

# Must See

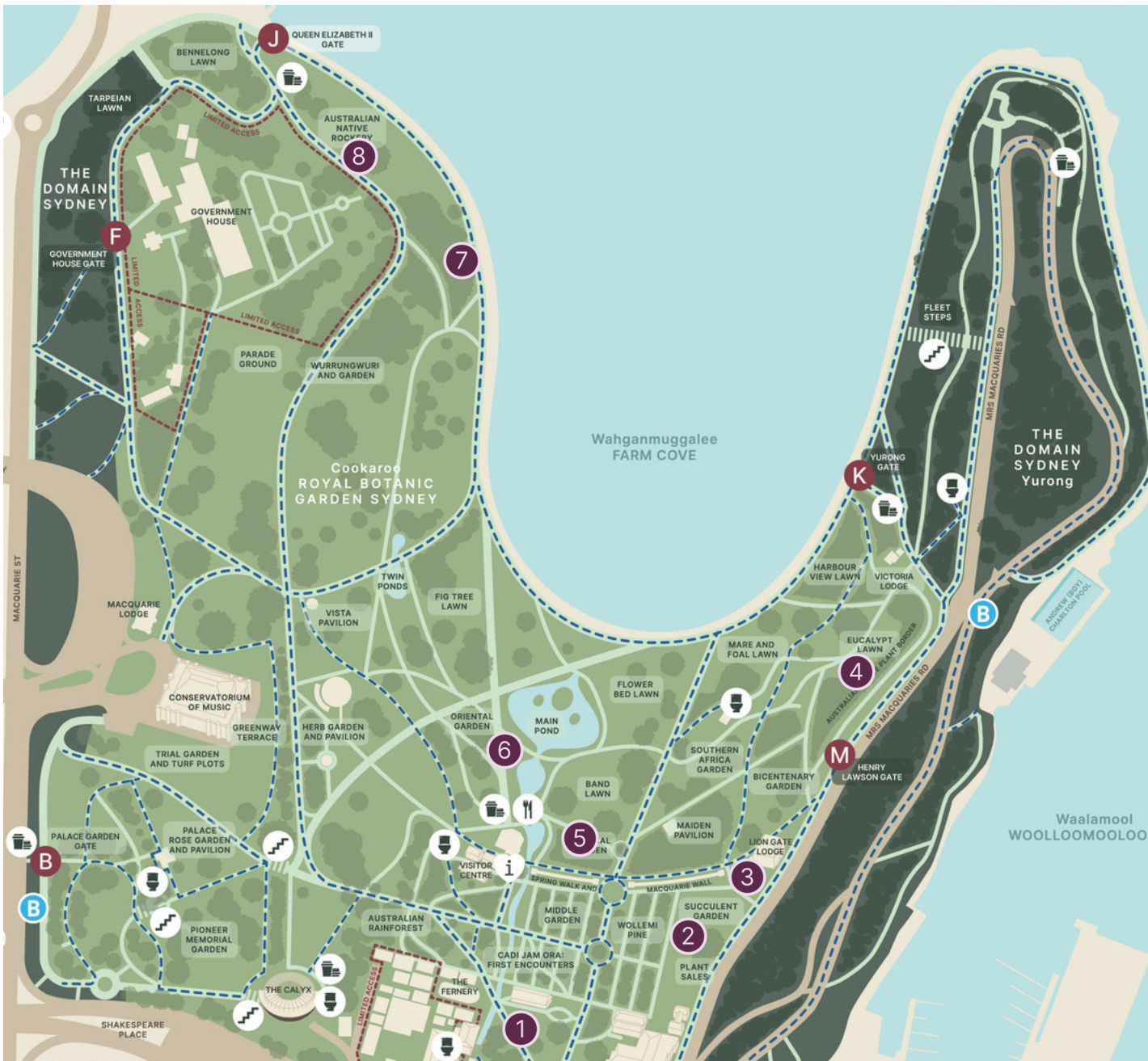
June 2026



Grevillea Garden Stop 7.

