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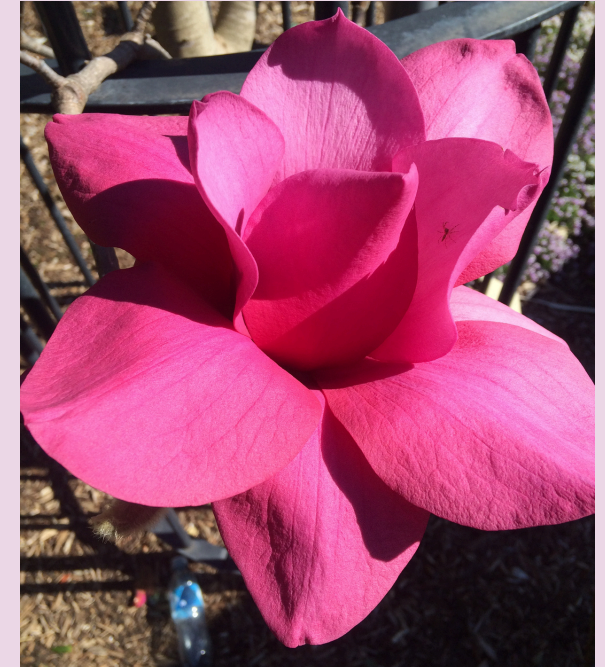
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Must See

August 2025



Magnolia 'Vulcan' - Palace Rose Garden

Magnolias and wattles headline this month's self-guided tour but as the weather warms flowers are to be found around every corner.

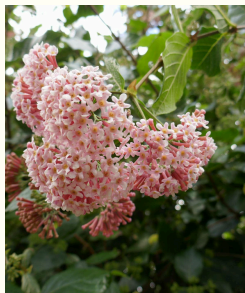
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**BOTANIC
GARDENS
OF SYDNEY**

1 *Rogiera amoena* syn. *Rondeletia amoena*
Yellowthroat Rondeletia



A delightful evergreen shrub, native to southern Mexico and Panama. Nectar-laden, yellow-throated flowers attract bees, birds, butterflies and people with their sweet smell. No wonder the plant inspired a perfume, *Rondeletia*, in the mid-1800s. A garden favourite in the 1960s, this gorgeous shrub thrives in frost-free areas of Sydney and deserves to be planted more often. *Amoena* is Latin for lovely. **Family: Rubiaceae**

2 *Prunus campanulata*
Taiwan Cherry



This graceful deciduous tree, native to South China and Taiwan, is one of the earliest flowering cherry trees. In winter it delights with a profusion of magenta, bell-shaped flowers in pendulous umbels. These nectar-rich flowers attract pollinating birds and insects. Flowers are followed by small red fruit (drupes) also popular with birds. In spring, bright green foliage appears, turning bronze in autumn. **Family: Rosaceae**

3 *Acacia longifolia*
Sydney Golden Wattle



Native to eastern NSW and eastern Victoria this is one of about 1000 species of *Acacia* native to Australia. A bushy shrub that can grow to 8m, it is fast growing with abundant bright yellow flowers in winter and early spring. The small yellow flowers are arranged in cylindrical spikes with numerous stamens giving them a fluffy appearance. The leaves are actually flattened and widened leaf stalks called phyllodes, an adaptation to drier climates. **Family: Fabaceae**

4 *Magnolia Yellow Lantern*



Magnolias belong to an early lineage of flowering plants, appearing in the fossil record during the Cretaceous around 100 million years ago. This was before bees evolved and their fragrant flowers were beetle-pollinated. Today there are over 300 species and many hybrids. Yellow magnolias are rare in the wild, but breeders have produced exquisite hybrids such as Yellow Lantern, a deciduous tree with creamy yellow, tulip-shaped flowers. **Family: Magnoliaceae**

5 *Darlingia ferruginea*
Rose Silky Oak



Meet an eye-catching rainforest tree in the *Banksia* family. Native to North Queensland's Atherton Tablelands, it may reach 30m on fertile basalt soils. The leaf undersurfaces are covered in coppery hairs, hence the species epithet *ferruginea*, meaning rust-coloured. Can you smell the delicate vanilla-cinnamon scent of its flowers, emerging as a group at branch tips? As with many Proteaceae, female flower parts (style and stigma) protrude as pollen presenters. **Family: Proteaceae**



6 *Indigofera australis*
Native Indigo



Native Indigo is found in open woodland communities from NSW to northern Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia. Spires of scented, lilac pea-shaped flowers appear in spring, providing a bounty of pollen and nectar for native butterflies, bees and wasps. As the genus name implies, Native Indigo can be used as a dye. Unlike *Indigofera tinctoria* (True Indigo) from Asia which produces a blue dye, this Indigo's dye is yellow. **Family: Fabaceae**

7 *Coffea arabica*
Coffee



This is one of two coffee species cultivated for our beloved brew. The species is native to Ethiopia but globetrotted, via Yemen, across the seas to Europe, Indonesia, Brazil and in 1788 to Sydney on the First Fleet. Plants bear fragrant flowers followed by fruit containing seeds that are fermented, dried and roasted to create coffee beans. This species is endangered in the wild due to low genetic diversity and climate change. **Family: Rubiaceae**

Plant of the Month

8 *Acacia cultriformis*
Knife-leaf Wattle

It's hard to resist this captivating wattle from NSW and southeast Queensland, with its distinctive triangular, silver knife-like phyllodes. Phyllodes are flattened leaf petioles (stalks) that function as modified leaves. In spring, cheerful golden flower heads occur in axils of the phyllodes. *Acacia* flowers do not produce nectar. However, phyllode glands secrete a sugary substance that attracts ants, bees, butterflies and honeyeaters. A cascading, prostrate form looks magical in rockeries.

Family: Fabaceae