



# TOP TREND SETTERS

Landscape designer Franchesca Watson lets us in on her best plants for 2011



AGAPANTHUS 'BLACK PANTHA'



QUERCUS NIGRA



**AGAPANTHUS 'BLACK PANTHA'** One of the most striking of the new varieties of *Agapanthus*, 'Black Pantha' has extraordinarily dark-blue flowers - the buds are almost black! It is a handsome plant both in shrubberies as an accent and alone in containers. It will give multiple long-lasting flower spikes. As with all *Agapanthus*, it's water demands are low.

**EUPHORBIA 'DIAMOND FROST'** I planted this last year and have been thrilled with it. It's continually in flower, except when I pruned it hard in winter to get the shape back. Full sun or a little shade, it gives a marvellous fluffy texture. I have had success in containers and shrubberies - it grows larger than you think - about 600mm wide and high.

**QUERCUS NIGRA** This tree seems to have all the qualities needed at the moment. Semi-deciduous, it has a neat growth habit and beautiful form. It's quick growing, hardy and reasonably wind resistant. The beautiful leaves turn bronzy in autumn, but seldom drop completely. Equally fabulous for a formal avenue or informal groves.

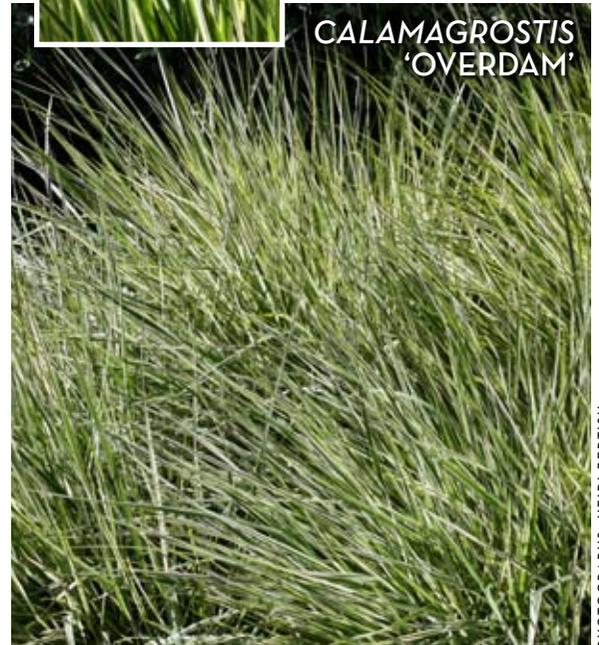
**CALAMAGROSTIS 'OVERDAM'** This is a medium-sized ornamental grass with a slight pale stripe to the narrow leaves. It has a great form - full thick graceful clumps add a touch of texture to the garden. I have planted it successfully in full sun and a little shade. A good clean out in winter is all that's required.



EUPHORBIA 'DIAMOND FROST'



CALAMAGROSTIS 'OVERDAM'



PHOTOGRAPHS: HEIDI BERTISH

*This Nuxia Floribunda is a great little indigenous tree, which grows in a number of regions. It's wonderful in flower, bearing bunches of creamy scented*



**KNOWLTONIA  
VERSICATORIA**



**CHLEOME NIGRA**



**KNOWLTONIA VERSICATORIA**

This is one of my favourite local plants - I use it like I would a hellebore. It has beautiful dark-green leaves and throws up a tall spray of delicate starry flowers. I use it massed as a kind of ground cover or combined with other plants where its strong form is most welcome. Shade or only morning sun is essential, not a lot of water is necessary.

**PARAHEBE CATARRACTAE**

An old favourite, I am charmed by this Australian ground cover every winter when it is in full flower. Handsome foliage and a lovely clumpy form carry it throughout the year until the blue flowers appear. It's easy to combine with many other plants and to grow. It will flower best in sun, but will take a little shade too.

**CHLEOME NIGRA** I love this plant although in my garden I have to replace it every spring - the snails devastate it in winter. It's one of those few plants that flower continually with just the right form and a great colour - bright and clear and not too hot. They need sun and when they are happy will get surprisingly large in a season, up to 750mm high and wide.

**NUXIA FLORIBUNDA**

This is a great little indigenous tree, which grows in a number of regions. It's wonderful in flower, bearing bunches of creamy scented blossoms. It has a lovely form, bendy and ancient looking. I have used it also very successfully for hedging, as it is evergreen and takes to clipping very well, developing a finer texture.

■ Franchesca Watson ☎ 082 808 1287



**PARAHEBE  
CATARRACTAE**



**NUXIA FLORIBUNDA**