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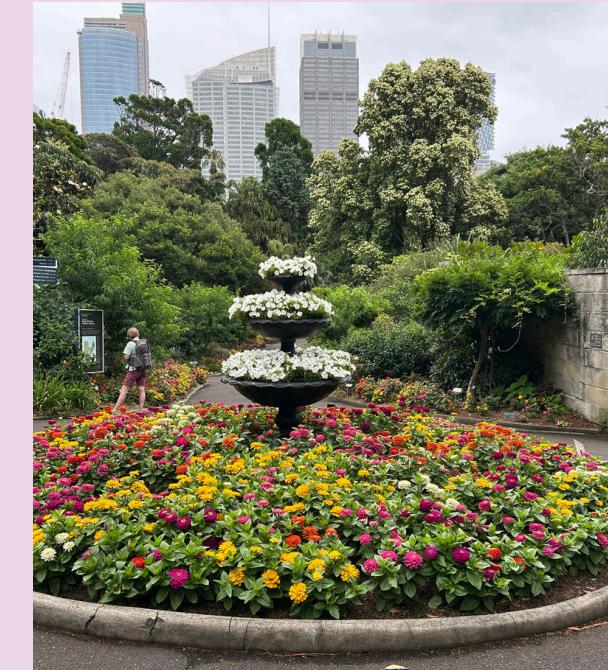
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Must See

January 2026



The Spring Walk presents a vibrant summer show

Explore the summer garden to find bright flowers and scented gems on this month's self-guided walk.

Join a guided walk

Scan the QR code to join a daily walk.



BOTANIC
GARDENS
OF SYDNEY

1 Zingiberales Border Gingers, Heliconias, Costus



This plant order includes important tropical food plants such as ginger and bananas. Native to tropical regions of Asia, Africa, the Americas and Australia. They are recognised by their architectural, paddle-shaped leaves and bold, colourful flowers as can be seen on the Heliconias and Zingibers along the border. Pictured is *Zingiber montanum*. It has a distinct cone-shaped scarlet inflorescence emerging directly from the underground rhizome.
Family: Zingiberaceae

2 *Nymphaea 'Blue Aster'* Waterlily



Water lilies are from an ancient plant lineage that diverged very early in the evolution of flowering plants. These rhizomatous aquatic herbs thrive in both tropical and temperate waters, where their floating leaves and spectacular blooms create an unmistakable presence. Celebrated worldwide as ornamental plants, they are available in a dazzling array of cultivated colours and forms. Tropical day flowering varieties feature in our aquatic tanks.
Family: Nymphaeaceae

4 *Hibiscus 'Davis Creek'* Swamp Rose Mallow



The flowers of this hibiscus are the size of dinner plates and as the common name suggests, this plant requires plenty of water to thrive. Like all hibiscus it has a typical bloom cycle of flowering in the morning and closing in the afternoon. The structure of the flower includes a prominent staminal column with anthers, topped by branched stigmas. This cultivar is named after Davis Creek in Alabama, USA.
Family: Malvaceae

5 *Lagerstroemia indica* Crepe Myrtle

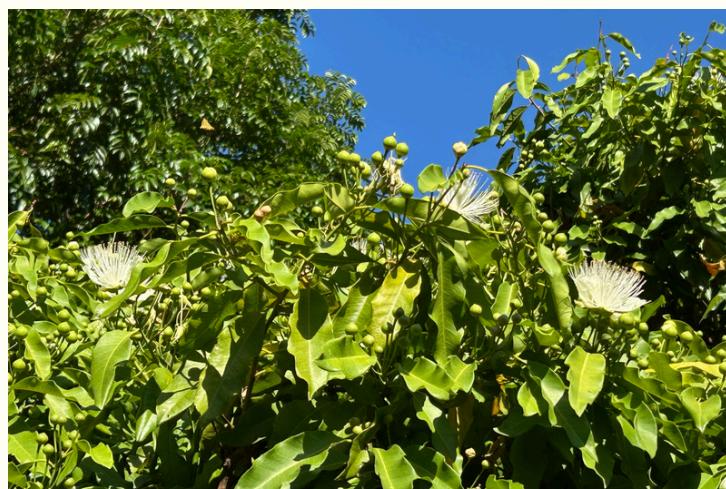


Crepe Myrtles were introduced to Australia in 1836 and have since been extensively bred for vibrant flower colours and varied tree sizes. They are popular for their long-lasting summer blooms, whose crinkled petals resemble delicate crepe paper. In winter, when the trees shed their leaves, their smooth, mottled bark and elegantly twisted limbs become a striking feature.
Family: Lythraceae

6 Tropical Garden



Escape the heat in the shady interior of the lush Tropical Garden. Don't miss the enormous, pleated leaves of *Ficus dammaropsis* (Dinner Plate fig) from New Guinea (pictured), which can grow to 1m long. Fragrant pure white flowers with a yellow throat litter the ground. These belong to the Milky Way tree (*Tabernaemontana litoralis*). Resistant to salt spray, it grows to 10m with large, glossy green leaves.



7 *Fagraea ceylanica* Perfume Flower tree



The Perfume Flower tree has intensely fragrant, creamy-white trumpet flowers that open at night, turning yellow the next day before fading. Summer flowering and native to Southeast Asian rainforests, it grows in warm, humid parts of Australia in well-drained soil. It's prized for its glossy leaves and sweet scent, thriving in full to partial sun and growing to heights of up to 10m. This plant was collected in China, growing as an epiphyte in the fork of another tree.
Family: Gentianaceae

8 *Corymbia ficifolia 'Summer Red'* Red-flowering Gum



The Australian Native Rockery houses a beautiful showcase of a range of native plants including the iconic Flowering Gum. The petals and sepals are fused into the distinctive bud cap which is shed when the flower opens. The bright red flowers on this native gum tree are also popular with the Rainbow Lorikeets and bees – drawn to the promise of nectar within the prolific flowering.
Family: Myrtaceae

Plant of the Month

3 *Capparis arborea* Native Pomegranate

This bush or small tree is endemic to eastern Australia. The flowers burst open with long, slender white petals and even longer stamens, creating a dramatic, starburst effect. Flowers are followed by large green fruits around 3cm in diameter. Fruit become yellow when ripe at which time the flesh inside is edible. This tree plays a vital ecological role being the primary food plant for the caterpillars of the Caper White and Southern Pearl White butterflies. Look up and you'll see clouds of adult butterflies gathering and flitting through the tree's branches.
Family: Capparaceae