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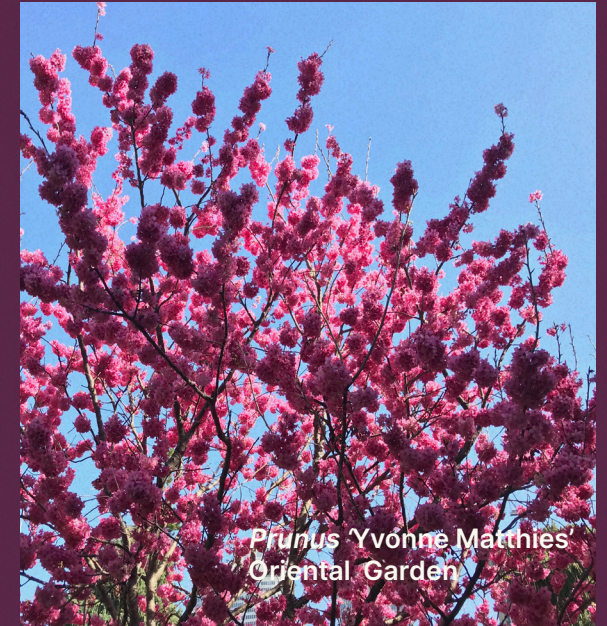
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Must See

July 2024



Prunus Yvonne Matthies
Oriental Garden

Enjoy a warming walk in winter and find treasures in the Middle, Lower and Palace Garden precincts. Find out more about our plants by joining a guided walk. Walks start at the Visitor Centre, daily at 10:30 am and in addition, Tues, Fri and Sunday at 11:30 am.



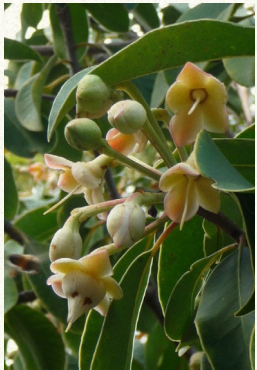
**BOTANIC
GARDENS
OF SYDNEY**

1 *Prunus 'Yvonne Matthies'* - Millennium Cherry



These three small trees are hybrids of the Wild Cherry *Prunus avium* and Taiwanese Cherry *Prunus campanulata*. They were raised by Graeme Richards at the University of Western Sydney, to create a dependable, warm climate, flowering cherry. While they may not flower throughout July, their pink flowers are stunning, attracting pollinators and photographers alike. This hybrid was named for the mother of Judyth McLeod, academic, garden historian and nursery woman. **Family:** Rosaceae

2 *Anneslea fragrans* - Spitting Tree



Why do we call it the Spitting Tree? These elegant flowers have an inbuilt trigger mechanism that spits out a blob of sticky pollen. Young flowers have petals tightly clasped together, in the shape of a Russian Orthodox church spire. Slits in the swollen part of the flower allow fragrance to escape, attracting bees. When a bee disturbs the spire (a protruding style), pollen is fired out, coating the unsuspecting bee, who hopefully visits another flower, so that pollination can take place. **Family:** Pentaphylacaceae

3 *Strobilanthes lanata* - Pewter Plant



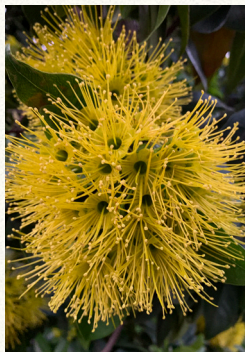
This silvery-leaved shrub from India is admired for its distinctive, felty-textured leaves, covered with white hairs giving them an iridescent sheen. Plants grow to 1.5 metres, forming rounded domes of foliage. Shrubs live for about thirteen years. Remarkably, all plants in an area flower simultaneously over a twelve-to-eighteen-month period, producing masses of seed, before dying. This trait is known as 'mast-seeding'. **Family:** Acanthaceae

5 *Tetradenia riparia* - Misty Plume Bush



Native to Southern and Eastern Africa, Misty Plume Bush is cultivated for its showy winter flowers, coloured white to lilac, borne in spikes at the end of branches. The flower display differs according to whether the plant is male or female. Male flowers create a misty effect, female spikes are more compact. Its former name, *Iboza riparia*, derives from a Zulu word. *Iboza*, describing aromatic and medicinal qualities of the plant's heart-shaped leaves, which have a gingery smell. **Family:** Lamiaceae

6 *Xanthostemon chrysanthus* - Golden Penda



Gorgeous tropical tree, endemic to coastal rainforests of North Queensland, from Townsville to Cape York, often along creek banks, reaching 12 metres in cultivation. Golden Penda displays spectacular golden flowers with prominent 'fluffy' stamens characteristic of the Myrtaceae (Gum Tree) family. Flowers are followed by woody capsules. Golden Penda is one of 48 species in the genus *Xanthostemon*, whose name derives from Greek 'xanthos' and Latin 'stamen', meaning 'yellow thread.' **Family:** Myrtaceae



7 *Themeda triandra* - Kangaroo Grass



In our grass plots in the Palace Garden seed heads (spikelets) of Kangaroo Grass catch the breeze. One of the most widely distributed grasses in Australia, this species also occurs in New Guinea and Africa. Spikelets have large black appendages, called awns that help screw seed into the topsoil and aid germination. Archaeological evidence and journals of early European explorers provide evidence that Aboriginal cultural groups have been harvesting and grinding Kangaroo Grass to make bread for more than 30 000 years. **Family:** Poaceae

8 *Aloidendron barberae* - Tree Aloe



Southern Africa's largest Tree Aloe is often grown for its impressive size (up to 18m) and sculptural drama. It has forked (dichotomous) branching, eventually forming a domed crown supported by short, thick branches bearing rosettes of leaves with toothed margins. The massive trunk widens each year, while the leaves shrink, so leaves of mature trees are half the size of those on young trees. **Family:** Asphodelaceae

4 Plant of the Month *Camellia nitidissima* - Golden Camellia

This luscious yellow Camellia is endemic to Southeast China and Northern Vietnam and is one of about 30 species of yellow Camellias. Originally described in 1949, it was brought into cultivation and made available outside China in the late 1970s. Small, buttery yellow flowers are followed by large, smooth, green fruits resembling small apples. New foliage is pinkish-red. Both leaves and flowers are used in China for tea and traditional medicine. Wild populations are threatened from over-collection and habitat loss. **Family:** Theaceae