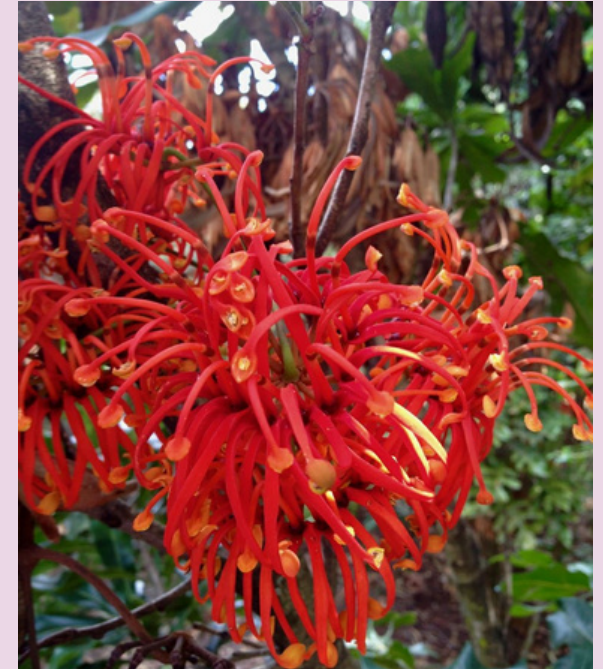




# Must See

April 2026



*Stenocarpus sinuatus*, Firewheel tree, shines in the gentler autumn light.

As the weather cools, take a longer stroll in the Garden and you will be rewarded with autumn treasures.

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**BOTANIC  
GARDENS  
OF SYDNEY**

1 *Zingiber spectabile* 'Giant Chocolate'  
Beehive Ginger



This species of ginger is native to Southeast Asia where it has been used as a medicinal herb. Its inflorescence is a cylindrical, beehive-like spike with a rounded apex, hence the plant's common name. The true flowers are white with dark purple markings that protrude from pouches and usually open from the bottom of the beehive structure upwards. This cultivar selected for its chocolate bronze bracts reminds us that for many April and Easter promise chocolate.  
Family: Zingiberaceae

2 *Brugmansia versicolor*  
Angel's Trumpet



This beautiful tropical shrub prized for its enormous, pendulous trumpet-shaped flowers that age from creamy white to peach is extinct in the wild despite its popularity in horticulture. Originally from Ecuador, it was listed as extinct by scientists in 2014. Flowers release a rich evening perfume attracting night pollinators. Plant and handle with care as all parts of the plant contain toxic tropane alkaloids.  
Family: Solanaceae

3 *Stenocarpus sinuatus* & *Floydia praealta*  
Firewheel Tree and Ball Nut



When most visitors think of Proteaceae, they picture banksias or grevilleas, yet the Gardens quietly harbour two intriguing relatives. *Stenocarpus sinuatus*, the Firewheel Tree, ranges from the Nambucca River in NSW to the Atherton Tableland in Queensland. Its scarlet and yellow wheel-shaped flowers attract birds and bees. Nearby grows the much rarer *Floydia praealta* (pictured), the Ball Nut, a monotypic genus and botanical orphan. Habitat loss has made it vulnerable, with fewer than twenty-five known sites in Australia.  
Family: Proteaceae

4 *Camellia sasanqua* 'Hiryu'  
Oriental Garden



Guarded by a pair of bronze Thai lions known as 'Temple Dogs', this area has been home to Asiatic plants since the early 1900s. The HSBC Oriental Garden opened in 1997 and features more than 2,400 wild and cultivated plants from East Asia, spanning China, Japan, Vietnam, Korea, Taiwan, and Bhutan. The garden is graced in autumn by *Camellia sasanqua* 'Hiryu', a deep crimson, semi-double Japanese cultivar.  
Family: Theaceae

5 *Cycas taitungensis*  
tai dong su tie Cycad



Named for Taitung, the rugged mountainous prefecture in southeastern Taiwan where its only two known wild populations survive. These plants are dioecious, meaning individual plants produce either female cones – rounded and nest-like in appearance on top of the plant – or male cones that are long and cylindrical. Cycads are often described as living relics of the Mesozoic era and are considered endangered and threatened due to habitat destruction and poaching.  
Family: Cycadaceae

7 *Ficus congesta* & *Ficus pleurocarpa*  
Red-leaf and Banana Fig

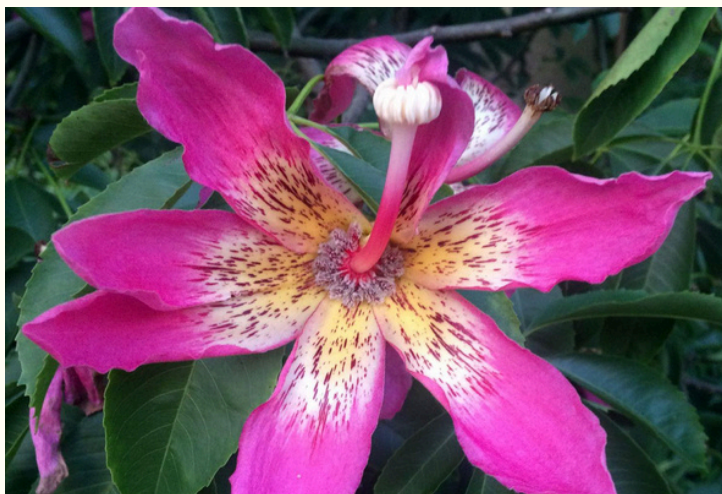


The Australian rainforest garden houses *Ficus pleurocarpa* (pictured), the Banana Fig, endemic to the wet tropical rainforests of northeastern Queensland. A keystone species, it provides vital fruit during periods of scarcity sustaining populations of musky rat-kangaroos and spectacled flying-foxes. *Ficus congesta*, the Red-leaf Fig is similarly confined to northeastern Queensland, its figs are produced directly from trunks and branches (cauliflory).  
Family: Moraceae

8 *Rosa* 'Gallipoli Centenary Rose'  
Rose Garden



Roses have a long history as symbols of beauty, love and remembrance. Most rose species are native to Asia, with a few from North America, Europe and northwest Africa. This is the ninth Rose Garden created in the Garden's history and contains a collection of striking modern roses cultivated with minimal use of chemicals. Look out for *Rosa* 'Gallipoli Centenary Rose', planted in 2015 to commemorate 100 years since the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli.



Plant of the Month

6 *Ceiba speciosa*  
Silk Floss Tree

This deciduous tree is native to tropical and subtropical forests of South America. In autumn, showy creamy-pink flowers unfurl on branch tips, calling to flying pollinators such as bats. Flowers are followed by avocado-shaped fruit which open to release silk-like floss and black seeds. The floss is used for packaging, papermaking and ropes. Young trees often have thorns for protection and green trunks for photosynthesis. Old trees develop enormous buttress roots.  
Family: Malvaceae