

WELCOME

FROM
Tim
Langdon
Manager

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to everyone!
Water remains a critical issue with water restrictions now enforced in many parts of Australia. We are all suffering as a result but the rains will come – hopefully this autumn. In the meantime, Native Growth Holdings continues to promote water saving products such as the Water Tube & Tree Well and we are proud to introduce a new product from the Middle East – Oscope – a system especially developed to irrigate trees by delivering water and soluble fertilizers directly to the roots of the trees without water touching the surface of the ground. The benefits are numerous. Native Growth Holdings is the exclusive Australian distributor for Oscope. Since our last newsletter Native Growth Holdings has been advertising on regional television and the recognition of our service offering is being enjoyed by many more people. Native Growth Holdings is pleased to announce that the Australian Book Group has signed up as our Australian & NZ distributor of The Australian Native Plant Guide. The book is now available at many leading bookstores. It is full of brilliant images and is very informative. This guide takes the guesswork out of tree planting. As usual we highlight our extensive collection of seed packs and we have some very interesting articles from our regular contributors. If you would like to contribute to the seasonal Native News please email your contribution to tim@nativenursery.com.au and we will assess its suitability. Don't forget to download your free copy of our plant species list, booklist and check out the other special offers – there are some goodies for everyone. We don't just sell plants, we want to help you with all of your tree growing needs. We welcome any feedback and any ideas to improve our service.*

Native Growth Holdings.....delivering the environment to you.

Seed Packs

STURT DESERT PEA

INSTRUCTIONS - One of the most attractive of Australia's native plants. Masses of deep scarlet flowers with black or maroon centre boss. Flowers in three months from seed. Vine-style creeper or ground cover.

WHEN TO SOW - In warm areas sow late winter to mid summer. In frost prone areas sow when danger of frost is over.

WHERE TO GROW - Full sun. Garden, rockery, pots or hanging baskets. Any soil type.

SOWING - Soak seeds in a cup of hot water with Wildflower Seed Starter liquid or granules added. Leave overnight then drain and sow swollen seeds. Leave unswollen seeds until they swell or lightly nick them with a sharp knife on the side opposite the eye, then soak until swollen. Swollen seed should germinate in about 10 days. Using small pots or peat pots, sow 2 or 3 seeds 6mm deep in each pot, keep moist. Place in warm, shady position to germinate.

CULTIVATION - When a seedling appears or a tap root appears at the base of a pot, set out in sunny garden position. Water in well, then regularly until established and once a week in dry weather for quick flowering.

Use light applications of low-phosphate natural or slow release fertiliser. Protect from snails and slugs..... Contents - Approx. 45 - 50 seeds



Sturt Desert Pea

Ted's Tips

Anigozanthos

Anigozanthos – Kangaroo Paws, One of the most striking of our native plants.

They grow best in light soils in full sun. If you have heavy soil a raised bed is ideal as good drainage is a must. Kangaroo Paws like that little extra moisture and respond to a little feeding with fertiliser, particularly liquid fertilisers. They should not be watered from above as this can cause fungal problems. Snails can be a problem as well as aphids.

Some species grow to large clumps, which can be divided by carefully cutting the rhizome with a sharp knife or spade. This should be done in autumn. They can be grown from seed. If you have a collection in the garden and gather seed from them sometimes hybrids can occur. This is done by honeyeaters or you by brushing fresh blooms together and touching one stigma with another.

There are many beautiful natural species available, also many hybrids which have



Anigozanthos flavidis 'green'



Anigozanthos 'Bush Ranger'

had the disease known as ink spot bred out of them.

Anigozanthos manglesii - WA State floral emblem since 1960 is one natural species worth growing. It has spectacular displays of red and green heads (Paws).

Anigozanthos flavidis (Evergreen Kangaroo Paw) – colours from yellow to brownish red, the largest of this group can grow 2-3m.

Anigozanthos pulcherrimus – striking yellow flowers, very vigorous plant grows 50-100cm tall.

Anigozanthos rufus – one of the striking reds and is used as a cut flower.

