

Community PlantAid Nursery

This week concentrating on some new arrivals that are currently available at the nursery.

Shelly tells me there are a number of Australian plants that have recently come to the nursery. These are in biodegradable small pots and could either be planted now or potted on to allow them to put on a bit of size for spring planting. Sometimes smaller plants put on a spurt and actually catch up with those planted later from bigger containers.

Included are some species mentioned in previous notes – *Westringia* which can be hedged, *Correa* which are versatile small shrubs, *Callistemon* (Bottlebrushes) which may be used as specimen shrubs or low windbreaks and also some *Grevillea*. The latter three are among the best Australian plants for birds!!!

More detailed information about two of the tubestock that could be considered a bit special:

Dwarf Red-flowered Hairpin Banksia (*Banksia spinulosa* 'Dwarf Red Form') has candle like flowers that have styles coloured in shades of red rather than the familiar yellow/golden orange. Flowers from summer to autumn and grows in full sun. It becomes a bushy shrub that might eventually get to maybe more than a meter but will be slow. Bird attractant. (This species is actually in small plastic tubes)

Prostrate Grevillea (*Grevillea x gaudichaudii*) is a naturally occurring hybrid found in the upper Blue Mountains in NSW. It has dark green leaves (new growth burgundy) and crimson/red toothbrush flowers from spring to summer. Really hugs the ground making it a good choice for slopes and will easily cover easily than 2 meters. This plant doesn't set seeds so there is no risk of it becoming a garden escape.