

FRESH! For all tropical, subtropical and warm climate gardens

# STG

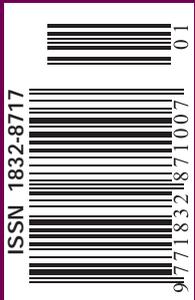
*sub*Tropical  
**Gardening**  
*and landscaping in warm climates*

RRP \$7.95 inc GST

ISSUE 6  
QUARTERLY



**local advice for  
local gardeners**



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– inspiration



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– native & non-native



**PLACES TO VISIT**  
– NZ & Brazil



**SUBTROPICALIA  
COLLECTOR**



**GARDENING ON THE**

**TROPICAL COAST**

# THE BRISBANE LILY



Paul Plant MAIH  
Horticulturist – Ipswich  
text+images

Some 165 years after a certain native bulbous plant was first collected by Allan Cunningham in 1824 and noted as growing in great abundance under the hoop pines along the shores of the Brisbane River, I accidentally came across a curious little daffodil-like flower growing in the bush.

In 1832 the 'Botanic Register' exhibited what must have been the first coloured image of this plant, and dutifully named it *Eurycles cunninghamii*. Shortly afterwards the plant appeared in 'Curtis's Botanical Magazine' in 1835 and was called the BRISBANE LILY.

More recently the plant was renamed as *Proiphys cunninghamii*.

This delightful but regularly overlooked plant is an excellent garden specimen for the tropics, subtropics and warm temperate climates. In cold districts bring potted plants inside the house or glasshouse during winter.

*P. cunninghamii* is most commonly found in South East Queensland and the northern regions of New South Wales.



## Brisbane's Icon

When the Brisbane City Council was formed on 1 October 1925, the red poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) was chosen as the floral emblem, as indicated on Brisbane city's website. Although native to Mexico, the poinsettia was recognised as a feature of the Brisbane landscape, bringing a splash of colour to winter gardens. One wonders why Brisbane did not select a more appropriate emblem that reflects the local flora.



**Hanging basket native** – Conservation through cultivation helps protect native plants. This little gem from the rainforest floor is delightful in shady moist positions. Charming mauve flowers make *Tripladenia cunninghamii* a desirable plant worth growing. Sold as 'Bush Lily' in all good garden centres.

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## New Brazilian Gardens

by Roberto Siva

Brazilian landscape Architect Roberto Burle Marx left a lasting impact in the development of modern landscape design. His impact on the global scene was immense and this larger-than-life man has overshadowed the continued development of landscape design in Brazil.

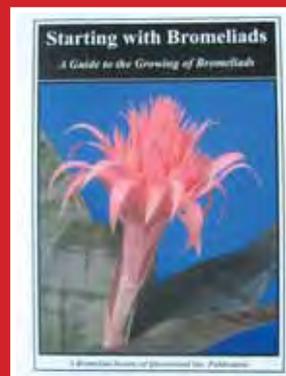
This book features the work of a number of contemporary Brazilian designers and is divided into 4 sections: water, planting, abstraction and sculpture. It illustrates the vitality and continued diversity of work emerging from this country.

The legacy of Brazilian modernism; the bold, sensual approach to design; and the love of nature are clearly portrayed throughout the book. The wonderful images show fresh approaches to landscape design in a tropical climate and are particularly relevant to gardeners and designers based in northern areas of Australia. Be inspired.

[Review by Arno King]

**Publisher: Thames and Hudson, 2006**

**RRP: \$90**



## Starting with Bromeliads: A guide to the growing of Bromeliads

by Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc.

A compact book in an easy-to-read format on how to grow bromeliads in the subtropics and tropics. Stacked full of descriptions and colour plates of various species and cultivars this is an excellent reference and good value for money. Thoroughly goes into the care and propagation of these plants. A book for all Queenslanders.

**Publisher: Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc, 2006**

**To order: \$18 plus \$3 P/H from BSQ  
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# Fruiting Plants

## - for warm climates

Sub-Tropical Fruit Club of  
Queensland [text+images]

