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WINTER HOURS from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm
Monday through Friday.
Closed Weekends.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 7 – 9

Desert Green VI
Henderson Convention Center, Henderson, NV
Information:

Registration — contact ML Robinson, 702-257-5529;
Exhibits — contact Helen Stone, 702-454-3057;
Career Day — Don Crawford, 702-436-2062.

December 11

Turfgrass & Landscape Institute
Sequoia Conference Center, Buena Park, CA
Information: contact the Southern California Turfgrass
Council at 800-550-SCTC or email:
expo@turfCouncil.org

January 14 – 17

ProGreen Expo Trade Show & Seminars
Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO
Information: Contact ProGreen Expo, 303-756-8028
or Fax 303-758-5699.

January 30 – 31

Think Trees New Mexico
Crown Plaza Hotel, Albuquerque, NM
Information: contact Bernalillo County Extension
Service, 505-243-1386.

EREMOPHILAS EXPOSED

This handsome group of plants is from the Land Downunder. The genus name Eremophila is derived from the Greek words, eremos, meaning desert or lonely places and phileo, to love. This is in allusion to the native habitat of the species, which is the semi-arid to arid climate in Australia.

The common name “emu bush” reportedly evolved from the belief that the small flightless birds known as emus favored the fleshy fruit. Although sometimes eaten by birds and other animals, this fact appears to be more fiction than fact. While we have a shortage of emus in our country, we seemingly have an endless supply of arid land, making these guys feel right at home.

Emu bushes may be found in a variety of soil types from deep sands to rocky, gravelly loams to clays that are neutral to alkaline pH. Considered very drought tolerant, some species have survived long periods without any rainfall. In fact, most species are not very tolerant of long intervals of wet, overcast weather.

The flower color of this genus varies from white, yellow, violet, purple, pink to red, often having a spotted throat. By the way, the tubular flowers are attractive to hummingbirds and other nectar feeders. Just in case you might have been concerned about the potential

for invasive behavior, these plants are quite difficult to germinate from seed. There is little prospect of finding tiny emu bushes coming up all over the landscape.

We have been observing these plants for over ten years in our own trials and feel that we have some worthy selections for you to include in your landscapes. Lets take a look at a few of the plants we have been evaluating.

Eremophila maculata Valentine™

This is a favorite plant for those seeking an early start to spring. It is an evergreen shrub that begins blooming in January, peaking in color just in time for Valentine’s Day. The lipstick red, tubular flowers have made this an extremely popular plant. We have offered this plant for a number of years now and our customers have been pleased with its modest growth habit to 4 by 5 feet, and hardiness to 15 °F. The leaves are small, rounded and typically green except during winter when the leaves may take on a reddish cast. As with most Eremophilas, it prefers good drainage. This is an excellent plant for streetscapes, golf courses and other commercial properties with open terrain and full sun.

Eremophila x ‘Summer Time Blue’

This particular selection originated from an Australian friend of Mountain States and has been trialed in the nursery for over ten years. A medium sized shrub, it has an interesting spreading growth habit that is somewhat fountain-like. Growing up to six feet tall, be sure to give this fellow ample room to show off. The narrow, linear leaves are light green. ‘Summer Time Blue’ has tubular lilac-blue flowers with a lengthy bloom period, often extending over the entire warm season. This plant is found in heavy soils in its native land, so it is well adapted to the clayey soils of the southwest. Hardy to frost and extended dry periods, this gem will be a great addition to the line-up of emu bushes.

Eremophila laanii ‘Pink Beauty’

This plant is an interesting cultivar that George Hull has been developing for some time now. The pink flowers first appear in April and continue through the warm season. ‘Pink Beauty’ is a medium growing shrub with a stiff upright growth habit. Growing to about 6 feet in height and width it is well adapted to creating a large screen. It responds well to shearing too, just after flowering. It is very tolerant of heavy soil

conditions, drought and frost. Sounds like the perfect plant for southwestern conditions and tolerant of the maintenance crews that tend to closely crop ornamental shrubs.

***Eremophila racemosa*
(*E. racemosa bicolor*)**

Commonly known as the Easter Egg Bush, this jewel of a shrub has a profusion of brightly colored flowers predominately in the spring and continuing through the growing season. The tubular buds start out as yellow, turning orange and as they develop they mature to a pink and lavender purple. Talk about a riot of color! Everyone seems to get excited about

this introduction. With a more erect form than the Valentine Bush, this Eremophila will grow to about 4 to 6 feet tall. It is tolerant of drought conditions and will require good drainage to survive. This emu bush is hardy to about 25°F, becoming more tolerant of frost when established.

***Eremophila maculata aurea* 'Winter Gold'**

This cultivar has light yellow flowers over a long period from late winter through spring, hence the name. This species is one of the most commonly grown due to its reliable nature. It

has a spreading habit much like the Valentine Bush and is easily kept under five feet in height. It is found in heavy clay soils, making it right at home in similar soil types. Unbelievably it is also tolerant of repeated pruning practices, as new blooms occur on new wood. This one may fit right in the landscape that is manicured too frequently.

Well, there you go Mate! Place a few of these lovely plants around the landscape and you are sure to attract attention in the landscape. Imagine the possibilities of color throughout the year with these irresistible emu bushes.

The Warren Jones Scholarship Program helps to ensure that future leaders in the green industry achieve important goals in higher education and encourages careers in the field landscape architecture. As a professional representative in the green industry, you are encouraged to give an individual or corporate contribution to this worthwhile cause. In doing so, you honor a truly great educator and support a student in pursuit of higher education. Please make a donation to the Warren Jones Scholarship Fund. You may use the form below or call the ANA office at: 480-966-1610 to arrange your credit card contribution. Do it today!

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Thanks for helping to make the Arizona Green Industry greener!

~ **WARREN JONES SCHOLARSHIP FUND** ~

In 1998 Warren Jones was honored for his many contributions to the Arizona Green Industry with the creation of a scholarship in his name.

Warren Jones is a well-known Professor Emeritus of Landscape Architecture at the University of Arizona. The author of numerous books on southwestern landscaping, he has educated and mentored two generations of landscape architect students. In recognition of his dedication to research and teaching, he was honored with the University of Arizona Lifetime Award and was elected as Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1982. After more than 20 years at the University of Arizona, Warren Jones continues to promote the introduction of new plants to the industry and consults on arid land topics throughout the world.

The Arizona Nursery Association, Arizona Landscape Contractors Association, and Arizona Society of Landscape Architects joined together to host a reception for Warren Jones in Tucson on May 28, 1998. The Scholarship Program was initiated with a symbolic check for \$5,000 presented to Mr. Jones. The first scholarship award was made available in 1999. Since then, four awards have been distributed.

To be eligible for the award, a recipient must be a resident of the state of Arizona, enrolled in a landscape architecture related curriculum at an institution of higher education, demonstrate above average scholastic achievement, a minimum amount of work experience, and involvement in extra curricular activities related to the green industry. The Arizona Nursery Association administers the scholarship fund annually.