

PLANT IN FOCUS - May 17

Family: Asteraceae

Tribe: Hellantheae

Genera: *Montanoa*

Sp. *bipinnatifida*

Common names: Mexican Tree Daisy, Tree Chrysanthemum, Anzac flower

Location: 19c garden- corner of 2nd path junction –(along from copper beech)

Distribution: Montanoas are native to the mountains of Mexico and central American countries.

Named after 19 C. Mexican politician and botanist Louis Montana.



Description: There are 41 species with some more closely resembling large shrubs than trees,

Height up to 4.5 metres-width 3-5metres

Montanoa's are very vigorous plants producing hundreds of flowers and seed. (*Montanoa hibiscifolia*) is a declared weed in Hawaii, Uganda and Tanzania and has naturalised in East and Sth Africa and some of the Oceanic Islands.

Shrubs are evergreen and have substantial lanceolate leaves—in some species leaves are up to 18 inches across--and heavily lobed.

Flowers: The usually white daisy flowers, with yellow centres which vary from 1 ½ to 3 inches in diameter, appear in clusters between May and June. Often followed by decorative seed heads made up of chartreuse bracts.?

Conditions: The tree daisies like rich, well-drained and well-watered soil in full sun, preferably sheltered from wind as their bamboo-like stems break easily. Some of them can survive temperatures down to -6 Centigrade, although cold that severe may kill them back to the ground temporarily.

Care: They should be cut back in spring, even to the ground to ensure more flowers the following winter, and prevent them becoming rangy

Propagation: seed and soft and hardwood cuttings. Plant and stand back!

Uses: Because of their vigour tree daisies were once used as annual foliage plants to contribute a tropical look to Victorian landscapes.

Provide a great show in winter and can be cut for flowers. For gardeners Nth Hemisphere, daisies at Christmas time could be a pipe dream come true!

Available -Yamina Rare plants. not yet in Friends Nursery.

Ref: Wikipedia, Top tropicals

May 13 2017