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ROMA STREET PARKLANDS

With the extensive rain received in Queensland this year, flowering of the aloes has been better than ever. One spot where the public flocked in order to see mass flowering displays was at *Roma Street Parklands in Brisbane* where curator Bob Dobbs and his team have created a magnificent garden of the aloe-aloe cultivars.



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW FOOTAGE OF THIS GARDEN](#)

NEW On The Plant Palette



ANDREA'S ORANGE

In June, gardeners in Western Australia were the first to see *Andrea's Orange*, the latest aloe-aloe release which was first made available through the wholesale group *Benara Nurseries*. *Andrea's Orange* is a special shiny orange long flowering aloe that, at a young age throws up spears of tubular flowers from early to mid winter and is a tough flowering perennial for harsh landscaping conditions (30cm x 30cm). *Andrea's Orange* is now more widely available across the country and is now also being grown and distributed on a wholesale basis by *Humphris Nursery* in Victoria.

ALOE-ALOE CLEANS UP AWARDS

The *Spring Green Expo* at the Gold Coast in July is one of the major industry events on the calendar in Australia and *Aloe-Aloe Horticulture* was privileged to receive a gold award this year for the *New Tree Aloe, Erik the Red*.

In fact, *Erik* has been exciting gardeners everywhere so much so that *Australian House and Garden Magazine* named it as one of the top 10 new releases in 2010. Look out for *Erik* on TV on 15 October when he will be featured on the Channel 7, *Better Homes and Gardens* program.

In addition to the award for *Erik the Red*, the latest release *Aloe Andrea's Orange* was awarded a silver medal at the 2010 expo (see story above).



ERIK THE RED TOOK GOLD

ALOES AND WATER

A question we are often asked is on water requirements for the *Aloe-Aloe* hybrids. Whilst they are all drought tolerant, they are garden plants which means that they are capable of dealing with much more water than some of the pure species of aloe. In fact they need regular watering for a good flowering performance. Pure aloe species often skip a flowering

season if there has not been sufficient rain for good growth. As a general rule of thumb, the smaller the hybrid, the more often it needs watering, or conversely, the sooner it will die if it does not get water. The small aloes from arid regions (like *Aloe humilis*) often transfer some measure of drought resistance to the hybrid, while grass aloes (like *Aloe inyangensis*)

that need copious amounts of rain in summer, is likely to do the opposite. In turn its hybrids (like *Aloe Topaz*) can be planted under regular irrigation which most other aloes hate. This characteristic comes at a price because *Topaz* does not like it too dry or too hot, particularly when the plant is still establishing itself (one full season of growth in open soil).

GREEN ROOF AND WALLS

The *Aloe-Aloe* cultivars are increasingly being used in green roof and green wall applications. In formal testing for research purposes undertaken by the *University of Melbourne* they were found to be 'too drought hardy for research purposes' as they remained alive after 3 months in a test environment with no water being received during that 3 month research period.

One landscaper who has received widespread acclaim for his work is *David Michell of Tropical Plantscapes of Noosa* who has used the striking *Aloe Big Red* high up on a building at a new resort in Caloundra.

In the City of Melbourne's 'Growing Up Green Roof', *Aloe Gemini* and *Aloe Always Red* are seen flowering in the harsh conditions 10 floors above street level.



BIG RED ON A RESORT BUILDING IN CALOUNDRA



GEMINI 10 STORIES UP IN MELBOURNE



ALWAYS RED CONTRASTING WITH TALL BUILDINGS

FLOWERING IN 2011

The spring flowering cultivars *Sirius* and *Saturn* are doing their thing at the moment and there will be a break in flowering for the real hot months until we start seeing buds appearing on *Aloe Fairy Pink* in February and March 2011. Now is a good time to get those aloes in the ground so that they are healthy and well established for next years flowering. In the meantime happy gardening from all of us at *Aloe-Aloe*.



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facebook

In addition to these newsletters we have now set up a page on facebook where fans and folk with an interest in aloes are able to be updated more regularly on events and developments.

Type 'Aloe Aloe' in the 'Pages' search field on facebook and sign up to us by clicking 'Like'.



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.

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