

February 2026

Plant of the month

Pink Euodia



Common Name: Pink Euodia

Scientific Name: *Melicope elleryana*
9F.Muell.) T.G.Hartley

Family: Rutaceae

Genus: Greek: *meli* - honey and *cope* - “a division” refers to a gland at the base of the ovary.

Species epithet: for astronomer and public servant, Robert J. Ellery (1827-1908).



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Although it has a widespread distribution and was first described in 1865, this species is not as common in cultivation as its obvious appeal this time of the year would suggest. The attractive pink flowers are not only a distinctive feature in the garden but they attract birds including Rainbow Lorikeets in search of nectar. Trees are fast growing even as far south as Sydney.

In the tropics leaves are a vital food source for caterpillars of the Ulysses Butterfly (*Papilio ulysses*). Eggs are laid on the leaves which are consumed by developing larvae before pupating. Although the butterfly naturally occurs in tropical rainforest, suburban plantings of Pink Euodia in tropical Queensland have been encouraged to provide habitat for these spectacular butterflies.

A related but smaller growing species, *Melicope rubra* (Little Evodia), can also be seen growing in our Australian Rainforest Garden.

Distribution

Occurs from the Maluku Islands east to the Solomon Islands and south to New Guinea and across northern Australia from north-east Western Australia to north-east Queensland and as far south as the Clarence River in northern NSW.

Native Habitat

Coastal and inland forest, woodland and rainforest from sea level to an altitude of 800 metres.

Description

Tree up to 25 metres tall with pale brown and corky bark. Leaves are 3-foliate, glossy green and contain numerous but very small oil dots visible with a hand lens.

Flowers

Pink flowers are arranged in panicles along branches below or back from leaves. Sepals are ovate and stamens are longer than the petals giving the flowers a distinctive appearance.

Fruit

Small black seeds are held in a globular green fruit aging to grey or brown when mature.

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