

# NEWSLETTER #3 APRIL 2011



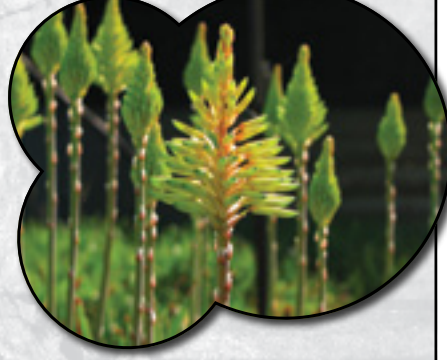
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## THE TOUGH LILIES

What is it that agapanthus, amaryllis, red-hot poker, society garlic and clivia have in common with aloes? Well it is not only that they are all plants introduced to Australia over the last 200 years from southern Africa but also the fact that they were all once classified under the Liliaceae or lily family. This family resemblance can be seen in the tubular flowers borne on spikes. Another common feature is the swollen food/water storage organ bulb normally below the ground, however with aloes it is thought that over time they have adapted to climate change so that this fleshy bulb has been moved above ground in order to survive. This 'bulb like' feature can be seen in the rosette shape of aloes, particularly those with close clusters like Aloe 'Gemini'. Aloes are sometimes referred to as 'lilies of the desert' which is, to some degree, misleading as only few aloes come from the



desert. In fact many are tropical plants coming from areas of high annual rainfall, but because they have adapted they are able to cope with long and extended periods of drought. The aloe-aloe hybrids are all bred to cope with the range of environmental conditions we experience. This puts them in the highly sought after **'super plant'** category as they are able to cope with most of the extremes that mother nature throws at them - heat, cold, rain and drought.

## NEW RELEASES IN 2011

Four special new varieties will be able to be enjoyed by gardeners across the country.

### Winter Bells™

Dainty plant with narrow dark green leaves with a reddish spiny edge and bearing masses pendulous ivory coloured bell-shaped flowers.

### Eager Beaver™

This is a large, early and strong flowering aloe which will eventually grow a stout stem or trunk capable of supporting the massive orange coloured flowers in autumn and winter. Birds love these flowers.

### Bush Baby Yellow™

Striking green small aloe with well structured multiple rosettes capable of beautiful yellow flowers for 6 months without a break in flower production. A true 'super hybrid'.

### Super Red™

The flower performance of Super Red is truly spectacular as its flower season (masses of red flowers) lasts from late summer to winter and despite being a large aloe it can produce its first flower at a very young age.



## PROMOTION AT GARDEN SHOWS

The aloe-aloe collection is available at garden centres, nurseries, chain stores and hardware warehouses around the country but are being promoted over the weekend of 16 and 17 April, and limited numbers will be available for purchase (including the 4 new releases) at 2 locations in New South Wales and Queensland:

**COLLECTORS' PLANT FAIR**  
16 & 17 April 2011

40 Nurseries  
Inspiring  
Speakers

25 Powells Road  
BILPIN NSW  
02 4567 2026  
www.collectorsplantfair.com  
for information and entry cost



Bright Ideas  
for your Garden

April 15 - 17, 2011

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, South Bank

[www.abcgardeningexpo.com.au](http://www.abcgardeningexpo.com.au)



## NEW BOOKS

With increasing acceptance by the gardening, landscape and horticultural communities

these new aloes are receiving regular media attention. In addition to the coverage in consumer magazines, radio and TV,

they are being referenced in mainstream gardening publications including the following recently published books:

Readers Digest have just published 'Waterwise Gardening for Australia' where in authors Catherine Stuart and Sophie Thompson suggest the use of aloes to create a beautiful garden and state that "several new cultivars including 'Aries', 'Big Red', 'Fairy Pink', 'Gemini', and 'Southern Cross' are showing greatly improved flowering and growth habits".



Trevor Nottle is an internationally recognised author. In his latest book released this month 'Plants for a Changing Climate' he reflects on emerging ideas as a response to climate change and surveys new plants introduced to Australia. Trevor discusses the introduction aloe hybrids in Australia and states that "many of the hybrids have been purposefully bred to create repeat flowering plants and some that are more or less continuously in bloom". In his own garden he states that he has "gained enjoyment this year from varieties such as 'Topaz', Copper Shower', and 'Southern Cross'."



OUTBACK ORANGE PROUDLY SHOWING OFF ITS WINTER COLOUR AT A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND.



THE LONG FLOWERING 'ALWAYS RED' BRIGHTENS UP THE ENTRANCE TO THIS HOME FOR MUCH OF THE YEAR.



THE POPULAR WHITE FLOWERING 'FAIRY PINK' ON DISPLAY AGAIN AT THE 2011 MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW.

**The power of the flower** will be increasingly be enjoyed over the coming autumn and winter months and will brighten up many gardens and patios where there is little else in flower.

Happy gardening!



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## CONTACT US

For more information on the Aloe-Aloe collection please visit [www.aloe-aloe.com.au](http://www.aloe-aloe.com.au) or email us at [info@aloe-aloe.com.au](mailto:info@aloe-aloe.com.au) should you have any questions.

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