

WINTER 2012



WINTER 2012

NEWSLETTER



Winter is a beautiful time of year with clear skies, cool mornings and pleasant days. Sure we've had some unseasonable rain but all in all it's been a joy to get outside. Now is the time to be pruning back and shaping trees and shrubs in preparation for the growing season to start again. Aerating the lawn, composting and fertilising the garden, and generally cleaning up around the yard will make spring gardening a much easier task.

For a winter warmer with character take a look at our Mexican Chimeneas. These fireplaces are made by hand in the Mexican highlands and are composed of three types of clay. They are fired in a wood-fuel oven of about 900 Celsius and then the oxidated colour is painted on with a rough cloth. Used outdoors these conversation starters are fantastic to grill with or simply to warm a crowd on a chilly night. They come in two sizes and prices are \$149 and \$259.



Nielsen's Marine
Mates

49-51 Beenleigh Redland Bay Road,
Loganholme Qld 4129
Ph: 07 3806 1414 Fax: 07 3806 1706
Website: www.nielsensnativenursery.net
Email: bradn1097@bigpond.com



Ph: 07 3801 4222 Fax: 3801 4299
Website: www.nielsensmarinemates.com.au
Email: nielsensmarinemates@bigpond.com

Lorkeel's Coffee Shop
Ph/Fax: 3806 1313

Here's something a little different. Acacia "Little Pod" is a dwarf form of *Acacia podalyriifolia* (Queensland Silver Wattle). Growing about one metre tall this shrub has striking silvery-grey leaves and tiny, fragrant, yellow flowers in winter and would add a spot of interest to any garden. A few flowers in a vase will warm up a cold spot in the house and add a splash of cheer. Apart from a few follow-up waterings after planting this native will establish quickly and require very little maintenance in the years ahead, just a light prune occasionally to create a denser habit. Feed with a good quality native fertiliser and make sure it receives plenty of sun and adequate drainage.



Another great winter performer is the *Lechenaultia*. These Western Australian groundcovers have small flowers with vivid colours ranging from blue to red to orange. Although difficult to grow in the ground they make excellent container plants in pots or hanging baskets and bring a splash of colour to a sunny area. Even though drought tolerant, regular waterings in the hot and dry periods will keep them looking vibrant all year round. The owner, Dennis, has had great success spraying his with Searles Root Rot fungicide which keeps them clean and healthy. And remember if you find a container or basket that you think will suit your *Lechenaultia* one of our friendly staff will happily pot it up for you.



WINTER 2012

WINTER 2012

Nothing says winter quite like a Camellia. Over the years an amazing array of colours have been created and released onto the market. Various shades of pinks, reds, whites and variegated flowers are now available for your enjoyment. Most of our Camellias are sasanqua varieties. Possessing the distinct advantage of tolerating both full sun and partial shade sasanquas are the most robust and versatile of all the camellia species – a finer choice for a hedge, topiary or espalier could not be made. We also have the japonicas which are ideal for a more shady area. The cooler months are the peak time for flower production although spot flowering in the warmer months is not uncommon. Fertilisers and composts specific to the needs of Camellias are available and will keep your shrub the envy of your neighbours.



Zygocactus also do their finest work in autumn and winter. The flowers appear at the ends of flattened, weeping branches and come in a range of colours including pink, red, yellow and white. As these epiphytes don't like a lot of direct sunlight they make excellent indoor plants in a well lit area. Plant into a well drained mix, preferably an orchid mix and water when dry or in the flowering season. Zygos flower in response to shortening daylength and are so sensitive that their normal flowering can be upset if they are grown in an area which is well lit at night, for example a balcony near a street light or outside light. Fertilise in spring with a slow release food and prune back lightly after flowering has finished.



WINTER 2012

WINTER 2012

If you haven't been planting out the winter vegies it's not too late. Cauliflower, Broccoli and Cabbage are a must for anyone who enjoys fresh and healthy produce grown in their own back yard. Plant them in pots, troughs or raised garden beds....it's so easy. Of course we have all the gear you'll need to get them thriving and cropping in record time such as 5 in1, cow manure and Searles Fish and Kelp. Eco Neem is now registered for edibles and will keep a lot of the common vegetable patch insects at bay. Mix in some herbs and you'll have all you need for a winter soup, casserole or salad. If you're not sure of what to plant now just ask one of the staff.



Right next to our Herb and Vege section you will find what we call our "Cottage Garden" area. On these benches can be found a huge amount of colour in the form of groundcovers and shrubs, annuals and perennials. You'll surely find a plant here to fill a sunny spot in the garden that requires a lift or a pot around an entertainment area that needs that something special. Lavender, daisies, gazanias, and torenias are just a few eye catchers that would also look good near a front entrance or driveway. While you're down there make sure to say "hello" to Casper, our Long Billed Corella. If he's in a good mood he might even bestow upon you the privilege of letting you scratch him. Then again he may bite you.



WINTER 2012

WINTER 2012

We have a new range of wall art. "All Element Art" have released a series of photo art that can be hung inside or out. They are lightweight, tough and waterproof and made of recyclable plastic. These Australian made hangers come in a range of natural scenes including flowers, beaches and forests and would look great around the home. They are only \$24.99.



We're always changing and refining our pot range. Take a stroll over behind the aquarium and you'll surely find something to your liking. Northcote Pottery has come out with a new range of plastic pots and troughs in striking and vivid colours. Modern, with a ceramic-like appearance these self – watering pots are a lightweight and affordable alternative to traditional pottery. Prices are \$149 for the troughs, \$79.99 for the large, \$47.99 for the medium and \$32.99 for the small.



Our mushroom kits are back! They're easy to grow and tasty and come with simple instructions. The button mushrooms when kept moist will start to appear 4 or 5 weeks after you set up your kit. They are a hit with the kids and make a fantastic gift. The price is \$27.99.

WINTER 2012

WINTER 2012

We have set up a discount table down near the back fence of the nursery. These plants, with big discounts, just need a little bit of love and they will bounce back in no time. Tease the roots out, fertilise and water and you'll have a thriving shrub in no time. Keep an eye on this bench as the plants will be constantly changing.



As always Nielsen's Marine Mates has Brisbane's finest collection of corals and fish. And check out their new range of Feeder Fish, including Gudgeon, Brine Shrimp and Crays. For a winter warmer try the scrumptious selection on offer at Lorikeet's Coffee Shop.

Happy gardening all!Eliot Holzworth