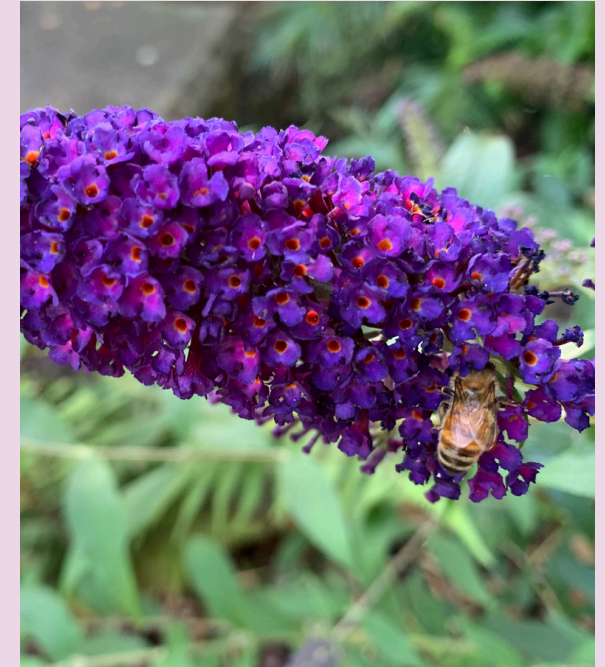


Must See

October 2026



Summer Lilac - *Buddleja davidii* - Herb Garden

With thousands of flowering plants, our garden is a pollinator's dream. See how many you can find on this month's walk.

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**BOTANIC
GARDENS
OF SYDNEY**

1 *Schotia brachypetala*
Weeping Boer-bean



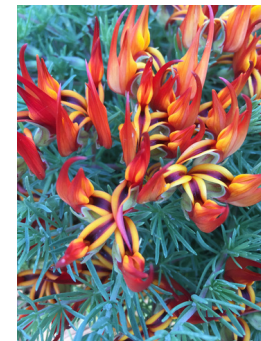
Native to South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, it thrives in warm, dry areas away from the coast. In spring to early summer, showy scarlet flowers appear, a magnet for nectar-feeding birds. Each flower produces so much nectar that it overflows, 'weeping' to the ground, or fermenting inside the flower cups. This fermented nectar has a mildly narcotic effect on feasting birds, so they may appear a little tipsy.
Family: Fabaceae

4 *Clivia* varieties
Bush Lily



Clivias, native to southern Africa, are a clump-forming perennial prized for their year-round architectural appeal. Dark green, strap-like leaves emerge from a fleshy underground stem. In the shaded setting of the Palm Grove, their voluminous trumpet-shaped blooms herald the arrival of spring. The rare yellow form arose in the late 1800s through a natural genetic mutation that suppressed the plant's red pigment, leaving only the yellow to shine through.
Family: Amaryllidaceae

6 *Lotus berthelottii*
Parrot's Beak



This trailing plant is a dramatic ground cover endemic to the Canary Islands and was first described in 1881. It is now considered severely endangered, if not extinct in the wild. This species and its cultivars have become popular as garden plants for their brightly coloured beak-shaped flowers, unique feathery silver foliage and drought tolerance. Nearby you will see other plants from the Canary Islands popular in horticulture.
Family: Fabaceae

2 *Stachyurus praecox*
Spiketail



Spiketail is a deciduous shrub, native to the warm temperate region of Japan and produces tiny yellow bell-shaped flowers that bloom in spring on long racemes before the foliage emerges. The ovate leaves, colour to pink or red before falling in autumn. In their native habitat, shrubs are either hermaphrodite or female. Hermaphrodite flowers only produce pollen so act as if they are male, whilst only the female shrubs produce fruit.
Family: Stachyuraceae

5 Herb Garden, Armillary Sundial
Buddleja cvs. - Summer Lilac



Venture to the Herb Garden to see the Armillary Sphere Sundial constructed from three interlocking rings. The Horizontal Ring has been decorated with casts of 38 different herbs. These were modelled from drawings by Sydney botanical illustrator Marion Westmacott. Near the Sundial you will see a curved bed featuring *Buddleja* (Summer Lilac). Butterflies are attracted to the fragrant purple flower spikes. Like other nearby plants their foliage is grey, providing a pleasing contrast to standard Apricot roses.

7 Palace Rose Garden
Rosa 'Tuscan Sun' (pictured below)



With the backdrop of a harbour vista and the city skyline, our Rose Garden is a favourite with photographers and newlyweds. Standard, weeping, climbing, bush and groundcover, all rose habits are represented. Roses steal the show in late spring and summer, with their bright flowers and fragrance. We encourage beneficial insects and use biological measures to control pests and diseases. A new area featuring old fashioned roses lies at the top of the Palace Garden steps.

3 *Melaleuca linariifolia*
Budjur, Snow-in-Summer



Snow in summer is an Australian paperbark, endemic to parts of Queensland and New South Wales. It has spikes of creamy white flowers that grow in dense clusters that when in profusion, look like snow-capped foliage. The fruit develops as hard woody capsules, which only release seed when triggered by stress such as fire, drought or damaged limbs. The thick, lightweight bark is spongy in texture. Rich in essential oils with antimicrobial properties it is one of the commercial sources of tea tree oil.
Family: Myrtaceae



Plant of the Month

8 *Alloxylon flammeum*
Tree Waratah



Native to the tropical rainforest of the Atherton Tablelands in northeastern Queensland, the Tree Waratah is a canopy tree, reaching up to 35 metres. It produces magnificent bright orange flame-coloured flowers rich in nectar. They are highly attractive to birds, especially parrots, who see colour in the red and orange spectrum and while feeding on this energy-rich nectar, assist with pollination as they move from tree to tree. It is listed as a vulnerable species because of its limited distribution, but is well-suited to cultivation in Sydney and warm temperate gardens.
Family: Proteaceae