


Newsletter #11 July 2009 Edition

9 Venno St, Heathcote. Ph: 9548 2818 Open 7 days

Winter is here but still plenty to enjoy in the garden!

Winter is a great time to be walking in the bush and shows us what colour there is in native plants throughout the winter months. Banksias are still flowering, acacia spp. are flowering and will so for months to come. Hardenbergia spp. are also coming out with their bright purple flowers which are a great contrast to the acacias.

The nursery is full of these wonderful winter colours for you to choose from so, why not let us help bring some into your winter garden now.

Happy gardening,
Dave, Kath, Narelle & Paul.



Hardenbergia violacea

Growing Natives in *Windy Coastal Conditions*

When selecting plants for frontline coastal planting, it is best to keep in mind features such as; coastal adaptations to strong wind and airborne salt, the origin of the plants, features such as hairy leaves, small leaves, tough waxy leaves such as **Banksia integrifolia** or silvery grey foliage such as **Westringia fruticosa**. Plants such as **Araucaria heterophylla – Norfolk Island Pine** are very salt tolerant due to their place of origin. **Leucophyta brownii – Wire Bush**, has extremely tiny leaves which are not easily damaged by wind. The leaves and stems are covered by fine hairs which filter out salt and give it protection when planted in coastal conditions.



Leucophyta brownii- Wire Bush



Banksia Integrifolia – Coastal Banksia

Certain plants can also be used as a shelter for other plants which are less tolerant to the windy, salty conditions. Planting **Banksia Integrifolia – Coastal Banksia** or **Westringia fruticosa – Coastal Rosemary** will give shelter to other softer leaf spp. such as **Correa alba**, **Leptospermum spp.**, **Thryptomene spp.**, **Doryanthes excelsa – Gymea Lily** and **Xanthorrhoea spp.**

Other plants that can be grown in coastal conditions include:

Atriplex spp. - Salt Bush

Banksia robor – Swamp Banksia

Howea forsteriana -Kentia Palm (from Lord Howe Island)

What's On in July!

Illawarra Region

Illawarra Grevillea Park. Bulli

Open July 18th, 19th
& 25th & 26th

Email

info@grevilleapark.org

Composting and Worm Farming Community Workshop

Wednesday 1st July.
Wollongong Botanic
Garden – Discovery
Centre

Creating a Frog Pond Workshop

Saturday 27th July
Shellharbour

For both workshops go to:

www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au
for more info.

Open Gardens in and around Sydney

Native Zen Garden -
27 Calvert Rd,
Newport. A

**contemporary
Australian plant
garden.** Banksias,
bottle brush and many
other species contrast
with strappy-leafed
rushes and grass trees
around a stony dry
creek bed. Entry \$5.00
Visit

www.opengarden.org.au
for more info.

Phytophthora. What is it and what plants are most resistant to it?

Phytophthora cinnamomi or Dieback/Root Rot is distributed by spores that can stay dormant in soil for years until ideal conditions for growth, present themselves. The damage from this fungus is often worst during periods of heavy rainfall in the warmer months of the year as the heat and humidity are ideal conditions for the fungus to grow. Although we are in the middle of winter at the moment, we have had a lot of rainfall over the last couple of months. What this will help us with in the garden is identifying areas in the garden that remain water logged after substantial rain. It is a great time in the garden to fix drainage areas that are less than ideal before the warmer weather arrives. Over the previous growing season we had many people lose precious plants, especially advanced species due to phytophthora attack. After a long drought, we have seen a lot of rain over the last twelve months and this has contributed to the problem more so than at times where rainfall has been consistent.

Besides fixing drainage in the garden, planting trees and shrubs that can survive phytophthora attack can also prevent having to replace trees and shrubs. Plants such as:

Acmena smithii – Lilly Pilly,
Agonis flexuosa – Willow Myrtle,
Melaleuca armillaris – Bracelet Honey Myrtle,
Callistemon citrinus – Bottlebrush,
Banksia robur – Swamp Banksia,
Anigozanthus flavidus – Tall Kangaroo Paw,
Hardenbergia violacea – Happy Wanderer,
Kennedia prostrata – Running Postman

Infected soil and potting mix can also spread the fungus so using good quality mix is the best option in preventing the problem.



Xanthorrhoea spp. Are highly susceptible to Phytophthora cinnamomi which causes dieback as pictured here.