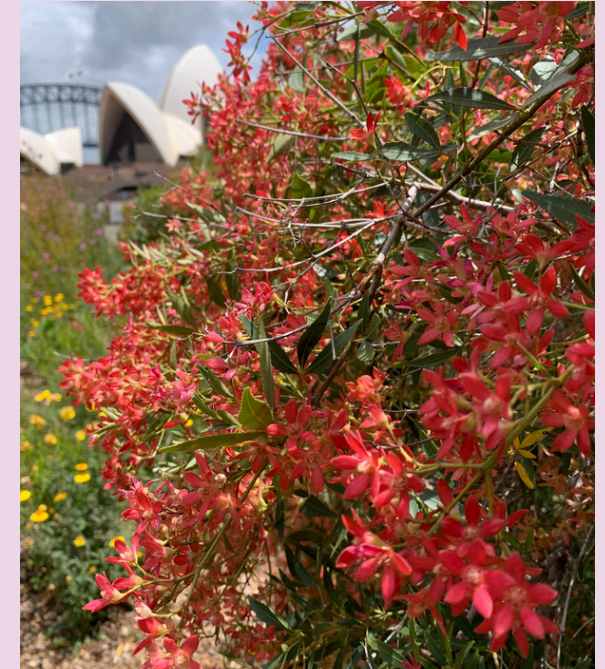




Must See

December 2025



NSW Christmas Bush (*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*), Australian Native Rockery

The Growing Friends Plant Sales is the ideal place to buy a special plant gift, such as the stunning NSW Christmas Bush. Open daily: Monday to Friday, 11am – 2pm; Saturday to Sunday 10am – 2pm.

Join a guided walk

Scan the QR code to join a daily walk.



Available to purchase from
Growing Friends Plant Sales

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**BOTANIC
GARDENS
OF SYDNEY**

2 *Backhousia citriodora*
Lemon Myrtle



Lemon Myrtle is a large tree endemic to coastal Queensland, from Brisbane to Mackay. It is best known for its citral-rich, lemon-scented leaves, although its dainty white, honey-scented flowers are also striking and attract many pollinators. When crushed — or on hot days, as the oil vaporises and the leaves release a strong citrus aroma. Like other plants in the Myrtaceae family, including eucalypts, the leaves contain oil glands and can be used for tea, spice or perfume.

Family: Myrtaceae

3 *Cereus uruguayanus* 'Monstrosus'
Monstrous Apple Cactus



The Monstrous Apple Cactus earns its name for its twisting, knobby stems and the red, apple-like fruit it produces. This unusual, mutated form stores water in its bulging stems, allowing it to expand and contract with changing moisture — an excellent adaptation to dry habitats. Fast-growing and dramatic, it bears large white flowers that bloom at night and in its native South America, can reach 15m tall.

Family: Cactaceae

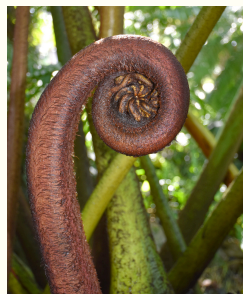
4 *Chonemorpha fragrans*
Climbing Frangipani



Smell the deliciously fragrant, white tubular flowers of this tropical, woody climber and you might be reminded of the Frangipani which belongs to the same family. The Climbing Frangipani can reach 30m, scaling trees in the rainforests of China, Indonesia and the Himalayas. In cultivation it needs a sturdy support. It loses its leaves in winter, but in spring, oval-shaped, bright green leaves with bronze tints emerge.

Family: Apocynaceae

5 *Angiopteris evecta*
Giant Fern



Native to tropical Australia, New Caledonia and Asia, the fronds of this impressive fern can grow up to six metres long. Fronds begin life as tightly curled croziers (also known as fiddle heads). The Fernery is an intimate enclosure that houses more than 350 species of ferns and other tropical perennials. In the heat of summer this cool, shady space is a delightful place to relax and enjoy.

Family: Marattiaceae

6 *Magnolia grandiflora*
Bull Bay Magnolia



This native to the southeast of USA grows to heights of up to 30m. It has the largest flowers of the evergreen Magnolias with saucer-shaped, creamy-white flowers, with a strong, lemony fragrance. The fruit is an aggregate of dry capsules that turn reddish-brown with age and contain bright red seeds in the autumn. Named after Pierre Magnol — a pioneering botanist who was the first to use the term 'family' for a natural grouping.

Family: Magnoliaceae

7 Palace Rose Garden



The current rose garden is the ninth to be planted in the Botanic Garden, demonstrating both the enduring popularity of the genus *Rosa* and some of the challenges of growing roses in coastal Sydney's humid climate. The nearby horticultural trial garden, with its diversity of flowering plants, attract beneficial insects such as lacewings and predatory ladybirds which help control rose pests as part of an integrated pest management strategy.

Family: Rosaceae

8 *Araucaria columnaris*
New Caledonian Pine, Cook Pine



A curious characteristic of this species is that it leans towards the equator, and the lean is greater with increasing latitude. It was first recorded by Europeans on Captain James Cook's second pacific voyage in 1774. The female seed cones are egg-shaped, and the smaller, more numerous male pollen cones are at the tips of the branchlets and foxtail shaped. The overall effect is a giant leaning Christmas tree.

Family: Araucariaceae



Plant of the Month

1 *Costus comosus* var. *bakeri*
Red Tower Ginger



Nectar rich, bright yellow flowers poke out from large red bracts making this an eye-catching plant to pollinating birds, such as hummingbirds, in their natural habitat from South Mexico through to Ecuador. This is a large clump forming herbaceous perennial with thin cane like stems growing from underground rhizomes. Take some time to gently feel the underneath of the leaves, you will be pleasantly surprised. This is the perfect plant for morning sun or dappled light, in a moist location with soil enriched with compost.

Family: Costaceae