

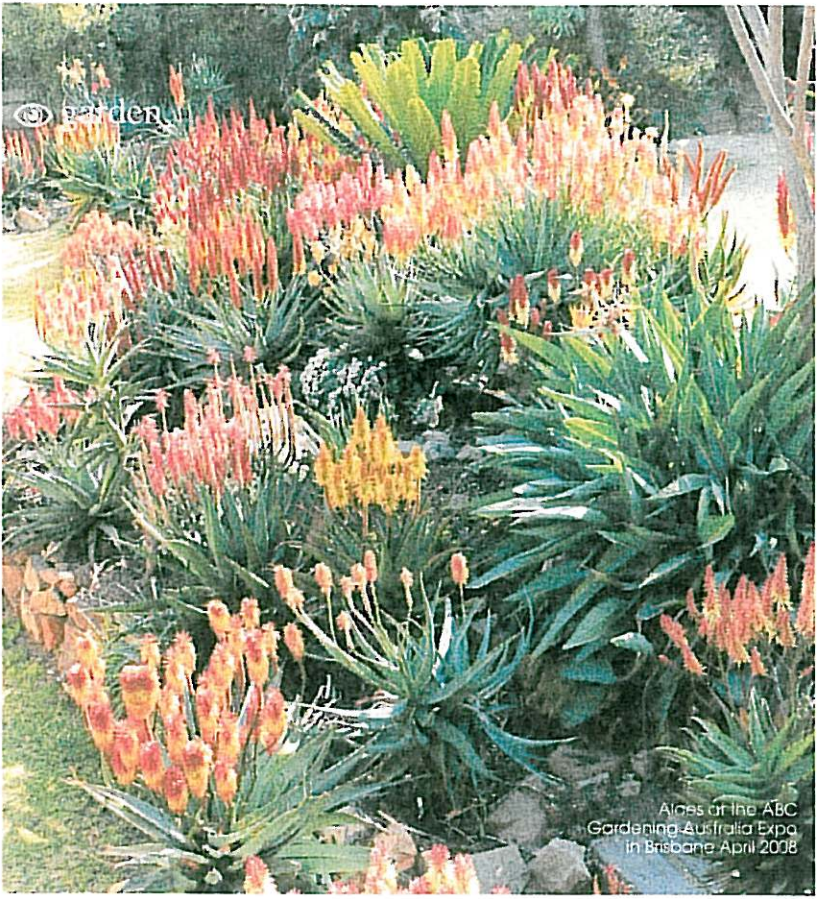
COLORFUL
RECEPTUAL
SUSTAINABLE

Introducing the premium collection of superior ornamental hybrid aloe -offering home gardeners and landscapers new and unique sustainable gardening solutions with spectacular top quality flowers, dramatic foliage and trendy architectural shapes.



DAY DAWN
NURSERY

OPEN 7 DAYS | Phone 4776 2272
50 Kokoda Street, FAIRFIELD WATERS



Aloes at the ABC Gardening Australia Expo in Brisbane April 2008

Garden Competition

Calling all green thumbs! The Townsville Bulletin is giving garden lovers in Townsville the chance to show off their hard work. There are heaps of prizes up for grabs including \$100 vouchers for category winners and \$50 vouchers for category runners up thanks to Day Dawn Nursery Idalia.

For your chance to win one of these fantastic prizes simply fill out the entry form below and send to Townsville Bulletin Garden Competition, c/o - P.O Box 2030, Townsville 4810.

MAJOR PRIZE
A TRIP FOR 2
to the 2009 Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show.

RUNNER UP
RECEIVES A HUGE \$500 VOUCHER TO SPEND AT DAY DAWN NURSERY



I WISH TO ENTER THE FOLLOWING CATEGORY/CATEGORIES:

(Please tick)

- Established garden - Established for over 2 years.
- Native garden - Predominantly N.Q. native plants
- Edible or useful garden - To include fruit and vegetable, herb/therapeutic, bush foods and gardens containing plants used for dyed, craft, construction and basketry.
- Commercial property garden - business houses, retirement villages, day care centres, shops, car yards etc.
- New home garden - 2 years and younger.
- School garden - Schools with gardens that show students participation and are used as learning resources.
- Flowering garden
- Water wise garden

Please include a photograph with your entry form for short listing purposes.

