

World of new releases

THE flow from the watering can trails to a trickle as he is distracted from the thirsty seedlings.

His head turns to the front gate. A delivery truck has arrived. Putting the watering can down and wiping his hands on his already dirty jeans, his step quickens slightly as he

thinks about what could be in that truck.

Could it be this delivery? He greets the driver and makes slight small talk about the vehicle's mileage, but secretly he itches to open the rear doors of the truck.

They make their way back there and the driver begins to undo a series of locks and

fasteners that seems to take forever.

Eventually the doors swing open and it greets him as the first thing he sees. There it is – more picturesque than the online photos, more petite than he'd dared hoped for.

It had been worth the wait.

THE scene above may have happened at your nursery. Perhaps you'd been waiting for that long-ordered special plant or product, and you could hardly contain the excitement of when it actually arrived.

It is the joy of getting your hands on a 'new release'. Generally, it is a feeling that garden

centre workers or owners will experience before the public, who can have their very own experience when it comes to the purchase.

Now is the time to begin the research into exactly what new species, varieties and breeds will be on the market for the coming year.

As the breeding companies put their best on display, it is an ideal time to make the most of

the availability of information and really delve into the possibilities of what that new flower, or ground cover, or climber, or rose, or shrub, or hedge, or foliage, could do in the right settings.

In the following pages, *Australian Horticulture* proudly presents its new releases feature – a look at the latest plants on the market and those that are still on the way.

Aloe-Aloe Horticulture

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Aloe hybrid — four cultivars: Bush Baby Yellow™, Winter Bells™, Super Red™ Eager Beaver™

PBR status: Pending.

Origin/breeder: Selective breeding program in South Africa.

Potentially invasive: No.

Ornamental features: Architectural plants with strong foliage lines and spectacular showy flowering. Bush Baby Yellow™ is capable of

beautiful yellow flowers for six months without a break; Winter Bells™ bears masses of pendulous ivory-coloured flowers for many months in autumn and winter; Super Red™ is a true super hybrid with spectacular red flowers from late summer to winter; and Eager Beaver™ bears masses of orange flowers in autumn and winter.

Habit and growth rate: These cultivars flower young in pots but require sun and free-draining soil. Bush Baby Yellow™ is a striking green aloe with well-structured multiple rosettes (30cm x 30cm); Winter Bells™ is a dainty clumping plant with narrow dark-green leaves with a reddish edge (20cm x 20cm); Super

Red™ is a grey-green plant which grows a stem from an early age (140cm x 90cm); and Eager Beaver™ is a large aloe which will grow a stout stem (140cm x 90cm).

Preferred aspect and soil: Can tolerate extremes and can handle stress – heat, cold, humidity, high rainfall and drought.

Frost tolerance: Moderate.

Landscape uses: Versatile plants to be used as accent plants, planted in containers, and planted 'en-mass' as bedding plants in gardens and commercial landscaping applications.

Maintenance: Very low maintenance. Water sparingly in winter. Flowering best with some summer water and fertiliser.

