



# Bromeliads



- *Did you know that the green leafy part of the top of a pineapple is a "baby" bromeliad.*
- *Bromeliads entered recorded history some 500 years ago when Columbus introduced the pineapple (*Ananas comosus*) to Spain upon return from his second voyage to the New World in 1493. On that voyage he found it being cultivated by the Carib Indians in the West Indies. Within 50 years this tropical fruit was being cultivated in India and other Old World countries.*
- *It wasn't until 1776 that another bromeliad (*Guzmania lingulata*) was brought to Europe.*
- *There are 56 genera or families of bromeliads and over 3,000 varieties.*
- *Pineapple stems contain the enzyme bromelain which is used as a meat tenderizer.*

Bromeliads are a unique and fascinating family of hundreds of exotic plants, which are hardy and easy to grow. They are amazingly adaptable and will tolerate a considerable variety of conditions of light, air and moisture, indoors and outdoors. Their use in landscaping and shopping centres is evidence of this fact.

The plants are native to the Southern States of the USA, Central America and deep into South America. Bromeliads (pronounced brom-eel-ee-ad) grow on the branches of trees (epiphytes), cling to rocks (saxicolous) and grow on the forest or desert floors (terrestrial). Some are only 2.5cm in size, others up to 10.5 meters and all sizes in between. They are found growing in humid sea level jungles, wet cloud level forests on mountains, low coastal slopes and dry deserts. The scales, which cover the leaves on bromeliads, are wonderful moisture absorbing organs which often form attractive bands and patterns.

The edible pineapple (*Ananas comosus*), old man's beard or Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) are well know bromeliads. Queens tears (*Billbergia nutans*), the match stick plant (*Aechmea gamosepala*), the colourful *Billbergia pyramidalis* variety concolor and others holding water in their vase like cups have been growing for many years. However there are many other exciting bromeliads that can be grown by any gardener, even those without "green thumbs".

The more favourable the conditions and the closer these conditions are to the natural habitat the better the results will be.

## Plant Care

Light is a most important factor in growing beautiful bromeliads. The best character and colour is obtained when the plants are exposed to good light for as many hours a day as possible. Some can be grown in sunlight (e.g. *Dyckias*, *Hechtias*, some *Aechmeas*) but most will suffer bleaching and burning of the leaves in direct sunshine. In the garden and home bromeliads will grow happily, in shade houses, in or under trees, on patios or verandahs, near windows, glass doors or other well-lit or well-ventilated locations.

Two or three or more waterings per week in the warm to hot months is recommended. Water less in the cooler weather, once a week or less. In hot, dry conditions daily watering would be desirable. Maintain a reasonable level of humidity. As a general rule (there are exceptions) bromeliads will tolerate temperature from 38 to 10°C. Some need to be protected where frosts are

experienced (e.g. *Cryptanthus* and some green leafed *Tillansias*).

It is most important to use a potting medium which is porous and slightly acid, able to hold moisture without becoming soggy. Combinations of materials such as fine pine bark, peat moss, peanut shells, rice hulls, charcoal, plastic foam granules, coarse sand and perlite provide these requirements. Be sure to choose a pot to suit the size of the plant. Do not overpot.

There are many epiphytic species (air plants) which thrive when mounted on cork, branches or roots of dead trees, or in the forks or branches of growing trees (eg *Neoregelia compacta*, *Aechmea nudicaulis*, *Aechmea orlandiana* etc and of course most of the *Tillisansias*). A great variety of *Tillisansias* are available and grow into fascinating specimens after being mounted by glueing or tying with strips of stocking material.

