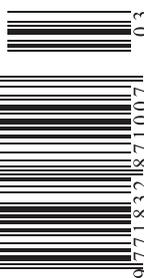


# subTropical Gardening

Capsicum & Cassava  
Heroic Heliconias  
Plants from Cuttings  
Perfect Perennials  
Myrtle Rust

**local advice for  
local gardeners**

ISSN 1832-8717



■ GROWING  
– water plants



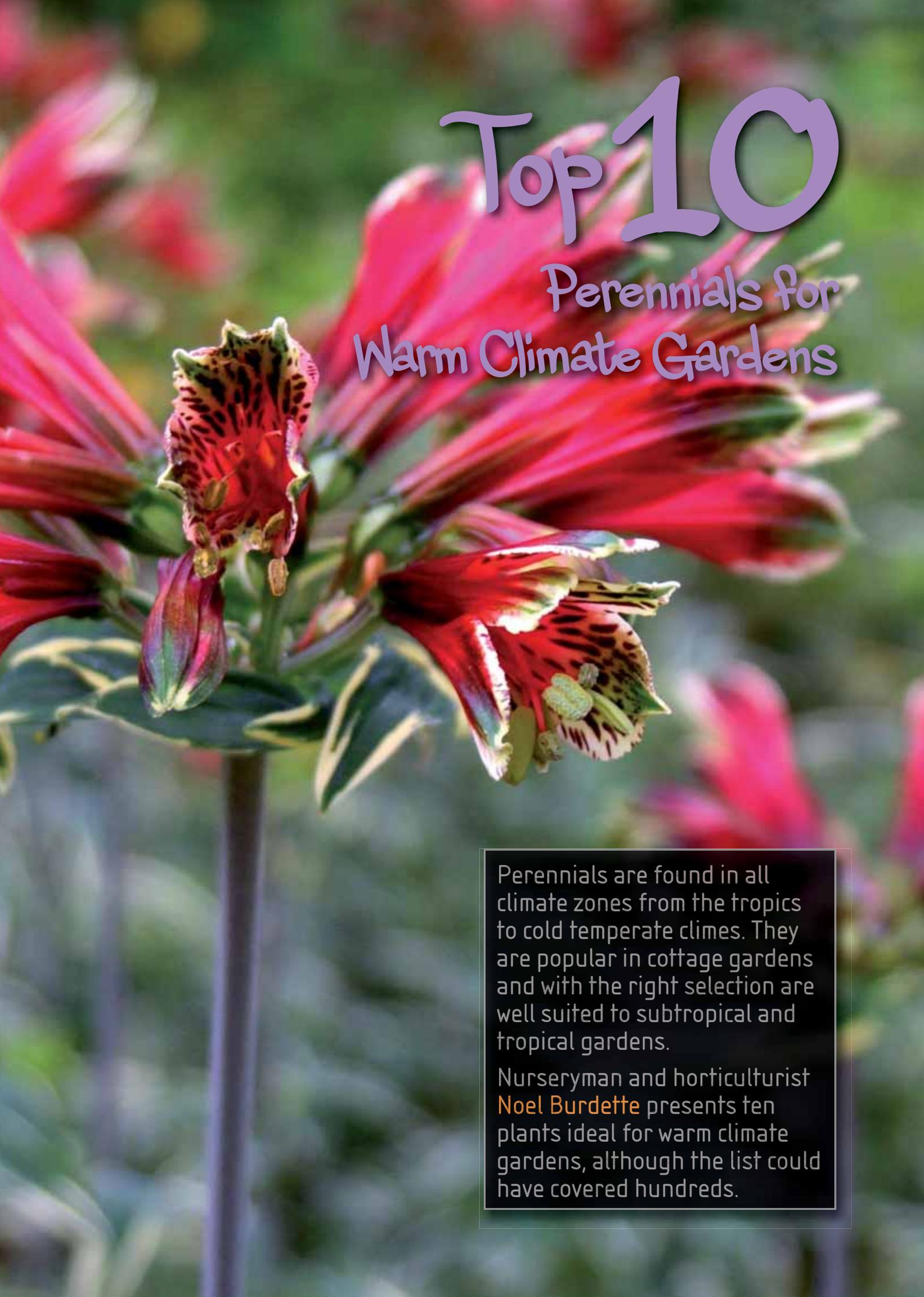
■ CULINARY GARDEN  
– stonefruit + tamarillos



■ ENVIRONMENTAL  
– trees + weeds



■ CALENDAR  
– what to do now



# Top 10

## Perennials for Warm Climate Gardens

Perennials are found in all climate zones from the tropics to cold temperate climes. They are popular in cottage gardens and with the right selection are well suited to subtropical and tropical gardens.

Nurseryman and horticulturist **Noel Burdette** presents ten plants ideal for warm climate gardens, although the list could have covered hundreds.