### Abiu

#### *Pouteria caimito*

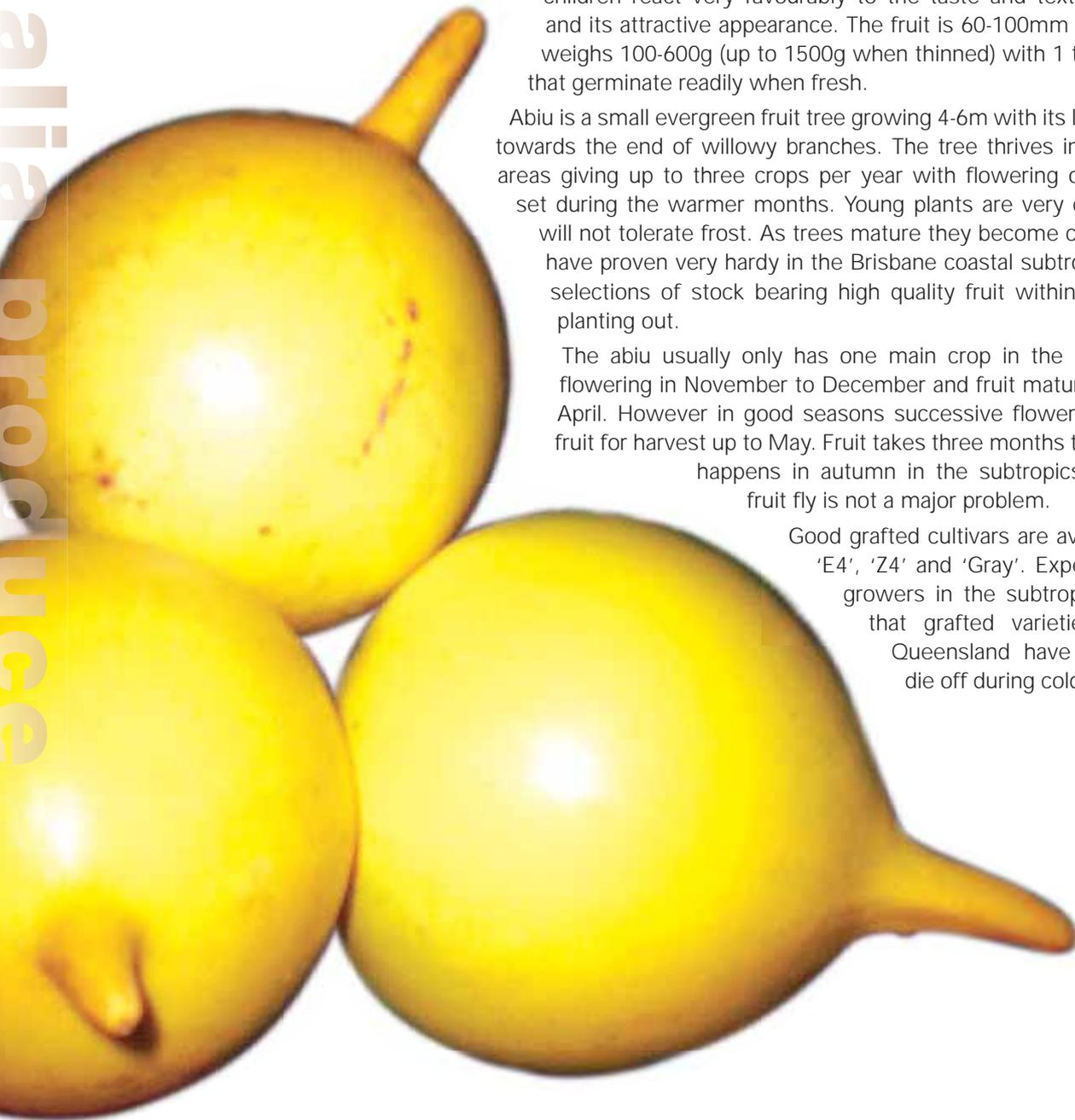
The abiu, a member of the family SAPOTACEAE, is native to the western Amazon basin (tropical Brazil and Peru) in South America. It is superlative exotic fruit with bright yellow skin and a sweet caramel flavoured creamy white pulp.

The scrumptious fruit is a real taste treat. Slightly chill the fruit, slice in half, and spoon out the sweet, succulent, creamy white flesh. Adults and children react very favourably to the taste and texture of the abiu and its attractive appearance. The fruit is 60-100mm in diameter and weighs 100-600g (up to 1500g when thinned) with 1 to 4 large seeds that germinate readily when fresh.

Abiu is a small evergreen fruit tree growing 4-6m with its leaves clustered towards the end of willowy branches. The tree thrives in humid tropical areas giving up to three crops per year with flowering overlapping fruit set during the warmer months. Young plants are very cold tender and will not tolerate frost. As trees mature they become cold tolerant and have proven very hardy in the Brisbane coastal subtropics, with local selections of stock bearing high quality fruit within three years of planting out.

The abiu usually only has one main crop in the subtropics with flowering in November to December and fruit maturing in March to April. However in good seasons successive flowering can provide fruit for harvest up to May. Fruit takes three months to mature which happens in autumn in the subtropics and therefore fruit fly is not a major problem.

Good grafted cultivars are available, such as 'E4', 'Z4' and 'Gray'. Experience by local growers in the subtropics has shown that grafted varieties from North Queensland have had the scion die off during cold dry subtropical



# Multiplying Mandevillas



David and Joanna Roberts

Horticulturists – Cedar Creek

text+images



If you are looking for plants that will flower spectacularly and reliably all year round, you really can't go past the mandevillas. Some are vigorous twining climbers; some are rather more shrubby. But they all produce masses of flowers, which generally range in colour from pure white to deep crimson.

A number of colourful new varieties have become available over the past few years. You may know some of them as 'dipladenias', since this is the name under which many have been sold. They are all worth growing, and all reasonably easy to propagate by cutting, as long as you follow some basic rules.

