

March 2026

Plant of the month



Blue Ginger



Common Name: Blue Ginger
Scientific Name: *Dichorisandra thyrsiflora*
J.C.Mikan
Family: Commelinaceae
Genus: *Dichorisandra* – refers to the way two stamens stand apart in some species
Species epithet: *thyrsiflora* – from the Greek *thyrsus* (wand) referring to the arrangement of flowers

Few flowers in this Garden have the same vivid intensity of colour when growing in shady locations as the Blue Ginger. If planted in soil enriched with compost and watered well when young it is the perfect plant for dry shade under mature trees.

Dichorisandra pollen is shed from terminal pores in the anthers (male floral parts) of flowers.

Researchers have concluded that the release of this pollen is stimulated by “buzz” pollinators. These are pollinators, usually bees that vibrate or agitate the flower and stimulate the release of pollen.

The Blue Banded Bee (*Amegilla cingulata*) is an Australian “buzz” pollinator. It is a solitary bee that doesn’t make hives but lays its larvae in small holes in the ground or sometimes in the grout between bricks. It is often seen visiting our Blue Gingers and other flowers in the Garden.

Blue Ginger plants can be purchased from the volunteer run Growing Friends Plant Sales 11am – 2pm Monday to Friday, 10am – 2pm Saturday and Sunday.



Join a guided walk

Scan the QR code to join a daily guided walk to learn more about our plants.

Distribution

Atlantic coast eastern Brazil.

Native Habitat

Woodland.

Description

Multi-stemmed clump forming perennial to 2.5m tall, growing from rhizomatous rootstock. Glossy dark green leaves 30cm long, spirally arranged along the upright, fleshy cane-like stems.

Flowers

Terminal clusters (thyrses) of striking purple-blue flowers occur in late summer and autumn. Individual flowers have 6 stamens, four fused and two separate.

Fruit

A reddish capsule with black seeds.

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