Anigozanthos viridis – has eye-catching green paws and grows about 75cm.

The most unusual is *Macropodia fuliginosa* (Black Kangaroo Paw) it grows naturally in heath and mallee areas near "Muecha north to Walkaway WA", mostly occurring as single plants. It has stems about 1m tall with black and green flowers. This unusual colour combination in our native only occurs in *Kennedia nigricans* and some *Grevilleas*.

Kangaroo Paws are much sought after by birds and insects, also in the wild by some of our marsupials.

They make excellent pot plants - again they need supplement feeding. They are great to add throughout the garden, incorporate them where extra moisture can be given. Scoria mulch helps these plants.

Wimmera
Native
NURSERY

Ted's 10 Tips for Summer have a save water theme

1. Protect your garden from drought by being water smart.
2. Mulch, mulch, mulch.
3. Use pea straw, scorias and gravels.
4. Ensure that the ground is damp before you apply mulch.
5. Place newspaper, cardboard and old under-felt on the ground to control weeds.
6. Apply water slowly to plants.
7. When using grey water keep moving to different spots in the garden.
8. Add small amounts of liquid fertilizer when bucketing water.
9. Add water crystals to any new plantings.
10. Save water from baths & showers and place saucers under pot plants.



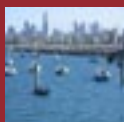
Anigozanthos flavidis 'yellow'

Summer Special Offers

Offer 1

Need a Holiday!

Buy 10 Water Tubes online and receive **10% off** at Langdons of St Kilda when you next stay.



Offer 2

Buy any 16 plant pack online and receive **The Australian Native Plant Guide for only \$20.00.** - offer limited to one guide per customer and expires at the end of summer 2007 so be quick!

Offer 3

Buy **The Australian Native Plant Guide** and receive a **free seed pack.**

Offer 4

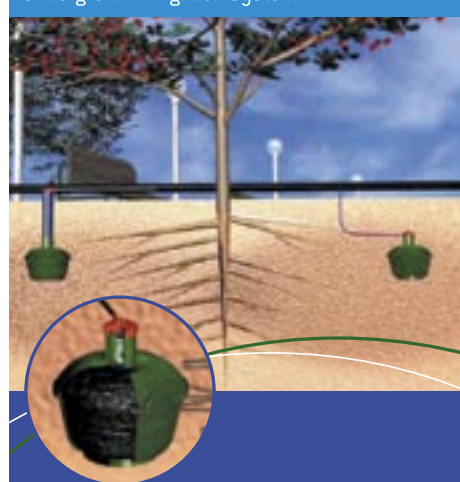
Buy the Oscop underground watering system online and receive **The Australian Native Plant Guide for only \$20.00.** - offer limited to one guide per customer and expires at the end of summer 2007 so be quick!

What is OSCOP?

OSCOP™ is a new system especially developed to irrigate trees by delivering water and the soluble fertilizers directly to the roots of the trees without watering the surface of the ground. This system is skillfully designed in order to be easily installed and operated and offers various advantages and benefits. It is composed of several perforated jars (number of which depends on the area to be irrigated) buried under ground and connected with a net of pipes. Each jar has a very accurate flow regulator equipped with a transparent cover fitted at the top of the jar to allow growers and householders to monitor the movement and flow of water during irrigation.

Jars, buried in close proximity to the root zone, are filled with a blend of volcanic granules to prevent roots from entering through the perforations. This technique allows jars to live long underground and keep the earth surface dry and bright with no weed or evaporation.

Underground Irrigation System



Save up to 50% of water usage
Automated irrigation direct to root system
Safe & efficient fertiliser delivery
Improved soil aeration



INTRODUCING

oscop
Underground Irrigation

Advantages of the system

The OSCOP™ invention won the golden award of the Geneva International Exhibition for Inventions 2006.

