

Welcome



Hello again,
What a wonderful wet winter it has been! We need the rain, but it's good to see the sun again and to enjoy the fabulous spring wildflowers.

The Water Corporation assures us that we will still have water restrictions this summer. To avoid further demands on our water supply, it's essential that Perth gardeners continue to be waterwise. We can help you save water in the garden.

One way to add interest to the garden without much water is to grow our local grasses. Andrea has written about her favourites on page 2.

Alec's garden rambles and hints for growing from seed and cuttings may encourage you to grow our own beautiful native plants. It's easy, especially with the propagation aids available.

It's spring and both the bush and the Zanthorrea gardens look a picture. Spend a day in the Perth hills and pop in for a visit. See you soon!

Best wishes,

*Jackie, Alec and
the team at Zanthorrea*

Congratulations to competition winner, Kirsteen Jamieson, who won a garden hamper for her completed crossword.

What's on at Zanthorrea?

Waterwise Garden Centres



The Water Corporation, as part of their ongoing commitment to conserving water, have joined with the Nursery industry to create Waterwise Garden Centres. Only AGCAS accredited garden centres were invited to participate.

Displays and printed information are available at Waterwise garden centres, and all staff have attended Water Corp sponsored training.

At Zanthorrea, we welcome the opportunity to help you save precious water in your garden.



Drought hardy coastal plants

Have you heard of SGA?

SGA is a not-for-profit organisation totally committed to achieving real, continually improving and easily understood environmental solutions for gardeners.

SGA provides advice on gardening practices and clearly identifies low environmental impact products.

For more information go to:

<http://www.sgaonline.org.au>

Garden Talks

(RSVP on 9454 6260)



Flower arranging with Australian native plants: Find out which native plants make good cut flowers and watch Kathy demonstrate her talent at flower arranging with Australian native plants.



Kathy

Saturday 11th October 10am

Christmas Celebration

We hope you can join us for a Christmas Celebration, with the Numguts and Christmas refreshments.

Christmas is coming! Mark this date in your diary now: Sunday December 21st, 3pm.

Stop press: Bird Cam 2003

The ring neck parrots are back in the nest with six eggs. Come and see the monitor in the shop which records all the action - currently just parent sitting on eggs, but soon we expect the peep of babies.



Fabulous Flora

Plant Ramblings

Grevillea 'Coconut Ice' is a hardy reliable 1.2m shrub like Grevillea 'Robyn Gordon' only with a tinge of pink/orange in the flower. We have a big batch of these looking very healthy in 140mm pots at \$7.95.



Sue with Grevillea 'Coconut Ice'

The kangaroo paws are continuing to please, with many of the little Bush Gem series flowering most of the year. The ones we have found most resistant to ink spot and rust are Bush Pearl, Bush Gold and Bush Ranger. Soon our favourite toughies will be in flower: Big Red, Yellow Gem, Gold Fever. These are taller, and flower in spring and summer. The red and green and the dwarf cats paws are still in stock, but aren't as easy to establish if planted late in the season.

We still have good supplies of the hybrid and grafted Eucalyptus 'Summer Red' and the newly released 'Living Legend'. 'Summer Red' has grown well for us over the last few years. The new 'Living Legend', orange and short, is yet to prove itself, rest assured it will be slow growing as it is said to only reach 2.5m.



Ross and Daniel have been busy potting into the slightly smaller (and less expensive) 125mm pots. We expect these to be ready for sale from mid September. The range includes many grevilleas and kangaroo paws. Look out for these in the coming weeks.

- Alec

Kanyana Plant of the Month

Anigozanthos Red Dragon

This stunning new release kangaroo paw is proving a winner with the honey eaters darting about the nursery. With large red and green flowers and blue - green foliage to around 40cms, it is very striking.



It seems appropriate to nominate this beauty as our Kanyana plant of the month. Great planted in groups, and perfect in pots, all gardens need one or two or maybe more.

One dollar from the sale of each Red Dragon will go to Kanyana Wildlife Centre to help sick and injured wildlife.

Native Grasses

From the flatlands to the hills, many gardeners are losing their lawns in a bid to reduce water consumption. Native grasses however are growing in popularity for their low maintenance and versatility. From cottage to contemporary gardens, waterwise to water ponds, there is a grass to suit every situation. Birds and native critters love them too.



Listed below are some WA goodies that will be available at the nursery during spring. Whilst all are not strictly grasses, they have attractive strappy foliage, a clumping habit and many have beautiful flowers.

