

GARDENING

STILL CREEK LANDCARE PLANTING NATIVE PLANTS IN AUTUMN

By Jutta Hamilton

Planting native plants on your property is rewarding and can be a lot of fun, particularly when done with friends or family.

In this area, autumn is generally the best time, as it gives the plant time to establish itself before the next summer. As we had recent rains, now is a great time to get started!

For great success and good environmental outcomes, choose locally native plants grown from local seed. These plants are best adapted to your soils, climate and aspect and much appreciated by the local wildlife.

Choose plants for your soil type, rather than import soils to suit the chosen plants and keep in mind, that plants needing full sun, rarely survive in shade.

Prepare your planting site by removing weeds. The use of mulches and groundcovers will help to reduce weeds in future and will keep the soil moist, cool and friable.

Most native plants will grow well without extra fertilisers, and high phosphate fertilisers or fresh manures can be harmful to them.

A well prepared planting hole with rim of soil to collect water when hand watering, will make follow up watering easier and more successful.

Surrounding the newly planted tree or shrub with a frost bag, can protect the young plants from frost, dry hot winds, rabbits, unintended

wiper sniper, mower, and herbicide damage. In areas with wallabies, Kangaroos or deer, more substantial fencing is usually required.

As a tip, a light pruning of shrubs and groundcovers promotes compact growth and more flowers.

Still Creek Landcare has been running a free native plants programme for landowners who have cleared weeds, or want to plant a wildlife corridor, or join up bits of separated bush or simply add more habitat.

If you want to do something similar and live in Hornsby Council or near Old Northern Rd, contact Nick on 9653 2056. For more information about Landcare, find us at <http://www.stillcreeklandcare.com.au> and on Facebook.

LOCAL AND INTERSTATE GROWERS AT BROMELIAD AUTUMN SHOW

If you're looking for that special plant, why not check out the exquisite and rare bromeliads available from local and interstate growers on sale during the Bromeliad Society of Australia's Autumn Show at the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground on Saturday, 11 May between 9-4pm and Sunday, 12 May between 10-3pm.

Check out some of the participating growers:-

Victoria

Chris Larsen - Tillandsia specialist

Central Coast

Gary and Angela Flemming
- Spectacular tropical looking

Vrieseas John Townsend - larger varieties of the new hybrid Vrieseas
Doug Binns - Terrestrials

Sydney

Allan Beard, David Scott, Elizabeth Mudriczki and Shirley and John Hepenstall - just to name a few excellent growers selling a variety of bromeliads to suit all tastes. There will also be lots of Alcantares for sale.

"Bromeliads make wonderful gifts for Mother's Day and this is an opportunity to buy direct from some of the best growers at exceptionally good prices.

This show is not to be missed

if you're a bromeliad enthusiast or looking for plants that are colourful, drought tolerant and very low maintenance, not to mention their wonderful flower spikes," said Ian Hook, President, BSA.

There will be a huge bromeliad display, over 20 plant sale tables that are continually restocked, competitions, books, pots, information and free advice available by experienced growers.

There is plenty of parking on site and admission is free to the show. For further information call Ian Hook on mobile 0408 202 269



email: ianhook1@bigpond.com or check out the website <http://www.bromeliad.org.au>



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