

MALCOLM'S COMMENT

■ COP21

As this newsletter is being published and distributed in early December 2015 the world's leading nations will be meeting in Paris at COP21 to discuss global climate change. For many there has been ample demonstration this year of climate change and its effect on our industry. Whether it was the extended period of humidity in Feb/March 2015, the storms of late April 2015, the colder than normal weather in June/July or the 40+ degree days in October/November there is no doubt in my mind and those in the agriculture/horticulture industry that climate change is real and needs to be addressed.

Under the Abbott government there was a growing disconnect between the manner in which we were addressing climate change issues and the public sentiment on how the issues should have been addressed. Eighty nine percent of the polled public believe humans are at least partly the cause of climate change. Sixty three percent of the polled public believed "the Abbott government should have taken climate change more seriously". With the change in leadership I'm hoping this will happen.

What does all this mean for us as an industry? Why is it important?

Climate change has added another dimension to the production processes in the nursery industry. Growing plants in periods of excessive wet, extreme humidity, extended periods of overcast weather or excessive heat is difficult and fraught with problems. It adds considerable cost to the growing process. Anything we can do to reduce the impact of climate change on the agriculture and horticultural industries and give us a more predictable climate would be a step in the right direction.

Because climate change is a phenomenon that isn't going to disappear overnight we need to be continually looking for plants that 'like' or at least tolerate the changeable weather we are experiencing. At Colourwise we are travelling and researching plants that not only look good but have what we call 'climatic robustness'. This is the challenge for 2016 and beyond.

NEW RELEASES

■ **Calibrachoa 'Miss Lilac', 'Evening Star', 'Frost Fire' and 'Crimson Bells'**



Calibrachoa
'Miss Lilac'



Calibrachoa
'Evening Star'



Calibrachoa
'Frost Fire'



Calibrachoa
'Crimson Bells'

Calibrachoa bring fantastic form and glorious colour to the garden. They have a wonderful, trailing, spreading habit that is beautifully suited to cascading over embankments, raised garden beds and retaining walls or hanging

baskets and containers. They are low maintenance and hardier than they look. Calibrachoa enjoy full sun to part shade and respond well to the occasional light snip to tame straggly growth and encourage a denser form and more flowers. Calibrachoa grows to approx. 50cm wide by 30cm high.

Available now in 140mm pots.
High resolution images available.



■ **Echeveria 'Big Red', 'Domingo' and 'Zorro'**



'Domingo'



'Big Red'



'Zorro'

Colourwise are introducing three new Echeveria to our succulent range this summer.

Like all Echeveria, 'Big Red' enjoys full sun to part shade, is superbly drought tolerant and great for xeriscaping, coastal plantings, roof gardens, containers, borders and rockeries. 'Big Red' forms huge rosettes more than 30cm wide which turn red in winter. Marvellous!

'Domingo' has rubbery, bluish foliage which forms large rosettes up to about 25cm wide. 'Domingo' flaunts tall pink and orange flowers in spring and summer. Great for vertical gardens in sunny locations or planted alongside feature grasses to create a bold visual and textural contrast.

'Zorro' is another large growing Echeveria that has contorted leaves with a frilly, red-pink edge. 'Zorro' has bright green new growth which changes to a purplish or dark burgundy colouration over time. Produces flower spikes up to 90cm tall in winter. Beautiful!

Available in 125mm pots in January.

NEW TO COLOURWISE

■ **Euphorbia millii Red and White**



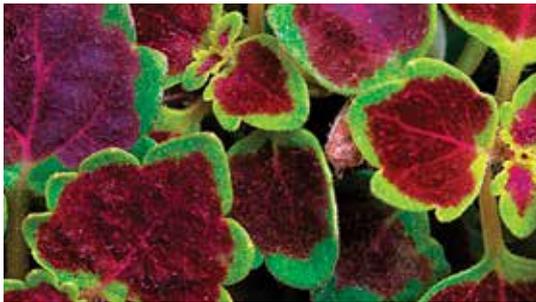
Commonly known as "Crown of Thorns", *Euphorbia millii* is a succulent

climbing shrub with densely spiny stems and boisterous floral displays. In warmer areas it will flower year round. *Euphorbia millii* is extremely hardy – its drought proof, salt proof and can thrive in exposed positions, making it ideal for roof gardens, rockeries, coastal gardens and containers. We are currently growing red and white varieties and planning to expand our range of *Euphorbia* over the next year.