# THIS WEEK'S PRICES

NAME	STEMS PER BUNCH	PRICE RANGE
AGERATUM	10	\$4.00 TO \$5.00
ALLIUM - GIANT	PER STEM	\$4.00
ALSTROEMERIA	SML - 7, LGE - 10	\$3.50 TO \$6.00
AMARANTHUS	10	\$6.00 TO \$8.50
ANEMONE		\$4.50
ANTHURIUM	PER STEM	\$1.50 TO \$3.50
ARABS EYES	5	\$3.50 TO \$4.50
ARUM LILIES	5	\$5.00 TO \$6.50
ASTERS		\$2.00 TO \$2.50
BANKSIA - BAXTERI	PER STEM	\$1.20 TO \$2.50
BANKSIA - COCCINEA	5	\$5.00
BANKSIA - HOOKERIANA	PER STEM	\$1.60
BANKSIA - MENZIESII	PER STEM	\$1.40 TO \$1.80
BANKSIA - SPECIOSA	PER STEM	\$1.20 TO \$2.00
BLUSHING BRIDE	5	\$3.00 TO \$6.00
CALENDULA	10	\$2.00
CALLA LILY	5	\$7.50 TO \$15.00
CALLISTEMON (BOTTLEBRUSH)	PER STEM	0.50
CAMPANULA (CANTERBURY BELLS)		\$7.00
CARNATION HEADS	BOX	\$10.00 TO \$15.00
CARNATION - MICRO	10	\$2.00 TO \$3.50
CARNATION - FIELD		\$1.50 TO \$3.00
CARNATION - SPRAY		\$3.50 TO \$4.00
CARNATION - CHINESINI	10-15	\$2.50 TO \$3.50
CARNATION - FIELD		\$1.50 TO \$2.50
CARNATION - SIM		\$3.00 TO \$4.00
CELOSIA - COCKSCOMB	5	\$4.00 TO \$7.00
CELOSIA - PLUME	5	\$5.00
CHRYSANTHEMUM - DISBUD	5	\$6.50 TO \$8.50
CHRYSANTHEMUM - FIELD		\$2.50 TO \$4.50
CHRYSANTHEMUM - GLASSHOUSE	5-7	\$4.00 TO \$5.00
COSMOS		\$2.00
DAFFODILS	10	\$2.50 TO \$3.00
DAISY - SHASTA		\$2.00 TO \$3.00
DAPHNE	5	\$4.00 TO \$5.00
DELPHINIUM - GIANT	5	\$4.00 TO \$6.00
DELPHINIUM - BUTTERFLY	5	\$4.00 TO \$5.50
EASTER DAISY		\$2.50 TO \$3.50
ERICA	10	\$6.00
ERLICHEER		\$2.50 TO \$3.00
ERYNGIUM (SEA HOLLY)		\$7.50
FLANNEL FLOWER	5	\$5.00 TO \$7.00
FREESIA	10	\$5.00 TO \$6.00
GERBERA	10	\$7.00 TO \$10.00
GERBERA - MINI	10	\$3.50 TO \$5.50
GLADIOLI	10	\$8.00 TO \$12.00
GLORIOSA LILY	3	\$5.00 TO \$20.00
GOLDEN ROD (SOLIDAGO)	10	\$2.50 TO \$4.00
GYMEA LILIES	PER STEM	\$5.00 TO \$6.00
GYPSOPHILA - STANDARD		\$3.00 TO \$5.00
GYPSY		\$3.00
HELICONIA	5	\$6.00
HELICONIA CLAW	PER STEM	\$4.00 TO \$7.50
HELICONIA SEXY	PER STEM	\$7.50 TO \$10.00
HYACINTH		\$4.50 TO \$5.50
HYDRANGEA	5	\$4.00 TO \$6.00
IRIS	10	\$4.50 TO \$6.50
IXODIA DAISY	10	\$5.00 TO \$6.00
JONQUILS	10	\$2.50
KALE	PER STEM	\$4.50
KALE	5	\$17.50 TO \$20.00
KANGAROO PAW - BLACK		\$8.00
KANGAROO PAW - STANDARD	10	\$5.50
LAVENDER		\$3.00
LEUCADENDRON	5	\$2.00 TO \$5.00
LEUCADENDRON - DISCOLOUR	5	\$4.00 TO \$5.00
LEUCADENDRON - GALAPINI	5	\$4.50
LEUCADENDRON - SAFARI SUNSET	10	\$4.00 TO \$5.00
LEUCADENDRON - SILVAN RED	5	\$3.00 TO \$5.00
LEUCODENDRON - SILVER TREE		\$3.00
LEUCOSPERMUM - REFLEXUM	5	\$3.00 TO \$5.00
LIATRIS	10	\$3.50 TO \$7.00
LILY - ASIATIC	5	\$4.50 TO \$5.00
LILY - LONGIFLORUM	5	\$5.00 TO \$10.00
LILY - ORIENTAL	5	\$10.00 TO \$13.00
LILY - LA	5	\$4.50 TO \$6.00
LIMONIUM - EMILE	10	\$3.50 TO \$4.50
LIMONIUM - MISTY	10	\$4.00 TO \$5.00
LIMONIUM - STATICE	10	\$2.00 TO \$2.50
LISIANTHUS	7-10	\$3.50 TO \$8.00
LOTUS PODS		\$3.00
NERINES	10	\$3.50
ORCHID - CYMBIDIUM	PER STEM	\$13.00 TO \$17.00
ORCHID - SINGAPORE	5	\$4.00 TO \$8.00

