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BIRDS IN THE GARDEN

The beauty and liveliness of birds is something missing from so many of our gardens. By planting bird friendly plants like these flowering aloes our feathered friends are encouraged – Honey eaters are attracted by the nectar from the flowers and insects feeding off the nectar provide a flying buffet for insect eating birds.



New on... The Plant Palette

1. Rias™

The large tree type aloe **Rias™** with bicoloured brick red to orange flowers has just been released through the retail online nursery **Garden Express** > <http://www.gardenexpress.com.au/aloe-rias/>

2. Mountain Gem™

Every once in a while something really special comes along which stops us in our tracks. **Mountain Gem™** is one such aloe – a beautiful soft ball shaped plant which bears large pastel bicoloured flowers in winter. **Mountain Gem™** will be available in stores from March 2012.

3. Venus™

The red to white bicoloured flowers of the large aloe **Capricorn™** have been a real winner with gardeners, so we are excited to make Capricorn's little brother **Venus™** available from March 2012.

Here a collection of **Venus™** plants (which grow to 60 cm tall) is seen being cared for by **James Matimela of Sunbird Aloes**.



ALOES IN PUBLIC PLACES

City councils, under constant pressure from rate payers to beautify streetscapes, need to do so as economically as possible. The plants that they use need to offer predictability, and be able to survive and look good under a range of climatic conditions. Many less robust plants including many native plants used by councils historically, have struggled to flourish without precious water and ratepayers are increasingly unwilling to fund their replacement every time mother-nature decimates them. Because of their ability to provide colour each year in tough conditions with little maintenance, aloes have long been a favourite of councils for public spaces and alongside roads in their native South Africa. It is great to see this trend now emerging in Australia. Forward thinking developers, roads departments and city planners are learning first hand that it is possible to have colour without having to undergo expensive ongoing maintenance and replacement of failed plants in dry or wet times.



In Adelaide the grass aloe **Topaz** provides a recurring grow of orange each winter in front of the **Art Gallery of South Australia**.



Newly planted **Southern Cross** flanked by **Gemini** planted in by the City of **Whitehorse** grow in tough conditions in **Canterbury Road, Forest Hill**.

PROFILE OF AN ALOE-ALOE GROWER...

BENARA NURSERIES

Benara Nurseries in Western Australia are Australia's largest wholesale production nursery with 220 acres of containerised plant stock to choose from. They have been providing Australia with high quality affordable wholesale plants since 1963. More importantly they recognise innovation and were early adopters of the aloe-aloe varieties they now grow in significant commercial numbers – www.benaranurseries.com

"I AM THE DROUGHT & THE FLOODING RAINS..."

"...I am Australian."

Whilst many see us as a dry country, as the song **"I am Australian"** implies we also regularly experience significant rain including flooding. The flooding of many Brisbane homes ten months ago was devastating for many residents who have been slowly rebuilding



their lives. It also had adverse consequences for some gardens but gardeners were surprised to learn that these aloe varieties were able to cope with this excessive water where the soil was able to subsequently dry out. As long as the soil is free draining, these varieties will cope with extreme rain.

▲ This aloe 'Big Red™' was submerged for days in a Brisbane garden yet was seen flourishing in bloom less than 6 months later!

COMPANION PLANTINGS

With their strong architectural leaf form and large mass of colourful blooms, aloes can sometimes dominate a garden. However these varieties do not need to be planted either together or exclusively in a dry zone garden. Here they are seen in gardens with the complementary companion plantings which showcase contrasting colours and textures.



BOTANIC GARDENS

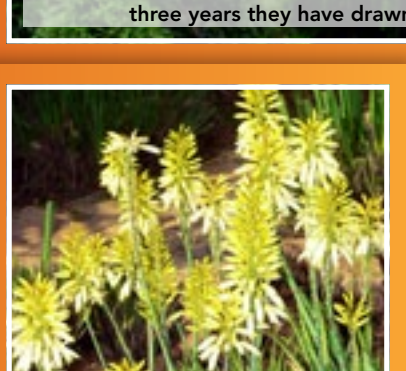
Visiting Australia's botanic gardens is a great way to see how new plants can be used in gardens. These aloe-aloe varieties are now able to be seen in botanic gardens in most capital cities of Australia and in many public gardens in smaller towns. Sydney-siders will benefit from a new 500m² garden comprising of the aloe-aloe varieties currently being constructed by the **Royal Botanic Gardens** so as to provide visitors to the gardens with a warm kaleidoscopic display of autumn and winter colour.



▲ Here the flowering aloe-aloe varieties are seen on a sign welcoming visitors to **Roma Street Parklands** in Brisbane where over the recent three years they have drawn many visitors to the parklands.

HORTICULTURAL AWARD

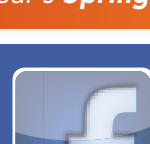
Bush Baby Yellow™ has proved to be a real favourite with landscapers due to its small size, clumping nature and its long and early flower season. It was awarded a silver medal by the horticultural industry at this year's **Spring Green Expo**.



REVAMPED WEBSITE

www.aloe-aloe.com.au

To make it easier to source these aloes, the aloe-aloe website now has separate pages to assist home gardeners and commercial operations.



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CONTACT US

For more information on the Aloe-Aloe collection please visit www.aloe-aloe.com.au or email us at info@aloe-aloe.com.au should you have any questions.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to other gardeners you feel may be interested in learning of these plants. They are able to have their email addresses added to the subscription list by clicking **here** or on our website at www.aloe-aloe.com.au/news.html

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