



Must see

Australian Rockery - *Grevillea leucopteris*

October

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN SYDNEY

Now is a great time to visit two of our feature gardens and enjoy some flowering gems along the way. Find out more about our plants by joining a guided walk. Scan the QR code for more information.



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1. *Chionanthus retusus* - Chinese Fringe Tree

Native to Korea, China and Japan this small tree is well known for its mass of snow-white flowers that cover the tree in spring. The flowers have fringe-like petals and a lovely fragrance. The plants are usually either male or female, although some trees have hermaphrodite flowers. Male flowers are slightly showier while pollinated female flowers are followed by olive like fruit that turn dark purple when ripe.

Family: Oleaceae



2. *Erythrina x bidwillii* 'Blakei'

This Erythrina hybrid was bred by William Macarthur at Camden Park in the 1840's. It is a cross between *E. crist-galli*, the Cockspur Coral Tree from South America, and *E. herbacea* or the Coral Bean from south eastern USA and north eastern Mexico. It has the spectacular red flowers typical of coral trees, but it is sterile so does not produce any seeds. The name honours both the former director of this Garden, John Carne Bidwill and Macarthur's convict gardener, Edmund Blake. Family: Fabaceae



3. *Xanthorrhoea* sp. - Gulgadya (Gadigal), Grass Tree

Endemic to all states and territories in Australia, there are 28 species of grass trees. They are generally slow-growing and long-lived. The trunk, or caudex is made from old leaf bases that develop beneath the crown and protect the growing tip from fire. Flowers form on a spear-like spike that can be up to 4 metres long. The individual small white flowers are spirally arranged and rich in nectar, making them popular with birds and insects. In many species flowering is stimulated by fire. Family: Asphodelaceae



4. *Sloanea australis* - Maiden's Blush

This rainforest tree is endemic to the east coast of Australia, from Bateman's Bay (southern NSW) to Cape Tribulation (far north Qld). It is widespread in sheltered creeks and gullies and can grow to 30 metres, with a buttressed and sometimes crooked trunk. The common name refers to the colour of the heartwood, which is pinkish and said to resemble a maiden's blush. Creamy white flowers appear in spring followed by woody fruit that is eaten by rainforest birds.

Family: Elaeocarpaceae



6. The Rose Garden

Roses have a long history as symbols of beauty and love, but also war and politics. Most rose species are native to Asia, with a few from North America, Europe, and northwest Africa. This is the ninth Rose Garden created in the Garden's history and contains a collection of striking modern Roses cultivated with the minimal use of chemicals. Look out for the standard forms of perennial favourite Mr Lincoln. Pictured Rosa 'Fire and Ice'. Family: Rosaceae



7. *Angophora hispida* - Banda (Gadigal), Dwarf Apple

This close relative of the Sydney Red Gum (*Angophora costata*) is a mallee, with multiple, often contorted trunks growing to around 7 metres high. Its native habitat is confined to the Sydney region where it grows on Hawkesbury sandstone. Clusters of red flower buds are now appearing covered in hairs. Unlike species of eucalyptus and corymbia, angophoras do not have a protective lid or operculum on the bud. Family: Myrtaceae



8. The Australian Rockery Garden

This rockery features just some of the over 24,000 known species of Australian native plants, many of which are endemic to Australia. This is a great place to explore the variety and form of Grevilleas and their cultivars, as well as see some unique plants from Western Australia, many of them grafted so that can grow in Sydney's humid and wet conditions. On show at this time of year are Kangaroo Paws, Gymea Lilies, Emu Bush, Rice Flowers and Everlasting Daisies. This garden was created for the Sydney 2000 Olympics. Pictured *Verticordia monadelpha*



5. PLANT OF THE MONTH

Alloxylon flammeum Tree Waratah

This species from the Atherton Tablelands in northern Queensland grows in tropical rainforest, reaching over 30m in height. They are known for their spectacular bright red to orange flowers that resemble the flowers of the floral emblem of New South Wales, the Waratah. The fruit are woody rectangular seeds pods that contain 8 to 10 winged seeds, spread by wind. Family: Proteaceae