NAME	STEMS PER BUNCH	PRICE RANGE
ORCHID - TIGER	5	\$11.50
ORCHID - TIGER (DANCING LADIES)	10	\$25.00
POKERS	5	\$4.50 TO \$6.00
POPPIES	10	\$3.50
PROTEA - KING	PER STEM	\$1.00 TO \$2.00
PROTEA - PINK ICE		\$2.50 TO \$4.00
QUEEN ANNE'S LACE		\$6.50
RANUNCULUS		\$3.50
ROSE - 30CM	10	\$4.00 TO \$6.00
ROSE - 40CM	10	\$4.00 TO \$9.00
ROSE - 50CM	10	\$5.00 TO \$10.00
ROSE - 60CM	10	\$9.00 TO \$11.00
ROSE - 70CM+	10	\$10.00 TO \$12.00
ROSE - MINI	10	\$4.50 TO \$7.00
SEDUM	10	\$5.00 TO \$6.00
SNAPDRAGON	10	\$2.50 TO \$5.00
SOLIDASTER	10	\$3.00 TO \$3.50
STIRLINGIA (BUD)		\$5.00
STOCK		\$3.50
STRAWBERRY FIELDS		\$2.50 TO \$3.00
STRELITZIA - BIRD OF PARADISE	5	\$6.00 TO \$10.00
SWEET WILLIAM		\$2.00 TO \$2.50
TULIPS	10	\$8.00
TULIPS (PARROT)	10	\$8.00 TO \$9.00
VIOLETS		\$2.50
WATER LILIES	5	\$8.00 TO \$12.00
WAX FLOWER (BUD)		\$3.00 TO \$4.00
<b>FOLIAGE</b>		
ACACIA PODALYRIIFOLIA		\$4.50
ANDROMEDA		\$4.50 TO \$5.00
BANANA LEAF	20	\$20.00
BIXIA		\$6.50
BULLRUSHES	4	\$5.00 TO \$6.00
BUXUS	7	\$3.00 TO \$3.50
CAMELLIA		\$4.50 TO \$5.00
CORDYLINE	10	\$4.50 TO \$5.00
CORK ELM	5	\$6.00 TO \$7.00
CYPRUS	10	\$2.50
DODDA VINE		\$4.50
DOGWOOD		\$4.00 TO \$6.00
EMU BUSH		\$3.00 TO \$5.00
FAN PALM	10	\$5.00
FLAX		\$3.50 TO \$7.50
FLOWERING QUINCE	2-5	\$6.00 TO \$7.50
GARRYA	3	\$4.00 TO \$5.00
GERBERA FOLIAGE		\$3.00
GINGER FOLIAGE		\$5.00
GOLDEN ASH (BUDDING)		\$6.00 TO \$7.00
GREVILLIA (FLOWERING - MOONLIGHT)		\$4.00
GUM		\$2.50
HAPPY PLANT	10	\$6.00
HOSTA LEAVES		\$4.00
HYPERICUM BERRIES	10	\$5.00 TO \$8.00
HYPOCALYMMIA (MYRTLE - GOLDEN VEIL)	30CM (200GM)	\$5.50
IVY		\$3.00 TO \$4.50
JOEY FERN	10	\$4.00 TO \$5.00
KOALA FERN	10	\$4.50
LEATHER FERN		\$4.00 TO \$5.00
LILLY PILLY		\$4.00
LIQUIDAMBER		\$2.50 TO \$6.00
LUCULIA	5-10	\$5.00 TO \$8.00
MAGNOLIA FOLIAGE	5	\$6.00 TO \$12.00
MAPLE		\$5.00
MELALEUCA	10	\$5.00
MING FERN		\$4.50
MOLLUCCA BALM (IRISH BELLS)	5	\$4.50 TO \$5.50
MONSTERIA LEAVES		\$6.50 TO \$9.00
NANDINA		\$3.50
NECTARINE (BUDDING)	5	\$5.00 TO \$30.00
OKRA PODS	5	\$7.50
PAPYRUS	5	\$5.00 TO \$8.00
PAULONIA		\$6.00
PEPPERCORN		\$4.50 TO \$5.50
PHILODENDRON - XANADU	5-6	\$4.00 TO \$6.00
PIMELEA		\$5.50
POLYGALA		\$2.50 TO \$3.00
RED WILLOW	5	\$5.00
SILVER BUSH	5	\$3.00 TO \$5.00
SILVER SUEDE		\$5.00 TO \$6.00
SPEAR GRASS		\$2.00 TO \$3.00
TETRAGONA GUM NUTS	10	\$5.50 TO \$6.50
THRYPTOMENE		\$2.50
UMBRELLA BERRIES (LIPSTICK)	5	\$8.00
WOODY PEAR	PER STEM	\$1.00