

NEWSLETTER #1 MAY 2010

ALOE-ALOE UPDATE

The commercial availability of flowering aloes on the Australian market is a relatively new development and to many of our gardeners aloes are still little known and less understood. They are now increasingly being used more widely as perennials in our gardens, mixed with agapanthus, camellias, cordylines, kangaroo paws, grevillea and many other plants we have used in the past. Over the last two years the team at Aloe-Aloe Horticulture has responded to many questions from users and

following significant pressure from gardeners across the nation, in future we will be issuing a periodic newsletter covering a range of topics associated with the growing of aloes, gardening with aloes, new releases, hybridisation developments and other topics associated with these great new plants now available in all states and territories of Australia.

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FUTURE RELEASES ERIK THE RED

In June 2010 **Aloe-Aloe Horticulture** is proud to release an amazing new 'small tree like' hybrid aloe on the market. In fact Australian gardeners will be the first gardeners in the world to see and grow this beautiful plant.

Aloe 'Erik the Red' has been bred in South Africa by aloe breeder Leo Thamm for its spectacular flowering qualities. It is a low maintenance statuesque aloe suitable for Australian gardeners as a feature plant in a pot or in the ground. It forms a single tall stem from an early age, grows to 2m x 0.5m at maturity and has one or more terminal rosettes of long sword shaped green leaves with very large decorative but surprisingly soft and safe spines. In winter long blood red

'torch like' flowers 'glow' above the strong architectural form. **Erik the Red** has an ability to cope with most Australian climatic conditions heat, cold, dry and wet but prefers full sunlight and free draining rich organic soil.



2010 GARDENING AUSTRALIA EXHIBITION

In April, **Aloe-Aloe Horticulture** promoted the aloe-aloe collection of premium hybrid aloes at the **2010 Gardening Australia Expo** held in Brisbane. The background to their display garden was that Australia and Africa share a similar climate of harsh extremes. Significant amounts of rain with flooding on the one hand followed by prolonged periods of drought on the other. However over millennia the animal and plant life of these vast continents, once joined together, has evolved very differently.

As gardeners, beyond our own native flora, we Australians have historically looked to the lands of our European ancestors for our plant choices where the plants grow in vastly different climatic conditions. As a result many plants used in our gardens in the past (including Australian natives from wrong climatic zones) have struggled to survive the climatic extremes in the long term. Australian gardeners are now increasingly looking to other similar climatic regions around the world for their plant palate with Africa providing many suitable plants which have adapted to survive the harsh extremes of nature.

Aloes from Africa are one such group of plants that has adapted, so that like a camel, they are able to store significant quantities of



THE ALOE-ALOE STAND AT THE 2010 EXPO

water in their leaves. With selective breeding a new generation of improved aloe varieties is now available which provides us with spectacular flowering of a magnitude not previously seen. These plants have been bred for garden conditions so that they are able to cope with our high levels of rainfall but also survive extended periods of no rain. Under both of these extremes, they still deliver gardeners amazing flowers throughout the year, year after year.

This African plant palate was seen at the **2010 Gardening**

Australia Expo in Brisbane where the smaller summer flowering Aloe 'Fairy Pink', Aloe 'Topaz' and Aloe 'Copper Shower', together with larger statuesque aloes and companion plantings of similarly adapted African plants such as agapanthus, strelitzia and cycads, complimented a magnificent display of wild and exotic animals from Africa.

SOURCING THE ALOES

We are the marketers of these plants across Australia and do not operate a retail nursery. We are frequently asked by prospective customers where they are able to source these cultivars. Although they are now available in all states and territories across Australia they are sold to nurseries by many

different wholesalers, it is difficult to keep up to date with which retail nurseries, garden centres or chain stores have stock of the 16 cultivars now on the market. We would be happy for you to mail us at info@aloe-aloe.com.au and if you provide your postcode, we will do our best to direct you to

your closest retailer even if we have to phone around to get this information. However we first suggest that you consult your local nursery or garden centre who we will then direct to appropriate wholesale distributors in their area so that they can stock the collection.

You should also be aware of our licensed mail order distributors.

1. Certain varieties are available in smaller sizes by mail order from Garden Express at;

WEB: www.gardenexpress.com.au/whats-new/, PHONE: 1300 606 242 or EMAIL: info@gardenexpress.com.au.

2. All varieties are available in all sizes from Meridian Nursery at;

PHONE: (07) 5543 6124 or EMAIL: meridianaloes@gmail.com

ALOE IN AWARD WINNING GARDEN AT 2010 MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

The aloe-aloe cultivars were featured at the 2010 Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show. The display garden by Tree & Shrub Growers Victoria contained the summer flowering cultivars 'Fairy Pink', 'Topaz' and 'Copper Shower' as well as many larger statuesque aloes not yet in flower but included the soon to be released tree aloe 'Erik the Red'. Visitors to the show were amazed as were the judges who awarded the 'Best in Show award of Excellence' from the City of Melbourne, the 'Best use of plant life' award from the Horticultural Media Association and the Gold outdoor exhibit award.



FAIRY PINK ON DISPLAY IN MELBOURNE

ARCHITECTS AND LANDSCAPERS

Architects and landscapers across the country are increasingly using these new aloe cultivars but one of the first to recognise their uniqueness and beauty was James Turner of d.i.g. in Fortitude Valley in Queensland. The summer flowering cultivar 'Fairy Pink' can be seen in a garden created by James.



ALOE FAIRY PINK IN GARDEN BY D.I.G.

With winter approaching many of the winter flowering varieties are starting to stick the tips of their flowers out from between the leaves of the plant. Have a close look for what looks like a 'tree frog' or 'little hand'. Until next time, happy gardening from the team at aloe-aloe.

CONTACT US

For more information on the aloe-aloe collection please visit www.aloe-aloe.com.au or email 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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