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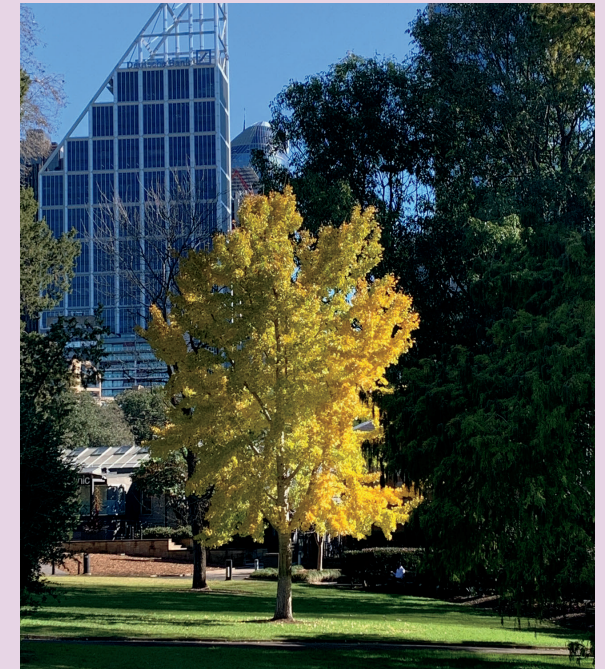


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Must See

July 2025



Ginkgo biloba – Between stops 1 and 2

Beautiful winter blooms and majestic evergreen conifers headline this month's self-guided tour.

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**BOTANIC
GARDENS
OF SYDNEY**

1 Australian-bred Camellias



Camellias were first planted in this Garden in 1823. Over the years our Camellia collection has grown to include significant heritage varieties from Australia. Look for *Camellia* 'Aspasia Macarthur', with large cream flowers striped and blotched with pink. It's perhaps the first Australian-bred Camellia, created at Camden Park circa 1845 by William Macarthur who also bred another 61 Camellia varieties.
Family: Theaceae

2 *Tetradenia riparia* Misty Plume Bush



Clouds of delicate lilac and white blooms cover this shrub in winter. Like other mint family members, it has aromatic foliage. Brush the heart-shaped leaves and enjoy their delicious gingery fragrance. Unlike most Lamiaceae, male and female flowers are borne on separate plants (dioecious). In southern Africa, where it grows naturally along riverbanks and forest margins, the shrub is used widely in traditional medicine. Available from the Growing Friends Plant Sales.
Family: Lamiaceae

3 Aloe species and cultivars Succulent Garden



Native to Africa, Madagascar and the Arabian Peninsula, there are nearly 600 species of Aloes. They typically have rosettes of succulent leaves with teeth along their margins and red or orange tubular flowers, magnets for birds. Succulent leaves allow Aloes to withstand periodic drought. A medicinal use of *Aloe vera* is inscribed on a 2000-year-old Sumerian clay tablet. Pictured *Aloe branddraaiensis*.
Family: Asphodelaceae

5 *Araucaria hunsteinii* Klinki Pine



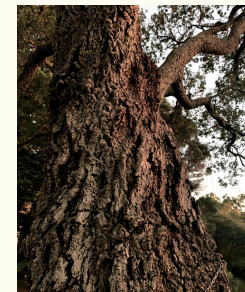
Native to Papua New Guinea's highland rainforests, this species can live 500 years and reach 90m tall, making it one of the tallest tropical trees. Admire its resinous, red bark peeling from the trunk in plate-like curls. Male and female cones are produced on the same tree (monoecious). Large, ovoid, seed-bearing female cones shatter releasing triangular seeds with papery wings that help seeds disperse by wind.
Family: Araucariaceae

6 *Cupressus cashmeriana* Kashmir Cypress



This elegant weeping cypress is a conifer, often planted as a specimen tree to display its graceful form. Ascending branches end in drooping branchlets bearing shawls of bluish foliage in flattened sprays. Globular male and female cones occur on the same tree (monoecious). Native to the mountainous Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh in the East Himalayas. Available from the Growing Friends Plant Sales.
Family: Cupressaceae

7 *Quercus suber* Cork Oak



The thick, knobbly grey bark of the Cork Oak is the primary source of most of the world's cork. Cork is lightweight, flame-resistant and impermeable to gas and liquid. It has been used by humans for over 5000 years. Today, Portugal and Spain produce most of the world's cork. Trees can live for over 200 years and are harvested once every 9 – 12 years after the age of 25. Harvesters must ensure the inner layer of bark is not damaged in the process otherwise the bark will not grow back. **Family: Fagaceae**

8 *Acacia podalyriifolia* Queensland Silver Wattle



Discover a small selection of the more than 1000 species of Australian Wattles. Flowering now is the Queensland Silver Wattle, endemic to southern Queensland and north-east NSW, with silvery-blue phyllodes (flattened leaf stalks or petioles), resembling leaves) and bright yellow flowers. 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



Plant of the Month

4 *Euphorbia leucocephala* Pascuita, Snowflake

This relative of the commonly grown Poinsettia (flowering nearby in the Middle Garden), is from Central America. The flowers are tiny and green but are surrounded by pure white bracts (modified leaves) that give the species one of its common names, Snowflake. Beautiful to behold but beware, like many members of the genus it has irritant sap that can cause blisters, rashes and is poisonous if ingested.
Family: Euphorbiaceae