

(from previous page)

"At the tail end of the project they identified three standout cut flower varieties and three standout landscape varieties."

"The Leptospermum breeding program was started in 1995 and yet nothing had happened at commercialisation level with this amazing gene pool of varieties. So Wafex has come in, bought the flower farm, is getting the Leptospermum breeding blocks up to speed, and we're now starting to look at commercialisation opportunities which will be channelled through Helix.

"In taking on the farm Wafex is a partner with RIRDC and DPI Victoria, while they needed a commercialisation partner and Helix will play that role."

"So, Helix is waxflower and now Leptospermum and there's more than enough – in our current and future waxflower varieties plus all these Leptospermums – to keep us busy for quite a few years."

Some of the companies' new waxflowers include:

- **'Dancing Queen'** (PBR): A unique double waxflower variety featuring an abundance of blooms ranging from soft baby pink through to vibrant candy pink. During winter and spring these stunning blooms dance upon a backdrop of fresh, fine green foliage. A rounded shrub growing to approximately 2m H x 1.5m W.
- **'My Sweet Sixteen'** (PBR): From early spring, masses of pure white flowers open upon a backdrop of fresh, fine green foliage. These blooms mature to a rich red shade displaying an attractive bi-colour appearance of both white and red blooms and everything in between. A rounded shrub growing to approximately 2m H x 1.5m W.
- **'Chantilly Lace'** (PBR): Unique frilly edge white bloom with very attractive lime green centre upon a backdrop of fresh, fine green foliage. Very prolific flowering with masses of blooms forming dense clusters of pure white blooms. A rounded shrub growing to approximately 2m H x 1.5m W.
- **'Sarah's Delight'** (PBR): Vibrant pink wax blooms with a crimson red centre that dance upon a backdrop of fresh, fine green foliage. The blooms will provide a welcome burst of colour into late winter and early spring landscapes. A rounded shrub growing to approximately 2m H x 1.5m W.
- **'Strawberry Surprise'** (PBR): A stunning mid-pink waxflower featuring frilly flower petal formation upon a backdrop of fresh, green, fine foliage. A rounded shrub growing to approximately 2m H x 1.5m W.
- **'Moonlight Delight'** (PBR): Masses of large glossy red buds in mid winter are followed by an abundance of large white flowers with a crimson centre in early spring. The waxy white blooms flower for an extended period complimented by a backdrop of fresh, fine green foliage. A rounded shrub growing to approximately 2m H x 1.5m W.
- **'Raspberry Ripple'** (PBR): Waxflower featuring masses of dark pink crimson blooms on tall thin stems. Typically flowering in early- to mid-spring, this variety provides some welcome height to native garden plantings. A rounded shrub growing to approximately 2m H x 1.5m W.

Variety - the spice of life

By Clive Larkman

Over the past two months I have written about some of the key aspects of chillies. These are a very popular plant in Australian gardens and are starting to get the same sort of following as the humble tomato. Indeed for many people they will be the catalyst to starting a vegetable or herb garden. At Renaissance Herbs we see this exotic plant as a mainstay of the local garden. Some will stay with the non-hot capsicum whilst others will experiment with different heat levels.

Capsicum varieties

The simple capsicum is an under used vegetable in Australian cooking which is surprising due to the number of immigrants from countries where it is so widely used. Like so many vegetables we have come to accept that what we are offered in the supermarket is the best. This is sad as the defining selection criterion for a supermarket vegetable is not its flavour, not its health benefit nor its colour or texture. It is the transportability, storability or stackability of the produce that has the greatest weight when selecting cultivars.

Nurseries have a much wider selection of cultivars as their choices are based on availability and ease of growth. Most good garden centres will offer five or more cultivars to choose from. These will vary in colour, shape, flavour and harvesting. In most cases one is not better than the other, just different. I recommend growing several different ones as variety is the spice of life and food is the reason to live. Again, the offering of chilli in the supermarket is abysmal. I recently surveyed all our local supermarkets - Woolworths, Coles, Aldi and IGA. Some had no

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Chilli Aji Yellow | long yellow | medium heat |
| Chilli Bhut Jolokai | rectangular red | extreme heat |
| Chilli Black Cuban | rounded black | medium heat |
| Chilli Cabai Burong | long red | medium heat |
| Chilli Cayenne Lilac | long purple | mild heat |
| Chilli Czech Black | rectangular black | mild heat |
| Chilli Firecracker | rectangular red | medium heat |
| Chilli Habanero | rectangular red | high heat |
| Chilli Habanero White | rectangular white | high heat |
| Chilli Hungarian Black | long black | mild heat |
| Chilli Hungarian Hot Wax | long white | medium heat |
| Chilli Italian White Wax | rectangular white | medium heat |
| Chilli Jalapeno | long green | mild heat |
| Chilli Long Cayenne | long thin red | mild heat |
| Chilli Manzano Orange | rectangular orange | medium heat |
| Chilli Pequin | small red | high heat |
| Chilli Purple Bird | small purple | high heat |
| Chilli Purple Tiger | long purple | medium heat |
| Chilli Red Scotch Bonnet | small red | high heat |
| Chilli Serrano | long green | high heat |
| Chilli Tabasco | long red | medium heat |
| Chilli Tepin | small red | extreme heat |
| Chilli Thai Mild | rounded red | mild heat |
| Chilli White Fire | rounded white | high heat |
| Chilli Yatsufusa | rounded red | medium heat |
| Chilli Zimbabwe Bird | rounded red | high heat |