Travel around the world in eight plants on this month's tour of the garden.

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**BOTANIC  
GARDENS  
OF SYDNEY**

1 *Camellia grijsii*  
Fragrant Camellia



This white flowering camellia, from China, has heart-shaped petals, a delicate fragrance and unusual downward facing leaves. This small tree produces fruit that is harvested for its seed to produce camellia oil, widely used for cooking as well as the manufacture of margarine, soap and cosmetics. Common in southeast China, however there are indications that its population, in the wild, maybe declining due to deforestation and other pressures from increased human populations.

Family: Theaceae

4 *Corymbia watsoniana*  
Large-fruited Yellowjacket



Endemic to central Queensland, this striking tree grows to 15 metres tall in the dry sclerophyll forest surrounding the Barakula State Forest. The name, Yellowjacket, comes from the trees' yellow, tessellated and persistent bark. The tree is covered in plump buds, which open to creamy staminate flowers. These will be followed by large urn-shaped woody fruit (capsules).

Family: Myrtaceae

7 *Grevillea Garden*  
Spider Flowers



There are over 350 species of *Grevillea*, most endemic to Australia, with a small number from islands to the north. They have brightly coloured, petalless flowers, comprised of male (filament and anthers) and female (style and stigma) parts, bundled together in a tube (perianth). This splits open revealing elongated styles, accounting for their common name of Spider Flowers. They can be trees, shrubs or groundcovers and they hybridise easily in cultivation. *Grevillea* 'Goliath' pictured.

Family: Proteaceae

2 *Aloe* varieties  
Aloes



Native to Africa, Madagascar and the Arabian Peninsula, there are nearly 600 species of Aloes. They typically have rosettes of succulent leaves with teeth along their margins and red or orange tubular flowers, magnets for birds. Succulent leaves allow Aloes to withstand periodic drought. Medicinally significant for its bioactive compounds, which provide powerful antiseptic, antibacterial, and wound-healing properties. In Ancient Egypt it was known as the "Plant of Immortality".

Family: Asphodelaceae

6 *Gigantochloa* 'Timor Black'  
syn. *Bambusa* 'Timor Black'



This tropical clumping bamboo is native to Indonesia and is easily recognised by its striking, shiny, black culms and bushy dark green foliage. As hollow, sturdy culms (stalks) sway, they gently clack against one another, adding a rhythmic, earthy depth to the ambient sound. Black bamboo sends up their new shoots green and they transition to black over 6-9 months. Eventually, the black culms will fade to a white/grey as they die off.

Family: Poaceae

8 *Acacia podalyriifolia*  
Queensland Silver Wattle



This wattle has silvery-blue phyllodes (flattened leaf stalks resembling leaves) and bright yellow flowers that do not produce nectar. However, phyllode glands secrete a nectar or sugary substance that attracts ants, bees, butterflies and even honeyeaters. Ants along with birds are the main distributors of the hard, long-lived seeds. This species NSW, so it is best to check if it is a potential weed in your region before planting.

Family: Fabaceae

3 *Euphorbia leucocephala*  
Pascuita, Snowflake



This relative of the commonly grown Poinsettia (flowering nearby in the Middle Garden) is from Central America. The flowers are tiny and green and are surrounded by pure white bracts (modified leaves) that give the species one of its common names, Snowflake. Beautiful to behold but beware, like many members of the genus it has irritant sap that can cause blisters, rashes and is poisonous if ingested.

Family: Euphorbiaceae



Plant of the Month

5 *Bauhinia x blakeana*  
Hong Kong Orchid Tree

First discovered in Hong Kong in 1880, it was later propagated and more than 25,000 cuttings have been distributed world-wide. All plants are genetically identical to the originally discovered tree. This hybrid is sterile and does not produce viable seed, meaning trees only exist because of vegetative propagation by people. Whilst the flowers may resemble those of orchids, the large pink blooms are closely related to peas and beans and have appeared on the Hong Kong coat of arms, its flag and coins.

Family: Fabaceae