

## The White Waratah

The white waratah, extremely rare in nature, has been rescued from the brink of extinction, and is being cultivated and propagated by Proteaflora who will release the plants to the retail market in September this year. There are still a few plants occurring naturally, with their exact locations a closely guarded secret. It is unlikely the plant will survive in nature into the next century.

Legend has it that originally all waratahs were white and that the change to the well known red occurred much later. If so, then the white waratah is a fascinating relic from much earlier times.

The white waratah is a strain of *Telopea speciosissima* and is another selection in Proteaflora's 'Shady Lady' series of waratahs.

Proteaflora made the decision some six years ago to propagate the white form in the hope of commercialising it and, at the same time, saving it from extinction. The plant itself is vigorous, produces a large number of blooms and forms a most attractive shrub for the garden. It also has potential as a cut flower plant but will require more testing on the cut flower market.

While the plant is being released this year, it is still quite rare and numbers will be limited.



*The rare and beautiful white waratah is the latest addition to Proteaflora's 'Shady Lady' series of waratahs.*

Inquiries to Proteaflora Enterprises Tel: (03) 756 7233 Fax: (03) 756 6948

## Two great new plants from WON

The WON group has a couple of magnificent new plants to release this Spring.

*Viburnum 'Emerald Beauty'* with its heavy



*Viburnum 'Emerald Beauty' is an improved selection of V. tinus, having more compact growth and slightly larger and more colorful flower heads.*

flowering in winter and spring will be an asset in any garden or landscape.

It is ideal as a specimen plant in lawns or beds and can also be used as a hedging plant for added garden privacy.

Once established, 'Emerald Beauty' will be trouble-free provided it is planted in a sunny position. It can be pruned severely after flowering if necessary.

'Emerald Beauty' is a superior selection of *Viburnum tinus* bearing deep pink buds which open to white flowers in late winter and spring. It is evergreen and has improved pest and disease resistance.

*Viburnum 'Emerald Beauty'* is an exclusive WON release. In Victoria, it is available from Faceys Nursery, tel: (059) 96 1466.

WON's second major release for Spring 1994 is *Ficus 'Curly Ben'* (PVR Pending 93/031). It is a sport of the popular *Ficus benjamina 'Exotica'* and has tightly curled leaves which creates an unusual specimen plant for the home or garden environment. 'Curly Ben' will tolerate a wide range of soils and growing conditions but will have the tightest curly leaves in a bright light position.

Young plants may be susceptible to attacks by scale insects and mealy bugs, in which case a systemic insecticide should be applied in accordance with the label instructions. However, once established, pests do not appear to be a problem.

For further information on either *Viburnum 'Emerald Beauty'* or *Ficus 'Curly Ben'*, contact the WON office on (07) 823 1881.

## New consumer packs for Roundup

Roundup, the world's most popular and effective weed killer, launched two new, easy-to-use spray packs to consumers in July.

The ready-to-use spray packs (375 ml and 825 ml) contain a new, fast acting formula which is easy to use and guarantees quick results for the home gardener.

The new Roundup formula guarantees to kill weeds fast, with wilting and discoloration of weeds evident much quicker than competitor products.

The new products will be promoted to consumers through a heavy television schedule of advertisements in all major cities during spring.

According to Tim Burrow, business manager of Monsanto Australia, the demand for Roundup is at a record high and the consumer launch of easy-to-use, fast acting Roundup is good news for home gardeners.

"Traditionally, weed killers have been slow acting, often taking ten or more days to show the effects on intrusive plants." Roundup is biodegradable, breaking down into natural products in both soil and water. It will not readily harm humans or wildlife.

Consumers (and nursery operators) wanting answers to a wide range of health and safety issues relating to weeds are invited to call the Roundup Hotline on its toll-free number - 1 800 635 797. This information service also provides the booklet 'Effective Weed Control' and a free copy of Roundup's weed identification chart, showing eighty-four of the most common weeds.

Inquiries about the new Roundup consumer packs to Monsanto Australia Tel: (03) 522 7122 Fax: (03) 510 3853.



*Roundup, now available in a new, more effective formulation, will solve weed problems around the home and nursery.*