Sydney Wildflower Nursery

Happy New Year!

We hope everyone is enjoying the holiday season and spending some time in the garden. The rain was definitely welcome over Christmas and the garden will definitely show the benefits with lots of new growth. Now is the time to get into all your garden projects with extra hours in the day and extra public holidays to use them. Come and see us in the nursery for all your garden needs, whether they be to fill a hole in the garden or plan a new one. Planting over summer is still a great option as long as they get some deep watering to establish. We hope to see you soon.

Dave, Kath, Paul & Narelle

Euc. Dwarf. Orange

What's new in the Nursery?

Acacia "Springtime Cascade"
A small prostrate shrub that grows to a height of 30-40cm and a width of 3m. The foliage is blue-green and small yellow sphere shaped flowers appear in early spring. It requires a well drained, full sun position and is ideal for cascading over walls and to cover large areas.

Thelionema umbellatum – Lemon Flax Lily
A small tufted plant to 10cm. Pale yellow star flowers appear in winter, spring and summer. Require a full sun to part shade position. Great as a border or used individually in the garden.

Ptilotus exaltatus 'Joey'
A small shrub growing 20-30cm high and wide. It has leathery green foliage and conical feathery flowers with neon piunk tips that are 7-10cm in length. They are drought and heat tolerant and require a sunny, well-drained position.

Plants for Pots

Acacia cognata 'Mini Cog'

A low growing compact Acacia with lime green new growth maturing to a rich emerald green.

POSITION: Grows in full sun to dappled shade and is suited to most soil types as long as they are well drained.

CARE: Once established they require very little maintenance but respond well to tip pruning. Will tolerate dry periods but will benefit from from some watering. For plants in tubs use a native potting mix and apply a slow release native fertilizer once a year.

USES: Makes a very good garden border, rockery feature or bank cover and makes an excellent tub plant.

Banksias for small spaces!

Dwarf Banksias
A whole group of compact Banksia cultivars, ideal for courtyards and small gardens have been collected and a whole new group are available.

Banksia spinulosa **'Birthday Candles',** which features lovely yellow/orange flower heads that are irresistible to honey eaters and spine bills. It grows up to 35cm in height and 60cm in width. Green flower buds appear in early summer and expand in autumn with their prominent flowering time, winter. They require a full sun, well drained position.

Banksia spinulosa **'Honey Pots'** is slightly taller than **'Birthday Candles'** with a darker flower.

Banksia spinulosa **'Coastal Cushion'** grows to 50cm in height and 1.5m in width. Its' flowers are 12-15cm in length and are gold with maroon styles.

With all **banksias** it's important to only fertilise with low phosphorus fertilisers and ensure they are well drained. Iron deficiencies are also common and may result from soils that are too alkaline or are simply iron deficient. A dose of iron sulphate will generally cure this problem.

Apart from the removal of spent flower heads in spring is virtually all the maintenance required on the **dwarf banksia cultivars.**

What's On!

Get involved in your local Bushcare group. Look on your local council website for more details.

Wollongong Council Shellharbour

Sat 30 Jan
9am – 12noon

FREE Frogs, Insects and Other Little Backyard Critters Workshop
Explore the world of frogs, insects and other little backyard critters and find out how you can encourage them to stay around and enhance your backyard biodiversity. On the day you'll be able to view some specimens of these fascinating creatures, and join in a walk looking for critters in the native bushland. This fun and informative workshop is run by our local wild life guru Pete Nolan from Habitat Ponds. *Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. This is a Sustainable Illawarra activity and is open to residents of Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama Council areas only.*

Sutherland Council Bushland

Bushcare

Bushcare
The Sutherland Shire Bushcare program is one of the largest in Sydney, with more than 700 volunteers involved in caring for over 120 bushland reserves, assisted by Council's Bushcare Officers.

Bushcare Volunteers
Bushcare volunteers assist in the rehabilitation and protection of natural areas of the Sutherland Shire. Make a difference to our Shire's bushland and learn new skills along the way, become a volunteer.

Plants, Weeds and Bushland

Indigenous Plants Guide
Want to use indigenous plants for landscaping and rejuvenating projects in the Sutherland Shire? View Council's guide to using indigenous plants.

Weed Fact Sheets
Learn about the weeds that infest our Shire. Learn about identification, habitat, effects on the environment, origin and distribution, control and removal.

Noxious Weeds Management Plans
Noxious weeds are plants which are considered to be a threat to human and animal health, agricultural production, native landscapes or natural resources such as water supplies. View the management plans for these weeds.

Dumping Greenwaste in the Bush
Learn about the negative impacts of dumping greenwaste in our bushland, and find out what you can do with your greenwaste.

Greenweb
Council's Greenweb program, which is part of a Sydney-wide strategy (Green Web Sydney), aims to protect and enhance the Shire's native plant and animal populations by identifying key areas of bushland habitat and establishing corridors to connect them.

Greenstreet
The Green Street Program is a sustainability education initiative for residents in the Shire. It is not just for streets, but for any active and motivated community group who have interest in improving a quality of life.