



# Must See

August 2024



*Magnolia 'Yellow Lantern'*  
Rathborne Lodge

Although not officially spring, August is a great time to discover flowers in Sydney gardens and bushland. Find out more about our plants by joining a guided walk. Walks start at the Visitor Centre, daily at 10:30 am.



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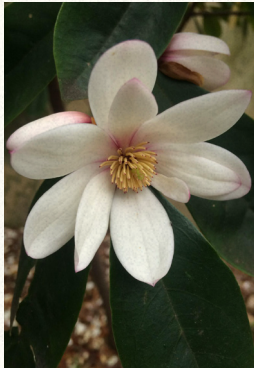
## 2 *Macadamia janseni* - Bulberin Nut



This is one of only four *Macadamia* species in the world - all found on Australia's east coast. This small tree is the rarest of the four and is endangered in the wild. It was first described scientifically in 1992, after being discovered by a group of 'bush botanists,' and is named after one of them, Ray Jansen. There are fewer than 100 trees in the wild, growing in a handful of rainforest populations around Bundaberg, Queensland. Its nuts are bitter and inedible.

**Family:** Proteaceace

## 3 *Magnolia* 'Fairy Blush' - Fairy Magnolia



This delightful evergreen hybrid *Magnolia* has glossy, deep green foliage, and in spring its stems are covered in scented, lilac-pink, cream and white flowers. Grown as a specimen, it reaches 3 metres high by 2 metres. Its bushy habit responds well to pruning, and a prolific floral display in spring is followed by spot flowering all year round, making it an ideal hedging plant. Best in a sheltered position in full sun to part shade, in moist, well drained, humus-rich soil.

**Family:** Magnoliaceae

## 4 *Hippeastrum papilio* - Butterfly Amaryllis



This rare and fascinating bulbous plant is endemic to the remnant rainforests of Brazil's Atlantic Coast, where it was discovered growing on trees as an epiphyte. The species epithet 'papilio' is Latin for butterfly, as its petals are shaped like butterfly wings. This robust bulb is popular in cultivation, bearing large, elegant flowers, whose tepals vary from cream to apple-green, striped with burgundy, amid strap-like leaves. These bulbs adapt well to Sydney's climate and are available at our Growing Friends Nursery. **Family:** Amaryllidaceae

## 5 *Dendrobium teretifolium* - Rat's Tail Orchid



Look up to see a tenacious orchid clinging to its fig tree home. This epiphyte has been growing on this tree for over 30 years, and for most of the year goes unnoticed by visitors. However, in August, our Rat's Tail Orchid becomes the Bridal Veil Orchid, as tiny, fragrant, white and yellow flowers burst from buds, gloriously cloaking the rat-tail-shaped leaves. It occurs naturally in Queensland and NSW, often growing on Swamp Oaks (*Casuarina glauca*) in coastal areas. **Family:** Orchidaceae

## 6 *Darlingia ferruginea* - Rose Silky Oak



This striking member of the Banksia and Macadamia family is endemic to rainforests of the Atherton Tablelands in North Queensland, growing on basalt soils where it sometimes reaches 30 metres in height. The undersurface of its deeply lobed leaves are covered in rusty brown hairs, giving rise to the species name '*ferruginea*', Latin for 'rust-coloured.' Delicate creamy flowers create inflorescences smelling of vanilla and cinnamon, tempting birds and mammals with nectar and pollen. **Family:** Proteaceace

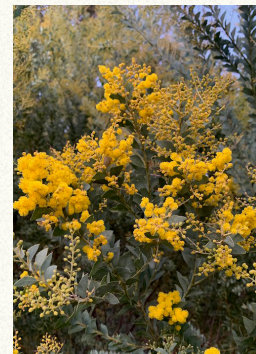


## 7 *Camellia japonica* 'Speciosissima'



This magnificent heritage *Camellia japonica* cultivar was bred in Australia and released in 1862 by Shepherd & Co. Nursery, Surry Hills. The cultivar name alludes to its resemblance to the Waratah, *Telopea speciosissima*, now New South Wales' floral emblem. Outer petals of the carmine flowers surround a central, waratah-like cushion of small, incurving petaloids. The earliest confirmed plantings of *Camellia* in NSW date back to 1823, taking place in this Botanic Garden. **Family:** Theaceae

## 8 *Acacia cultriformis* - Knife-leaf Wattle



A lovely wattle, native to NSW and Queensland, with interesting, silvery-grey triangular phyllodes. Phyllodes are petioles (leaf stalks) which are flattened and function as modified leaves. In spring, racemes of bright golden, globular flower heads occur in axils of the phyllodes, making a cheerful sight. *Acacia* flowers do not produce nectar. However, phyllode glands secrete a nectar or sugary substance that attracts ants, bees, butterflies, and even honeyeaters. **Family:** Fabaceae

## 1 Plant of the Month *Corymbia abergiana* - Range Bloodwood

Buds of this medium-sized tree, from coastal north Queensland burst open in August, attracting European and native bees to fragrant, nectar-rich, creamy-gold flowers. It is one of many 'Gum Tree' species, including examples of three genera, *Eucalyptus*, *Angophora* and *Corymbia*, that thrive in this part of our Garden. Nearby is a venerable Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), looking across the harbour, a remnant of forests that once grew here. **Family:** Myrtaceae