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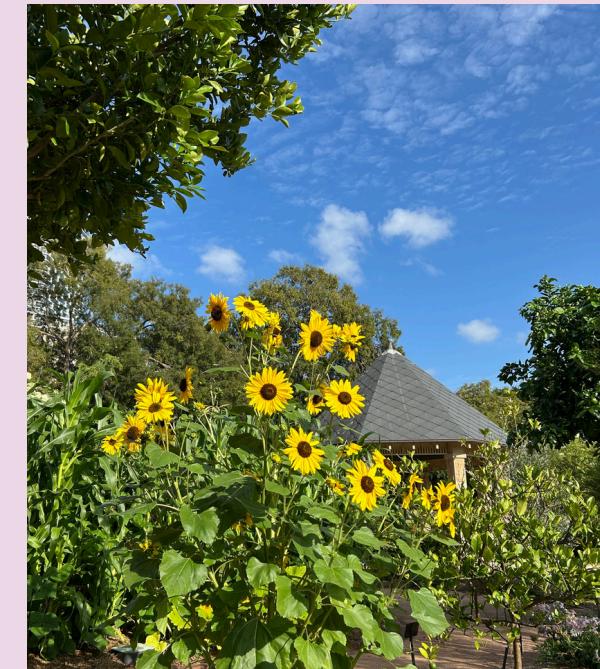
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# Must See

February 2026



Check out sunflowers and Buddha's hand citrus in the Herb Garden.

Smelly seeds, giant cones and bat-shaped flowers feature 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 *Tacca integrifolia* White Bat Flower



This striking and unusual flower is native to the tropical and subtropical rainforests of South Asia where it grows in leaflitter on the forest floor. The inflorescence consists of two pairs of large spreading wing-like bracts with thread-like whiskers growing beneath them, known as bracteoles. The inner berry-like structure is the actual flower with five petals. Flies are thought to pollinate the flowers attracted by their sweet musky odour and trapped by the unique floral structure.

Family: Dioscoreaceae

## 2 *Buckingham celsissima* Ivory Curl



This Australian rainforest tree is a widely cultivated species in parks and gardens in south-eastern Australia. It is spectacular in flower, bearing long showy sprays of sweetly fragrant, creamy-white flowers. Flowers are produced in long pendant racemes up to 25cm in length consisting of numerous individual flowers, each about 1.5cm wide. Flowers are similar to those of Macadamia trees which belong to the same family.

Family: Proteaceae

## 3 *Araucaria bidwillii* Bunya Pine



The Bunya Pine is native to the subtropical mountain rainforests of south-east and northern Queensland and is closely related to Australia's other living fossil, the Wollemi Pine. It can grow 35-45m tall and live for over 600 years. Its massive cones are up to 35cm wide and 10kg in weight. An example can be seen in our Visitor Centre. The large edible seeds can be eaten raw, roasted or baked in hot coals. Join our Taste of Country Experience Tours to discover more.

Family: Araucariaceae

## 5 *Ginkgo biloba* Maiden Hair Tree



This remarkable tree from China is the sole surviving species of one of the world's most ancient plant lineages, with fossils dating back 270 million years. Trees are either female or male. We have both types in our garden. Female trees produce round yellow brown seeds wrapped in soft, plum-like flesh. When they mature and fall, they have an unpleasant smell but the nuts inside are edible and are often served to celebrate Lunar New Year in China and Vietnam.

Family: Ginkgoaceae

## 6 *Musa velutina* Pink Velvet Banana



The fruit of this relatively small growing ornamental banana is edible but unpalatable - containing minimal flesh surrounding rock-hard seeds. Like all bananas, *Musa velutina* is a large herbaceous perennial monocot. The stem of the plant is known as a pseudostem and is comprised of leaf bases. After flowering and fruiting the pseudostem collapses and dies but the plant continues to grow from suckers produced from an underground corm.

Family: Musaceae



## 7 *Libidibia ferrea* Leopard Tree



Native to Brazil – the aptly named Leopard Tree sheds its bark leaving a distinctive, grey and white dappled effect across the trunk that is reminiscent of leopard-print. It has delicate, layered foliage with very small acacia-like leaves. Spikes of bright yellow flowers are produced at the ends of stems. The foliage is dark green until autumn when it drops in a spectacular display of raining red. Regrowth appears as a pinkish red, later developing to its mature green.

Family: Fabaceae

## 8 *Crataegus x lavalléei* Lavalle Hawthorn



This variety of Hawthorn is named after Pierre Lavallée (1836-1884) who founded the Arboretum Segrez, in France, where the trees originated. The richly-coloured autumn foliage is followed by large, heavy orange-red fruit (haws) hanging like lanterns on bare stems. White flowers, about 2cm wide, with a red disc are produced from September to November.

Family: Rosaceae

### Plant of the Month

## 4 *Melicope elleryana* Pink Euodia

This rainforest tree is native to New Guinea, parts of eastern Indonesia, the Solomon Islands and northern Australia. In summer, masses of pink flowers are arranged in panicles along the branches producing a spectacular effect. The fruit is a green capsule that splits to reveal small black seeds contained in up to four follicles. In its native habitat, the leaves are a vital food source for caterpillars of the Ulysses Butterfly (*Papilio ulysses*).

Family: Rutaceae