- The system saves large amounts of the water needed to irrigate trees because there is no evaporation.
- The system prevents the growth of weeds.
- The system saves the labour needed to irrigate and to remove weeds.
- The system keeps earth surface dry and bright permanently.
- Trees make use of every drop of fertilizers and other solvents because the soil maintains them for a long time ready to be consumed when needed.
- The system supplies each tree with the correct amount of water needed because the flow regulator can be calibrated for each tree independently.
- The system stops the irrigation process when needed.
- The system protects trees from fungal diseases and pests due to the permanent brightness of the soil.
- The system enables adding Iron ores inside the jars without digging the ground.
- As there is no humidity and weeds, the earth surface is always loose. It doesn't need to be ploughed more than once a year. Usually pests can't grow in loose earth.
- Crops grow well and acquire sweetness and colour.
- The system helps planting rough terrain, mountain slopes and tilted grounds without any operations of reform, as water reaches roots of the trees directly without running on the surface.

Insights From Dr. Peter Yau Chartered Biologist

In this issue, I allow my thinking to drift and ramble on, and share with you my personal thoughts.

So we are told that this is the worst drought not in a century but in a thousand years! Wow! Sensational stuff! I wonder whether there are any records kept over the past thousand years in this continent or indeed in the past 60,000 years to support this statement.

Driving along the highways, I see many trees wilted, withered and dead. Soon under tighter water restrictions, we may not be allowed to water our trees anymore. In my opinion, however, trees like any other living thing are subjected to the Darwinian law of natural selection – only the fittest will survive this environmental fitness test – the weak are eliminated. At the end of this millennium's worst drought, there will still be many trees that have survived remaining in this continent – and we need not feel sorry for a small portion that can't make it. This is the hard cold fact of life, the law of natural selection: the fittest survive, and the weaklings perish. The superior genes are preserved, and the bad genes are culled. This is the process of evolution, the mechanism of natural genetic improvement.

Our native trees have evolved in the world's driest continent over millions of years – and they must have endured and survived many 'worst' droughts and other natural disasters such as bush fires, pests and disease attacks, in the past. They have developed unique drought tolerance characteristics such as morphological and anatomical modifications as well as physiological adaptations to enable them to survive periodic droughts or regular desert climate. For this simple reason, I am not going to hold a hand-held trigger-hose trying to save any tree in particular. If they survive, good luck to them. If not, too bad!

Next, I want to turn to the issue of using grey water and/or recycled water for tree and crop irrigation in the drought. There are people who are vehemently opposed to the idea because of the "Yuk" factor. What's the big fuss? We are not asking you to drink it. There are numerous scientific research data to show that bio-solids and effluent water can be used safely to irrigate trees, crops, pastures etc with great success. Be prepared psychologically and you will find it is not that bad after all.



Picture of Greenhouse

And if the mention of 'climate change' is not enough to scare the daylight out of you, understand that some say this may only be a sick joke or a cruel hoax by some scientists or politicians, and there really may be no climate change after all because not all scientists are in unanimous agreement over this. In 'The Age' of 28 Nov 06 there is an article "Emission levels shock scientists – Experts say reduction is urgent". The article says that carbon emissions are escaping into the earth's atmosphere at an unprecedented rate, according to research data released by the CSIRO, and scientists warned of the need for global action before future control becomes more difficult. Yet there are others such as the Lavoisier Group dismissing any suggestion of the validity of research supporting the notion of climate change, being sceptical about human-induced global warming. They are more concerned about the economy of Australia relying on the abundance of 'cheap' energy (which is unsustainable in the long run). That economy could be at risk from the imposition of a carbon tax (a tax on burning fossil fuels) which will turn cheap energy into expensive energy, with serious repercussion for the national economy. This is the reason why our PM has repeatedly refused to sign up the Kyoto Protocol unless 'other big players' eg USA, China & India also participate.

I am also unable to sort through the various numbers and statistics quoted by both sides. The "greenhouse effect" proponents publish one set of research data, but the skeptics quote an entirely different set of numbers, or manipulate the statistics to their advantage, bringing mainstream scientists into disrepute. Lies, more lies, and damned statistics. I tend to believe the CSIRO published data because I always hold the CSIRO in my highest esteem. Sponsored research tends to produce results favorable to the sponsor's vested interest.