- *Patersonia occidentalis* (flag iris) A small deep green grass to 30cms with beautiful deep purple velvety flowers in spring. Grows in all soils, sun or shade.
- *Lepidosperma longitudinale* (pithy sword sedge) A large strappy plant growing 1 - 2 metres, occurring from coast to hills. Can be grown in ponds.
- *Juncus kraussii* A slender rush to 1m which grows in all soils including salty soils and like its vigorous bigger brother *Juncus pallidus* (1.5 - 2m) makes a great frog haven.



Spring is in the Air!

Seeds and Cuttings

- *Cymbopogon ambiguus* - hardy tufting grass to 50cm with beautiful grey lemon scented foliage. Great contrast in the garden and seems to grow anywhere!

- *Sowerbaea laxiflora* (vanilla lily) - small local grass with a profusion of beautiful pinky purple flowers from August to November. Great in pots.

– Andrea



Sowerbaea laxiflora

Blue Wrens

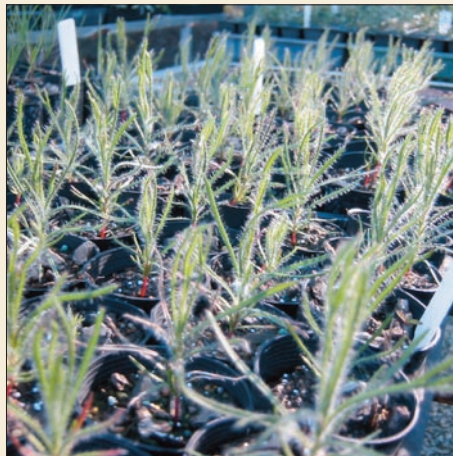
We have had numerous sightings over the last month or two of the elusive Blue wrens. One brightly coloured male with two females or juveniles have taken up residence in our gardens. Tip toe through the display gardens and listen for their lovely birdsong.



They join many other bird species who have made their home in our bird friendly gardens.

Many gardeners find it interesting to start new plants from seeds and cuttings.

Growing from seed is the easiest as it is the way nature intended. This can involve collecting and cleaning the seed or just buying a packet of the many varieties of native plant seed that are available 'off the shelf'. The seed is spread on a seed raising mixture, and kept moist until germination. This can be as little as 4 days for everlastings up to 4 weeks for boronia, and even longer for some plants.



Isopogon dubius seedlings

Cuttings need a bit more practice. It's important to consider the conditions of the plant when cuttings are taken. Usually it is best to have a vigorously growing 'mother plant', and to use the last six month's growth. Hormone gel helps encourage roots and it is very important to keep the cutting in high humidity - which brings me to a new WA product we have called 'Aquamiser'.

The Aquamiser is a tray with six pots, six felt waterers, covers for the pots and a simple automatic watering system to keep the felts and thus the pots moist.



Alec with Aquamiser

The unit should be kept in a high light zone but with no direct sunlight and let nature take its course. Seeds can be sown pretty well all year, and the warmer months now arriving make the cuttings work much faster and better.

For tons of information to help you with: which plants to grow from seed or cutting; when and how to do it; grab a copy of "Growing Native Plants" from the Wildflower Society, available at Zanthorrea for only \$5.95.

– Alec



Our Top 5 Waterwise beauties

These plants are drought hardy in most situations:

- Spidernet grevillea
- Emu bush
- Native rosemary
- Grevillea Frosty Pink
- One-sided bottlebrush

Check our website for waterwise plants suitable for clay, gravel and sand.



What's New?

Post-friendly Gifts

Do you have friends and family interstate and overseas? There are many great Australian gift ideas at Zanthorrea which are light and easy to post, including:

- Cute fluffy wool magnets



- Boxed cards with Australian motifs



- Quality Rivergums & Roses embroidered linen
- Fabulous fragrant lotions and soaps, from Thurlby Herb Farm
- Gorgeous little books from the National Library of Australia



Wild Republic Birds

These beautifully made birds make real bird calls when you squeeze them. Choose from several Australian designs. (Sorry, they are not Australian made.)



A delightful gift for children young and old. Our price \$12.45

The Santalia range

Essence of Australian sandalwood from the Albany district, WA.

This range of products is a gift for yourself, specially created to lift your spirits and heighten your senses - a great boost after winter.



Call in and ask for a free trial sachet, while stocks last.

Hats & bags

As early as September the risk of sun damage is high. Time for a new hat.

As well as the trusty tried and true hats, we have lots of new styles and colours for the young and young at heart, some with matching bags, so make sure you are well covered this spring.



Discontinued lines from Australian Fine China

To make room for new releases from Australian Fine China, we are clearing some of our range at only \$9. At this price, stock up for Christmas.

First in best dressed, as they say!



Zanthorrea Gift Vouchers are always a welcome gift.



Zanthorrea Nursery is proud to be AGCAS accredited.

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