Available now in 125mm pots.
High resolution images available.



■ **Solenstemon 'Wedding Train'**



Solenstemon 'Wedding Train' will win your heart forever. This is an exquisite, smaller foliage form of Coleus that is suitable for full sun positions in the garden. 'Wedding Train' has rich, burgundy leaves edged with lime green, making it an excellent feature foliage plant that works well as an accent for borders, beds and containers. 'Wedding Train' looks fantastic when partnered with colourful Cordylines. Easy to grow, easy to love!

Available now in 140mm pots.
High resolution images available.

FANTASTIC for FOLIAGE

■ **Coffee**

Tired? Stressed? Over it? Get a coffee.

Since its discovery more than 500 years ago in Ethiopia, Coffee has become beloved by millions and integral to human productivity. It cannot be denied that a good cup of coffee can revive energy and impart great feelings of satisfaction and contentment.



Coffee is an attractive tree with fragrant white flowers and bright red berries. Coffee trees will start producing fruit after three years and can produce beans for up to 100 years. (That's a lot of coffee!) Coffee is fun to grow and easy to process. Keep coffee plants drier over winter and then water well from spring to promote flowering and berries. Harvested berries need to be pulped, dried and roasted before consumption. Coffee is a wonderful, magical bean that will bring renewed delight into your garden and home!

Available now in 140mm pots in February.

■ **Rhodohypoxis 'Fairy Floss' and 'Arctic White'**



Rhodohypoxis are native to the Alpine regions of South Africa. They have star-shaped flowers and strappy, grass-like foliage. *Rhodohypoxis* are highly floriferous and form low, dense drifts of colourful blossoms through spring and summer. They enjoy full sun, good drainage and plenty of

moisture during the growing season. Being tuberous they do go dormant in winter, and are hardy to temperatures to -5°C. 'Fairy Floss' and 'Arctic White' are beautiful additions for rockeries and container gardens.

Available now in 140mm pots.
High resolution images available.

■ **Rhubarb Rhubarb**



Rhubarb deserves a place in every veggie plot. It has bright red, crisp stalks with a strong, tart taste. Rhubarb is great for pies and desserts or simply stew with sugar and serve with vanilla ice cream. Rhubarb are a perennial vegetable and can continue to crop for up to 20 years. Rhubarb performs best in a rich, well-drained soil in a sunny, sheltered position. They can also be grown in large containers. Harvest lightly for the first couple of years to allow the plant to become established and always leave a few stalks on the plant to avoid weakening it. Rhubarb leaves are poisonous and cannot be consumed so be sure to remove the leaf section and only eat the stalks.

Available in 140mm pots in December.

TRIED & TESTED

■ Canna



Canna can bring a luscious, tropical feel to temperate gardens. They have big, juicy leaves and bright, showy flowers. They are hardy and fast growing, preferring a moist position with humus-rich soil. *Canna* grows to 1.6-1.8m, so works well when planted along fence lines or as a background plant to complement shorter plants in a garden bed. Our favourite *Canna* varieties are; 'Australia', 'Emerald Sunset', 'Intrigue', 'Orange Punch' and 'Pretoria'.

Available now in 175mm pots.
 High resolution images available.



■ Bambino Bougainvillea

Bambinos are so hot right now! And it's no wonder... Bambino bougainvillea have inherited all the best qualities of their parents and none of the bad. (If only we all could make such a claim!) They produce impressive floral displays on cascading growth but have a more compact habit and fewer thorns. Bambinos were bred and developed in QLD and are well suited to Australian conditions. They are strong growers and will flower profusely in a sunny, dry position. Bambinos are available in a range of cheerful colours that includes pink, red, orange, yellow and white. They are suitable for a range of applications, and are happy in the ground or a large container. Bambinos make stunning shrubs, hedges and groundcovers, they can be trained over pergolas or trellises, espaliered or even pruned into topiary. Planting two or more varieties together creates an awesome display of lively, rambling colour. Choose from; 'Arora', 'Babybino Purple', 'Bilas', 'Jazzi', 'Jellibene', 'Maudi', 'Miski', 'Panda', 'Shaba', 'Siggie' and 'Zulu'.

Available in 140mm pots in January.
 High resolution images available.



■ Pogonathera Baby Panda Grass



Baby Panda Grass is a cute, tufty, bamboo-like grass that grows into a small rounded shape like a bright green pom pom. Standing proud at 35cm high and wide, it makes a

gorgeous addition to Japanese and tropical style gardens, and is excellent as a low decorative edge. Baby Panda Grass can be grown in containers, is tolerant of light frosts and prefers moist soil.