Then the question: Is global warming and the resultant land devastation due to greenhouse effect? What is a greenhouse after all? A greenhouse is an environment in which CO₂ levels as well as temperature are raised, both stimulating photosynthesis and growth. To the left is a picture of a greenhouse – isn't that pretty? The result of 'greenhouse effect' should be a lush green vegetated environment. But in reality, what we have instead is a drought-stricken dustbowl. Why?



Picture of Drought-stricken dustbowl
- is this greenhouse?

I am convinced that one small step every person can take to make a real difference is to plant more trees. The cumulative effect of many small steps is a big stride forward. Think not ten years ahead. Think beyond the next election. Think about the country and the world that our children and grandchildren will have to live in.

Tony's Tips

Hedging with natives

There has been a resurgence of popularity in hedges in recent times and people are seeking new ideas rather than the traditional plants used in the past.

The native plant range offers numerous attractive varieties, many with bird attracting flowers, variable foliage and tolerance to extreme weather conditions.

When considering plants for a hedge or dense screen you need to assess the maximum height and width required, its main purpose i.e. cover a fence, privacy for a pool or yard area, or reducing noise from a busy roadway. The spacing of plants will depend on the variety, available water and the density required. Remember the closer plants are to each other increases the competition in the root zone for moisture and nutrients. Soil type is an important consideration for many species.

Here are some plants to consider for hedging purposes:

For larger hedges i.e. more than 2 meters Syzygium or Lilly Pilly – there are several types like paniculata and australe which offer lush foliage with the new flush having a red or orange tinge on the green base.

Grevillea - 'Winpara Gem', 'Winpara Gold', olivacea and similar hybrids. These are hardy, quick growing and heavy flowering of red, orange and yellow, the birds love these plants.

Melaleuca nesophila, armillaris, huegelli – quick growing, need to trim often, mauve and white flowers.



Grevillea 'Winpara Gem'

Callistemon citrinus endeavour – 'Kings Park Special', phonecius and others. Strong growers, variable foliage, mainly red flowers.

Adenanthos sericius – Woolly bush with an unusual soft grey foliage reddish new tips and small red flowers, in the right position this is a beauty.

Elaeocarpus reticulatus – Blue-berry Ash, White / Pink flowered, attractive broad-leaf, a very nice plant, periodic trimming to keep dense.

Eucalyptus platypus – this plant has become very popular as a larger hedge / screen, it stays bushy down low, responds well to trimming and is suited to a range of soil types. It has cream flowers but its dense green foliage is its best feature.

Small to medium hedges less than 2 metres.
Eremophila species i.e. maculata various types, divaricata x polyclada, lannii, glabra and others. They flower for long periods with colours including reds, yellow, orange, pink, mauve and birds love them. The Emu bushes are very hardy and don't mind trimming which results in a great small hedge.

Callothamnus quadrifidus 'Dwarf' – known as net bush it has a dense habit not requiring much trimming, red flowers, bird attracting and very hardy.

Callistemon 'Little John' – Greyish green foliage and several flushes of red bottlebrush flowers.

Rhagodia spinescens – grey foliage, a tough, dense saltbush type plant, can be made into a good small hedge.

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Native
NURSERY



Grevillea thelmanniana - various forms have a spreading habit, long flowering, shades of red, bird attracting

Melaleuca – 'Green Globe', incana nana and other small forms make great hedges

Westringia fruticosa and 'Jervis Gem' with white or mauve flowers respectively, these two forms stay compact and respond well to trimming

The species noted are all worth consideration and there are many other native plants that can be hedged. Screening is another matter where combinations of various heights and foliage can be used without the regular trimming required for a hedge as such.

One last tip, begin to tip prune the hedge plants early to encourage multiple branching, rather than letting them get to the height you want then cutting them.

Seek advice from your native nursery to decide what is best for your area.



Callothamnus quadrifidus

The amazing Water Tube

Drought-proof
your garden

**The unique
answer to:**

- Save water
- Save plants
- Save time
- Save costs



WATERTUBE