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OASIS GARDEN wins Gold Medal at Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show



Oasis Horticulture's award-winning display at the 2011 Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show was a celebration of how colour, as well as light and shade, can influence emotions and create distinct feelings when employed purposefully in the garden design.

Winning a gold medal in the show's Outdoor Display Category for the second consecutive year, the Oasis garden featured a serpentine path flanked with rich, deep, rich colours, ruby reds, regal purples and blues, with a few highlights of some contrasting brights all selected from the Oasis range of seedlings and grown by expert horticulturalists at Oasis Horticulture's Cranbourne nursery.

These rich reds and luscious purple tones were not restricted to the flowers. This year, the vegetables took centre stage right at the front of the exhibit including popular and unusual autumn and winter vegetables and herbs showcased to best effect in the garden design; deep red cabbages and foiled with silvery *Allium* family vegetables as well as the other glaucous *Brassica* clan.

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Show visitors warmed to this achievable and educational display designed by Carolyn and Joby Blackman of Vivid Design with many parents able to introduce their children to how many vegetables appear in their fully grown state on the vine or stem. The garden design also had the benefit of permitting home gardeners to touch, smell and enjoy plants at close quarters.

Special highlights for home gardeners venturing into the show included new red-leaf Mizuna and Mustard Red, which will prove a feast for the eyes as well as the stomach for those who plant them in their own backyards. Other crowd favourites included Brussels Sprouts, Tuscan Kale and large Savoy and Sugar Bowl cabbages glowing with radiant health and goodness.

In the herb garden Silver Posy Thyme, architectural Artichokes and Apple Mint created considerable interest as did the extensive display of Curly Parsley growing in a vertical Mobiwall structure forming a boundary to the garden and an inspiration to small space gardeners.

Most popular of all was the secret 'all white' garden at the centre of the display dazzling with stately snapdragons and delphiniums, and contrasting with soft grey foliaged Cineraria Silver Dust and Cyclamen.

More information about the Oasis Garden is available from www.oasishorticulture.com.au including our image gallery at <http://www.oasishorticulture.com.au/gallery>

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