

McRAE'S MAIL



OUR NEWS

We would like to welcome to the team Rachel Thomson who will be our new Administration Assistant. Rachel will be working Monday-Friday 8am to 4pm and can help you with all your administration inquiries. She can be contacted on 1300-665-952 or rthomson@mcragesgardens.com.au

FEATURE PLANT

Iceberg Rose



We are often asked what is the 'best rose' or most popular rose, without doubt one of the best sellers of all time has been the white 'Iceberg Rose' bred in Germany in 1958 by Reimer Kordes.

Iceberg roses are almost disease resistant, they are easy to grow. Flowering over a long period and with clusters of lightly scented white flowers it really is a great rose and a tough rose. Grow it as a standard, a tall shrub or even find the climbing form, yes its a beauty,

REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Carbon footprint' is the measure of impact our activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases we produce. The impact is measured in CO₂ (carbon dioxide) units. There are endless, easy ways that you can reduce your carbon emission starting in your garden:

- Simply plant more green-life
- Grow your own produce and herbs, it even tastes better
- Save energy and utilise natural light by taking your book or laptop into the garden
- Think about what you can reuse before you recycle, and recycle more
- Use solar powered pond fountains and garden lights
- Exercise by using hand tools rather than energy consuming petrol/diesel/electric powered garden tools and machines
- Increase the carbon sequestration of your soil by mulching to ensure a healthy, living, organic soil
- Reduce the use of artificial heating and cooling by planting deciduous trees near your house

Facts and figures:

- The average person produces 26 tonnes of CO₂ per year
- A 25 foot tree absorbs the equivalent of 5 room air conditioners running 20 hours per day
- One mature tree intercepts between 54 and 109 kilograms of small particles and gases of air pollution
- One front yard tree intercepts over 3 kilograms of air pollutants
- Each tree planted 'offsets' your environmental impact by 'breathing' in about 730 kg in CO₂ emissions over its lifetime of 100 years. It is estimated that the average person needs to save about 7,000 kg of CO₂ per year. So planting just 10 trees per year is one strategy for achieving this.

THE YARD— MARCH GARDENING

- Vegetables to sow—March is the month for sowing root vegies such as beetroot, carrots, parsnips, radishes and turnips
- Flowers to sow—Pansies and their viola relatives can be sown now. Seedlings can take some time to emerge, so make sure the seeds don't dry out during the germination period
- Prune now—Cut back raspberry canes that have fruited over summer
- Feed now—Young vegies need to make as much growth as possible before the cold weather, so feed at least once a fortnight
- Pest Watch—The cooler, moister conditions of autumn are ideal for snails and slugs. Young seedlings are the most vulnerable. Tasty young lettuce, for example, can be eaten overnight