# 10 FAVOURITES

## Plants grown by cuttings



**Claire Bickle** MAIH  
Horticulturist – Brisbane

*Ipomoea carnea* subsp. *fistulosa* – Pink Morning Glory Tree  
*Plectranthus argentatus* – Silver Plectranthus  
*Plectranthus scutellarioides* – Coleus  
*Pycnostachys urticifolia* – Blue Hedgehog Sage  
*Salvia involucrata* – Rosebud Sage



**Graeme Byrne** MAIH  
Horticulturist – Cairns

*Codiaeum variegatum* – Croton  
*Cordyline fruticosa* cultivars – Cordyline  
*Dracaena goldieana* – Zebra Striped Dragon Tree  
*Hylocereus undatus* – Dragon Fruit  
*Plumeria obtusa* – Evergreen Frangipani



**Ross Gelling**  
Horticulturist – Townsville

*Acalypha wilkesiana* – Fijian Fire Bush  
*Cheilocostus speciosus* – Native Crepe Ginger  
*Dracaena marginata* – Madagascar Dragon Tree  
*Orthosiphon aristatus* – Cat's Whiskers  
*Plumeria rubra* – Frangipani



**Joan Dillon** MAIH  
Horticulturist – Sunshine Coast

*Goodenia ovata* – Hop Goodenia  
*Hibiscus* sp. 'Barambah Creek' – Barambah Creek Hibiscus  
*Lobelia membranacea* – Forest Violet  
*Myoporum acuminatum* – Creeping Boobialla  
*Scaevola aemula* – Fan Flower



**Carol Cameron**  
Horticulturist – Mackay

*Cestrum nocturnum* – Night Scented Cestrum  
*Hibiscus syriacus* – Rose of Sharon  
*Hylocereus* sp. – Lady of the Night  
*Ipomoea batatas* – Sweet Potato  
*Tagetes lucida* – Winter Tarragon

Each issue we ask five qualified horticulturists to list their favourite plant types on a selected theme.

The decision can depend upon many factors such as soil, climate, drought tolerance, aesthetics or just plain personal preference!

# WATER HYACINTH

*Eichhornia crassipes*

Old Weed Category 2

NT Weed Category A/C

NSW Weed Class 2, 3 or 4

WA Weed Status: Prohibited

**FAMILY** Pontederaceae

**ORIGIN** Brazil, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela.

**APPEARANCE** Aquatic plant with plump floatation leaves on the surface of the water and upright blue and yellow toned hyacinth-like flowers.

**WEED HABIT** Prized in ponds last century, this plant is now considered the worlds' worst aquatic weed for warm climates. It grows fast above the surface of the water and has long roots that hang down deep into the water, both of which can clog natural water flow of streams, rivers and lakes.

**IN DEFENCE** Attractive purple-blue flowers. It has also proved valuable around the world as a natural biofiltration plant and is widely used for sewage treatment and bioremediation. It is used by some gardeners as a 'renewable' compost product.

**RECOMMENDATION** Remove this plant from all water ponds and dams. Compost debris and do not re-establish on your property.

subtropicalia  
produce  
bushfood

# NATIVE ASPENS

*Acronychia* sp.



01

By Queensland Bushfood Association  
Images Graeme White

**T**here are a few native fruits that are quite pleasant when picked and eaten straight off the tree. There are many however, with their high acidity and intense flavour that require some preparation and a little imagination before you can enjoy them to their full potential. If you did not know what a lemon was and you bit into one, you would be extremely hesitant to try it a second time. That acidity and strong flavour is exactly what makes the humble lemon so adaptable to a wide variety of culinary applications.

So too with indigenous fruits like the Davidson's Plum and the

Lemon Aspen. Some thought is needed before their unique tastes can be fully appreciated. Like a lot of native bushfoods, the common names are misleading, the Lemon Aspen is not an aspen and the 'lemon' is only one of a number of subtle and complex compounds that together create this unique taste that is difficult to define.

The Lemon Aspen (*Acronychia acidula*) is a relatively fast-growing tree with a dense crown, the large, glossy leaves of which are pleasantly aromatic when crushed. A highly ornamental shade tree, in the garden it would usually attain a height of no more than 10 m. »



02

Family: Rutaceae

*Acronychia* (Ak-ron-i-kee-a) – refers to the claw-like tip of the four petals in the flower.

# SUBTROPICALIA

## COLLECTOR

# CLIMBERS

Botanical  
*Quisqualis falcata* var.  
*mussaendiflora*

Common  
None

Family  
Combretaceae

Synonym  
*Combretum mussaendiflorum*



With its brilliant red bracts, this native of the Congo looks more like the Bangkok Rose (*Mussaenda* cultivar) rather than the Rangoon Creeper (*Combretum indicum* syn. *Quisqualis indica*) which it is more closely related to.

Generally considered as a vigorous shrub, it has a semi-climbing habit and in the wild is capable of reaching great heights with the help of a strong support. However in gardens it is more commonly pruned as a large wiry shrub or trained up a trellis or fence and is seldom seen at more than 2 to 3 m in height.

The large showy red 'petals' are actually bracts, or modified leaves. The true tubular flowers are clustered into tight terminal inflorescences, predominately red, with white inner petals.

The flowers, and coloured bracts, appear throughout summer and into autumn on new growth so pruning is needed once flowering has finished. This will encourage a bushier habit with more side shoots that will produce more flowers in the following season.

Propagation is by layering.

### BEST GROWING CONDITIONS

- humid tropical and subtropical regions
- semi-shade to full sun
- well mulched and organically enriched fertile soils
- keep moist during warm dry periods
- fertilise regularly for best growth.

### LANDSCAPE USE

- Trained as a climber. up a fence and trellises.
- Can be pruned into a shrub-like specimen.