Available now in 140mm pots.

■ Hibiscus 'Klahanie' series



Now, what can we add to *Canna* and *Bougainvillea* to dial the tropical feel up to maximum intensity? ... *Hibiscus*, of course! With large, flamboyant blossoms in a range of vibrant colours, *Hibiscus* can be used as a stunning stand-alone feature or fabulous hedge or screening plant. For best results, plant in full sun, in moist, humus-rich, well-drained soil and feed well to promote flowers. In the ground, *Hibiscus* can grow to approx. 2.5m tall and wide. As they are frost tender, in cooler climates *Hibiscus* can be grown in a pot and moved inside for winter. Our new varieties are; 'Berry Twist', 'Calypso', 'Coconut Ice', 'Limoncello', 'Raspberry Swirl', 'Tangelo', 'Tropicana' and 'Wild Cherry'.

Available in 175mm pots in March.

■ Thysanolaena 'Tiger Grass'



Tiger Grass is a very appealing alternative to Bamboo. It has luxuriant green foliage with tight clumping growth to approx. 2m wide by 3m high. Tiger Grass is fast growing and makes an excellent screen or hedge. Being a perennial grass, it will benefit from getting cut back to ground level every few years to promote fresh growth and renew its appearance. Tiger Grass is native to Thailand and brings a lush, thriving ambiance to garden spaces.

Available now in 140mm pots.

WHAT'S HOT

■ **Penstemon 'Polaris'**



Penstemon 'Polaris' comes from a good looking family. It is related to foxgloves and snapdragons and bears their characteristic tubular blossoms on tall flower spikes. *Penstemon* loves the heat and looks amazing when planted en masse on sunny, exposed banks to form a blanket of intense colour. *Penstemon* are delightfully fragranced and will attract bees, butterflies and birds to gardens. They have a compact, bushy habit and dense foliage that works well as a weed suppressant. *Penstemon* 'Polaris' will grow to approx. 45cm high by 45cm wide and is available in purple, red and pink.

Available in 140mm pots in December.

High resolution images available.

■ **Calibrachoa 'Trixi' baskets**



With joyful flower combos that frolic together in a dance of colour, Trixi baskets will propel gardeners to a whole new level of happiness.



Trixi baskets bring a riot of continuous colour to summer gardens and look flamboyantly fabulous in outdoor rooms, patios, pergolas and entranceways. Wherever you wish to draw the eye and add a touch of unabashed beauty, Trixi baskets are the ideal accent plant.

Available now in 300mm hanging baskets

High resolution images available.

BIGGER AND BETTER

We've super-sized some of our favourite plants – they're growing better, they're flowering better, and they're selling better - everybody's happy! *Bougainvillea* 'Sundevillea', *Mandevilla* 'Sunparasols' and French Lavender are now available in 175mm. Yay!

Available in 175mm pots in December

High resolution images available.

• NURSERY NATTER •

Hot off the Press ... Colourwise scoops the NGINA marketing awards

The 2016 NGINA Nursery Industry Awards were announced on Friday 20th November, 2015. The awards included Best Website, Best Newsletter, Best POS material and Best Plant Labels. Colourwise were lucky enough to pick-up the Top Industry awards for Best Newsletter (for the second time) and Best Label series for our 'Colour Innovations' perennial labels.

Our revamped website www.colourwise.com was a close second in the website award and is definitely worth a look if you are searching for plants for your garden or for customers.

Special thanks to Georgina Hillman (Colourwise Marketing Manager) for her creative and informative writing.

Georgina (a published author) works hard to produce a newsletter that is accurate and educational but also looks inviting. Thanks also to Veronica Gilmer from Alphabet Soup, our Graphic Design partner. Veronica makes the publication colourful, interesting and readable.

It's been ten years since we've had a proper re-design of our labels. Mark Tyler (Colourwise Sales Manager) has worked solidly all year to re-brand our perennial 'Colour Innovations' label series. The series extends to over eighty plants and has a distinctive shape and look (see photo). The aim was to create a series of labels that showed the consumer not only what the plant looks like but also inform them of the best features of the plant ... quite a challenge on a piece of plastic 9cm x 5cm. With the help of the Norwood creative team I think we've achieved that.

Thanks Georgina, Veronica and Mark for your hard work. Congratulations !!!

