



**SPRINGWHAT A
FABULOUS TIME
OF YEAR.....**

With the weather warming up and the days getting longer, it is a great time to work in the garden. Come into the nursery and enjoy the heady fragrance of *Boronia* spp. all in bud and ready to burst into bloom. *Grevilleas* spp., *Prostanthera* spp., *Rhodanthe* spp., *Brachyscombe* spp. and much, much more are all in bloom now! Come in and pick up some potting mix to revive potted plants or talk to one of our staff for some expert advice on your garden. Don't forget our garden consultation service if planning a new garden or reviving an old one. We look forward to seeing you in the nursery soon.

Dave, Kath, Narelle & Paul.

Check list for making the most of your native garden!

- Now is the time to spread native slow-release fertiliser around each plant in the garden whether established or a new planting.
- When planting new plants make sure the sight is well drained by raising the garden beds using native mix combined with existing soil
- Have your soil pH checked (available in the nursery) to make sure it is suitable for native plants
- Most natives prefer full sun but for a shaded area try *Boronia* spp., *Pandorea* spp. or *Correa* spp.
- When new growth appears on your plants, tip pruning regularly during the growing season promotes dense, bushy plants. This also applies to spent flowers. *Grevilleas* will reward you with year round flowers if spent flowers are removed. Prune *Grevilleas* by a third to promote lots of bushy new growth.
- When mulching the garden, lay newspaper 10 sheets thick under mulch to suppress weeds. Wet newspaper before applying mulch so excess moisture isn't leached from the soil.
- Mulch can be up to 10cm thick and consist of sugar cane, pine bark or wood chip. For plants that like low humidity, such as plants from W.A., use gravel as mulch so they benefit from reflected heat.



Grevillea 'Sylvia'
Year round flowers on this 2-3m *Grevillea*.

What's on in September!

Illawarra Region

Sat. 5th Sept.
9.30am till 4pm

Oxford School Fair

'Step Back in Time' is the theme for this country fair. Not only will Sydney Wildflower Nursery be selling tube stock at the fair but there will be entertainment, Devonshire teas and lots of other great stalls to see.

Sutherland Shire

Joseph Banks Reserve
Manooka Place,
Kareela

North Coast

5 & 6 September

Phil and Lucy's garden,
11 Killara Dve, Cardiff
South.

Thoughtfully planned Australian plant collection demonstrating the variety and versatility of native species in a suburban environment. The five-year-old garden is still evolving, as are the expanding collections of grevilleas and leptospermums. Species selected to attract birds and bees. Small frog pond. EXTRAS: Talk & demonstration on propagating Australian plants at 2pm each day.

Rainforest Plants

In the nursery we have a great range of rainforest plants for the east coast. Some varieties include:

Araucaria cunninghamii – Hoop Pine
Araucaria bidwillii - Bunya Pine
Davidsonia jerseyana - Davidsons Plum
Sterculia quadrifida – Peanut Tree
Diploglottis Australia – Native Tamarind
Glochidion ferdinandii - Cheese Tree
Elaeocarpus reticulatis – Blueberry Ash

Sterculia quadrifida – Peanut Tree

This tree grows to a height of 5 -10 metres and has a spreading deciduous canopy. The bark is a light grey and the leaves are dark green and egg-shaped or heart-shaped at the base. The flowers, which are greenish-yellow and occur in small clusters from November to January.

Seed pods are orange outside and orange or red inside when ripe. These pods contain up to 8 black seeds that are edible and taste like raw peanuts.

The bark is used by Aboriginal people in their traditional weaving techniques to make baskets and other products.



Pests to watch out for in Spring!

A common pest to eucalypts is the grubs of the **steel-blue sawfly (Pergia dorsalis)**. Feeding starts with the young new shoots on the branch tips. Large grubs will devour the whole leaf down to the mid-rib. Serious damage can be prevented by looking for clusters on the ends of branches and removing them. Currawongs are a natural enemy.

How to recognise: leaves are chewed and ragged. Small trees are more likely to suffer permanent damage as older trees will handle any attack. Trees watered and fed well will recover quickly from an infestation.

Plant an endangered species!

Australia has lost 61 species of native plants to extinction, the estimate is that up to 20% of native species are threatened with extinction....you can help by planting a native species from your local area.

Pimelea spicata- Pink Pimelea and Diploglottis campbellii – Small-leafed Tamarind have both got status as endangered.

For more information visit the Threatened Species Network website, www.wwf.org.au/tsn or for more species see, www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened