

Bambino Bluey



here. Take advantage of its weeping habit and place 'Plum Gorgeous' in Asian style gardens; or use its year-round structural and colour to advantage in entertainment areas. You could also try informal low hedging, growing up to 1m tall x 2m wide. *Loropetalum* will be available from August.

Go to www.pga.com.au for more info on 'Plum Gorgeous'.

ALOE HYBRIDS

For striking colour and edgy style these South African bred hybrid flowering aloes are worth considering. Architectural plants with strong foliage lines and showy flower spikes, they are superior to seed grown aloes, tolerating wet and dry as well as hot and cold conditions - although they are only moderately frost tolerant. Consider them for mass planting in tough landscaping conditions, as a garden feature plant or as a striking pot subject. Here are four examples of Aloe Hybrids:

- Eager Beaver™ is a large, early and strong flowering aloe which will eventually grow a stout stem or trunk (140cm x 90cm) that supports massive orange flowers in autumn and winter. Birds love these flowers
- Super Red™ is a grey-green plant that grows a stem (140cm x 90cm) from an early age and bears spectacular red flowers from late summer

- Winter Bells™ is a daintier, clumping plant (20cm x 20cm) with narrow dark green leaves with a reddish spiny edge. It bears pendulous ivory bell-shaped flowers on a tall inflorescence for many months in autumn and winter. Best grown as a pot specimen, it is also suitable for mass plantings
- Bush Baby Yellow™ is a striking green aloe with multiple rosettes (30cm x 30cm) that can produce yellow flowers for six months without a break

Go to www.aloe-aloe.com.au for more info on Aloe Hybrids.

CANNA SHOW OFFS™

The vibrant foliage and blousy flowers of some cannas make them the Priscillas of the garden. While the Show Offs still have enough of the drama queen in them for high impact, their clean lines blend well into modern plantings. Cannas are often sourced from specialist growers and mail-order nurseries, but these are more widely available. In addition they have been virus indexed to ensure they are free of the viruses and diseases that have affected cannas in the past.

Canna 'Emerald Sunset', the latest in the series, is now available in greater numbers making them suited for mass planting. The dark emerald green leaves have red margins and the flowers are orange, large and ruffled. Of the others in the series Canna 'Intrigue' is the one grown largely for its distinctive, narrow-pointed, purple foliage. For drama try Canna 'Australia' with deep burgundy-black foliage that has a satin-like sheen and gets topped with flamboyant, bright red flowers.



Aloe Eager Beaver

Go to www.aussiewinners.com.au for more info on Canna Show Offs.

BAMBINO BOUGAINVILLEA 'JEZEBEL' & "BLUEY"

Australian bred Bambino Bougs® have revolutionised the use of bougainvilleas in the garden, landscape, commercial planting and overseas. There are now 24 in the Bambino range. All of them are heat and dry tolerant once established and will put on a colourful floral show several times a year. Although they can be trimmed to shape, this isn't necessary to maintain flowering. 'Bluey' and 'Jezebel' are the newest Bambinos in the family.

'Bluey' has shiny foliage and iridescent lavender tinged bracts borne above the foliage for most of the year. The plant withstands windy situations well. It grows to around 1m in the garden and with careful tip pruning it can be planted to spill over walls or banks. 'Bluey' makes an ideal plant for large containers.

'Jezebel' has distinctive variegated foliage and brilliant scarlet blooms borne in free flowering terminal bracts above the foliage for most of the year. The foliage and bloom contrast makes 'Jezebel' a striking subject for large containers where, with a little training, it will spill over making a showy plant for all seasons. Jezebel will grow to 1m high in the garden.



Aloe Super Red