

# SAVE AND RESTORE

Manager of **New Horizen Nursery**, Gert de Kock, shares with us the message of water management and sustainability. The anthem of our South African dry seasons

**W**ith the beauty of autumn and the promise of life-giving rain on our doorsteps for the winter rainfall areas, timing is perfect to commence a process of rethinking, re-planning, restoring and recreating the landscaped and natural environments around us.

Now is the time to adapt, prepare and implement new practical and relevant fashions, to release oneself from devastation when water restrictions are implemented. There should be no reason to doubt the survival ability of a manmade environment in times of restricted access to an artificial water supply.

A trend is running strongly within the landscaping industry where we save and restore. It is a magnificent experience to be able to participate and to contribute to the rehabilitation of a specific natural environment.

With an indigenous plant palette ranging from aquatic plants to xerophytes (the ultimate in water-wise plants), adapted to our diverse environments, we should be able to restore or re-create a world of serenity through a more natural approach to gardening and landscaping. We should be working with nature and the environment, instead of trying to control it. It is time to look within for inspiration, using our African heritage which is perceived as 'fresh' by the rest of the world.

The influence and fresh outlook of

“ **A TREND IS RUNNING STRONGLY WITHIN THE LANDSCAPING INDUSTRY WHERE WE SAVE AND RESTORE** ”

Horticultural and Landscaping students, will certainly make for exciting times. The challenges they face should be the driving force behind future trends in landscaping and gardening, and should provide an opportunity



Orbea variegata

to leave a legacy that is truly unique within the African landscape.

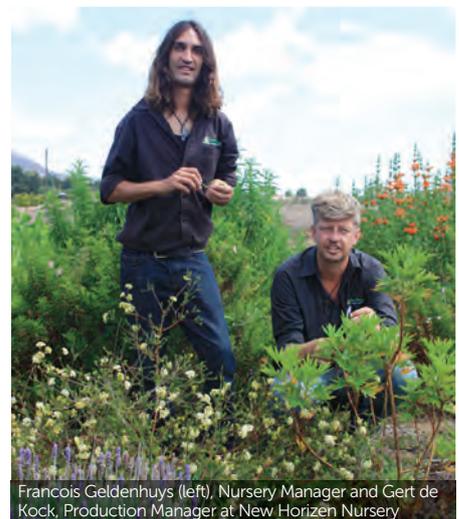
These include:

- 1) Changes in how the new middleclass garden.
- 2) The prevention of economic fluctuations influencing the way we garden, with only trends or the environment playing a role.
- 3) The role of water restrictions.
- 4) Trends in rehabilitation and restoration work.
- 5) The education of the public to use hardy or water wise plants, instead of the short-lived water thirsty exotics.

All of these factors play a role in the gardens of the future.

We can start by observing our surroundings and ecosystems, saving water, researching and choosing our plants more thoughtfully, preparing and taking better care of our life-sustaining soil, planting trees, watching them grow and enjoying every moment of it.

With the beginning of the first buds starting to form on Aloe spp. and Kniphofia spp, these buds are waiting for their chance to rocket into the beautiful winter skies. There is a promise of life and hope for a different spring and summer to follow; seasons with a different anthem.



Francois Geldenhuys (left), Nursery Manager and Gert de Kock, Production Manager at New Horizen Nursery

## ABOUT NEW HORIZEN FARM-NURSERY

New Horizen Farm-Nursery is a well-established wholesale production plant nursery, offering quality plants at competitive prices. It is an eco-friendly and sustainable farm-like haven, where the nursery and the natural landscape work in symbiosis with each other. They specialize in multidisciplinary plant production that includes: trees, shrubs, groundcovers, succulents, ornamentals, climbers, topiaries, water plants and rare and Indigenous plants. They supply the retail and landscaping sectors and undertake contract growing for specific projects.

[www.newhorizennursery.co.za](http://www.newhorizennursery.co.za)

