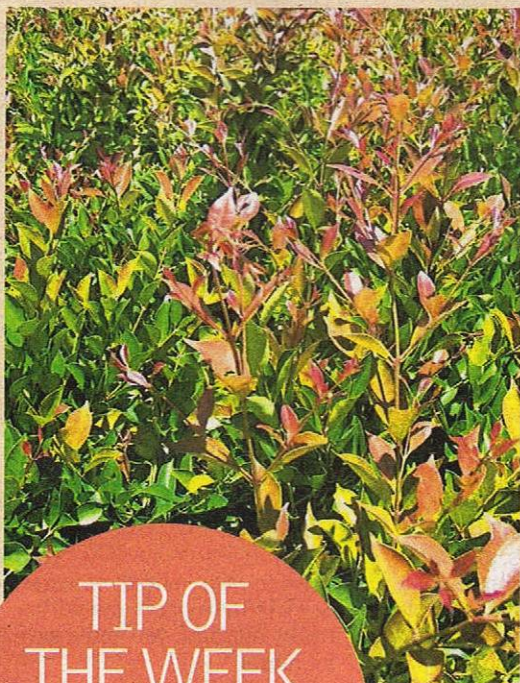


Acmena Firescreen is a lilly pilli which makes a fast-growing hedge that is resistant to lilly pilli psyllids. The plant is a fire-retardant native with dense, glossy green foliage and coppery red new growth.

It will grow to 3m high and 1.5m wide but can be clipped to keep it to 1.5m or less.

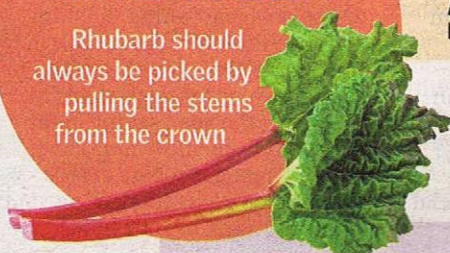
Plant in well-drained soil in a sunny to part-shade position.



Acmena Firescreen

TIP OF THE WEEK

Rhubarb should always be picked by pulling the stems from the crown



JOBS TO DO NOW



Fertilise: Use a liquid on vegetables weekly, following application rates.
Plant: Winter/spring annuals like pansies, viola, petunia, sweet pea, lobelia and marigold in the sun and cineraria, begonia and impatiens in the shade.

Mulch: Apply 7.5-10cm thick. Coarse, free draining mulch is best.

Vegetables: Plant seeds direct into garden: globe artichoke, broccoli, brussels sprout, broad beans, broccoli, carrot, cauliflower, coriander, Asian greens, kale, leek, lettuce, parsnip, pea, potato, radish, silverbeet, spinach, rocket, onion

Transplant seedlings into garden: beetroot, lettuce, onion and spring onion, broccoli, brussels sprouts, silverbeet, celery, cabbage, Chinese greens, kale, leek, peas.

Prune: Plant deciduous fruit trees (keep them well watered)



Magnificent: The Aloe Copper Shower is medium size.

PLANT OF THE WEEK ALOES

While most succulent plants are grown for their attractive foliage, aloes are grown for both their spectacular flowers and architectural form.

An increasing range of new ornamental flowering hybrid aloes, are now available at nurseries, most of them bred by the aptly named company Aloe Aloe.

Many varieties have spectacular tubular flowers in shades of greenish yellow through to orange and red, which are borne over a long flowering on a densely clustered, simple or branched leafless stem. Many varieties bloom in winter but by planting different forms you can get flowers for up to 10 months of the year from February to November.

There are more than 400 species from sub-Saharan Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and Madagascar in grassland and semi-desert areas.

Most of the aloes grown in WA in the past have been wild species but recently hybridists have released aloes with superior flowers and forms suited to a wider range of climates, including tropical areas.

Plants usually have leaves arranged in a spiral formation and most varieties have teeth along the edges. The teeth will scratch but are not really sharp which means that they are much less aggressive than they look.

Last year five new hybrid varieties were released into the WA market and there are now three more.

Aloe Capricorn is a big feature plant to 150cm tall and 120cm wide with spectacular red flowers that open to white to provide a bicolor floral display in early winter.

Similar in size is Aloe Saturn which has red flowers changing to yellow as they open to create a bicolor combination in late winter.

Aloe Copper Shower is medium sized with bronzy orange flowers from early winter. It is a shrub about 90cm tall and 50cm wide and prefers a full sun position.



DRY WITH A TWIST
Award-winning, local garden designers Haughty Culture showing how to create water use gardens at the series of talks on May 29.

Lorna Barnett and Catherine Haughty are presenting 'Dry with a Twist', an inspiring series of talks showing smart new ways to make water gardens using the least amount of water.

"We believe that the best way of creating fantastic water gardens is brilliant design. It's about showing how to put together an inviting and stylish garden that doesn't waste valuable water resources," Mrs Barnett says.

"This is the first of our garden design talks. It will give you loads of inspiration for producing waterwise gardens with style," she said.

The designers have brought together hundreds of photos of gardens from Australia and around the world to show what can be achieved.

"We want to show people they can dramatically reduce their water usage and still have a showpiece garden that complements their house and lifestyle," Mrs Cocks says.



Dry with a Twist will be held on May 29 at 2.30pm at the Library Theatre in Frankston Northbridge. Tickets are \$10 and they are available from Haughty Culture garden. Phone: 9380 6300 or email info@haughtyculture.com

THE GROVE'S WATERWISE COMMUNITY PLANTING

In partnership with the City of Frankston Corporation and Josh Byrnes, Haughty Culture presenter with Gardening Australia, the day will show how to create waterwise gardens. The Grove's environment and water conservation project. It will feature hands-on planting of Australian plants with Josh Byrnes and Premier Colin Barnett. Site tours, entertainment stalls and activities by Mums and Kids and Slow Food Perth.

The event is on tomorrow, May 29, 9am-4pm at The Grove, 10 Leake Street, Peppermint Grove.