YOUR GARDEN WILL BE JUDGED ON THE FOLLOWING:

Design and layout, plant arrangement, colour, height, type, garden, variety/species, overall effect, special features, imagination and plant health.

Name.....
Address.....
Phone.....

Is there a dog on premises Yes No



Conditions apply - see public notice. Entries close on Wednesday August 27, 2008. Judging commences September 1 - 8 2008. Winners will be announced Wednesday September 17, 2008 in the townsvilleeye.

Say aloe

Best known as red hot pokers, Aloes have a distinctive shape but as JULIE ROACH discovered, new hybrids are coming in great new colour schemes

RECENTLY I saw photos taken at last April's ABC Gardening Australia Expo in Brisbane. In a couple of the display gardens were plants that I had not seen in flower for a long time. These were what I knew from childhood as red-hot pokers or Aloes. These plants have characteristic long succulent leaves that taper to a fine point. They are arranged spirally on the central stem or branch tips; and are often edged with sharp teeth. But it is the sentinel spikes of densely packed tubular flowers which gives them the poker.

The modern hybrids now come in an array of flower colours from the familiar fiery reds through golden yellows and oranges to the more pastel pale pink and cream. I saw some new hybrid Aloe recently in the local nursery trade and these had flowers in the more pastel shades with nice compact vegetative growth.

The genus Aloe contains more than 300 species and is found through southern and tropical Africa to Madagascar and the Arabian Peninsula. They should also be fine here near the coast in locations with sandy soil, in well-drained rockeries or containers.

All Aloes prefer warm, dry conditions. Their growing requirements very much resemble those used for growing cactus; good drainage and as much sun as possible. All Aloes prefer warm dry conditions. Water enough to keep the soil moist when actively growing and flowering, but otherwise keep drier (that is the hard bit here).

A pot on a sunny porch or veranda can be an ideal position. Apparently Aloes prefer somewhat crowded roots, can tolerate soils of low fertility and will survive in the same pot for many years. If you have to repot do so after flowering has finished.

Propagate new plants by removing the pups; offshoots that grow at the base of the plant. This is best done during the winter. The best way to remove these offshoots is to take the entire plant out of the pot, then

separate the offshoots from the parent plant; they should have some roots of their own. Once separated, return the parent plant to its original pot.

Of the new hybrids available, all would make great potted specimens. Gemini has masses of long lasting pale orange flowers in early winter and produces a ball shaped plant with decorative foliage that forms an intriguing spiral as it matures.

Fairy Pink has numerous dainty white flowers (with a faint pinkish tinge at the base of the flowers) in late summer to early autumn above the delicate fleshy green leaves of this very small and beautiful aloe hybrid.

Topaz has beautiful long lasting pinkish orange flowers, from mid summer to early winter, which complement its elegant grass-like leaves.

Aries has striking short spotted leaves with a stunning decorative edge, combined with lanky pink flowers that change to creamy white when open in summer or autumn. This one is suitable as a trailing plant over rockeries, retaining walls, hanging baskets or as a pot specimen.

Do not assume that all Aloe can be used in the same way as is Aloe vera. Of the hundreds of species and hybrids there is only four species of Aloe recognized as having nutritional or therapeutic value. If you do have an Aloe vera plant, then only use the inner gel and not the outer rind of the leaf. Apparently the outer part is very bitter.

GROWING CONCERNS? ask Julie ...

Julie Roach is the horticultural officer with the Townsville City Council. If you have any questions about gardening, send them to townsville eye gardening column, PO Box 587, Townsville, 4810 or email eye@townsvillebulletin.com.au