil which is a partially submersible plant great for fish to hide in amongst. It will creep along the surface of the water and help cool and shade your water, causing less algae problems. If you need any help with what to choose just ask one of our staff for advise including how to set up your water garden or frog pond.



Stuck for Christmas ideas? Join the club! If you're like me you procrastinate and rush around at the last minute. Here's a brief list of ideas from the nursery that might inspire you.

- Bush Honey. Come in a range of flavours and sizes. So tasty.
- Carniverous plants. These are always popular with the kids. Includes Venus Fly Traps, Pitcher Plants and Sundews.
- Bonsai. Everyone loves a bonsai.
- Potted herb troughs and pots. It's easy, just find a container you like and we'll pot up the herbs for you.
- Cacti. There is a huge range of fascinating cacti and succulents for that something a bit different.
- Wall plaques and hangers. The metal ones are particularly popular.
- Water feature.
- Gift vouchers. Let them get whatever they want.

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Another great gift idea is the Fluttering Butterfly. These solar powered insects are very realistic in their movement and operate in direct sunlight. If you want to take them inside simply put in one AA battery and watch them fly. They come in a wide variety of colours and the range now includes a Fluttering Dragonfly. Be quick to get one however as they are extremely popular and we do sell out from time to time.



Ahhhhhhh.....

If you're having problems with algae blooms, string, hair or blanket weed in ponds then Algaefix is the one to use. 5ml will treat 200L of water and once the algae is under control a weekly dose is all you need. The product is fish and water plant friendly and is safe in ponds containing fish intended for human consumption. And it works! We've tried it around the nursery and it completely kills the blanket weed. I've even used it in my freshwater aquarium at home and it's doing the job nicely. It comes in a 480mL bottle for \$24.99.

Spraying chemicals on herbs and veges can sometimes be a bit of a worry. Dipel is a low toxic, bio-insecticide that controls a wide range of insects including the hard to combat caterpillars. Any birds that then eat the grubs will be safe as well. It contains a naturally occurring bacteria so it won't hurt the environment, including bees, ladybirds, fish, mammals and pets. The 50g box will make 50 Litres of mixture and retails at \$17.99.



Your days are numbered

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We are a bit overstocked on azaleas at the moment. All our 140mm pots are 3 for \$24 (or \$10.99 each). They come in a wide variety of colours and make a hardy and showy shrub for any sunny spot in the garden, or in large pots. We also sell the correct potting mixes and fertilisers to get the most out of your azaleas.



Always popular

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*And don't forget to check out our aquarium for some more inspirational gift ideas.

** Book now for any holiday get-togethers in Lorikeet's Coffee Shop.

Happy gardening all!Eliot Holzworth