

Available to purchase from Growing Friends Plant Sales

DISCOVER MORE botanicgardens.org.au

Find us on social media:

@BotanicSydney

Must See

November 2026



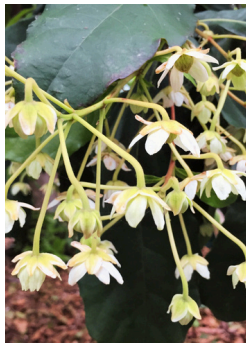
Take the time to visit the Palace Rose Garden in full spring bloom.

This month's tour focuses on the incredible plant diversity of the Southern Hemisphere with plants from Africa, South America, Australia and the Pacific featured.

To discover more, join a daily guided walk. Scan the QR code to book.

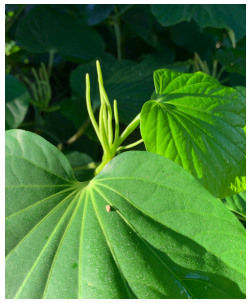
BOTANIC GARDENS OF SYDNEY

1 *Sloanea australis*
Maiden's Blush



This rainforest tree is endemic to Australia's east coast, from Batemans Bay to Cape Tribulation. Widespread in moist creek gullies, it can reach a height of 30m. Trunks are often buttressed at the base, anchoring the tree to shallow soils. Pendulous, creamy flowers appear in spring. Yellow fruit follow, drying to woody capsules containing seeds covered in a fleshy, scarlet aril, attracting rainforest birds. Historically, it has been used as a cabinet timber for its pink (blush) heartwood.
Family: Elaeocarpaceae

2 *Piper latifolium* f. *latifolium*
False Kava



Situated in the Palm Grove, this understory plant from the pepper family thrives in humid, shaded environments and comes from the Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu. It produces distinctive heart shaped leaves and an upright flower spike with many tiny flowers that don't have petals or sepals, followed by bright red small fruit that cling to the flowering spikes. Whilst it resembles the kava plant (*Piper methysticum*) it lacks the traditional intoxicating properties of true kava
Family: Piperaceae

3 *Erythrina* x *bidwillii* 'Blakei'
Blake's Coral Tree



This Erythina hybrid was bred by William Macarthur at Camden Park in the 1840s. It is a cross between *E. crist-galli*, the Cockspur Coral Tree from South America, and *E. herbacea* or the Coral Bean from south-eastern USA and north-eastern Mexico. It has the spectacular red flowers typical of coral trees, but it is sterile so does not produce any seeds. The name honours both the former director of this Garden, John Carne Bidwill and Macarthur's convict gardener, Edmund Blake.
Family: Rubiaceae

4 *Ficus dammaropsis*
Dinner Plate Fig



In the depths of the Tropical Garden, you can't miss the enormous (up to one metre long) pleated leaves of the Dinner Plate Fig. Large round fruit are found in the leaf axils. Originating from the highlands of New Guinea, it is also referred to as the Highland breadfruit. Its fruit, the world's largest fig (up to 18cm in diameter) whilst edible is rarely eaten except as an emergency food. Like all fig flowers they are pollinated by the tiny fig wasp.
Family: Moraceae

5 *Encephalartos lebomboensis*
Lebombo Cycad



This beautiful cycad is native to the evergreen forests in the Rift Valley province of north-central Kenya. Cycads have separate male and female plants (dioecious). Our female plant is producing a bright yellow, cylindrical cone that is breaking up to reveal poisonous orange seeds. A combination of Cycads' slow-growing ways, habitat deforestation and the illegal plant trade have led to these ancient plants becoming the most endangered plant group on Earth.
Family: Zamiaceae



Plant of the Month

6 *Jacaranda mimosifolia* 'Alba'
White Jacaranda

Native to South America, Jacarandas were first scientifically described in 1822. In their natural habitat, they can reach 30m tall, with a canopy spreading 10–15m wide. But it is their spectacular flowers that make us swoon with delight. Blooming on bare branches, the trumpet-shaped flowers create a striking, cascading display. Our white-flowering specimen was planted in 1991. This form was introduced to Australia in 1960 by Dr George Hewitt, a Bellingen physician. Nearby, a Blue Jacaranda first flowered in 1868.
Family: Bignoniaceae

7 *Jubaea chilensis*
Chilean Wine Palm



This huge specimen has an added feature in that it is covered in harmless lichen, particularly on the south side of the trunk which stays cooler and retains moisture longer, protected from the intense sunlight on the north side. The palm's sap can be used to make wine and syrup, although, unlike other palms which can be tapped, the whole tree is felled. It produces edible seeds, known as Coquito nuts. Join the Passion for Palms walk on 12 November to learn more.
Family: Arecaceae

8 *Lagunaria patersonia*
Norfolk Island Hibiscus, Sallywood



Endemic to Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands, this salt tolerant tree produces Hibiscus-like pink flowers in spring and early summer. The flowers are followed by brown capsules containing black seeds and fine white fibres, which can be irritating to the skin, thus another common name the Cow Itch Tree. Towards the end of flowering, it hosts the brightly coloured Harlequin beetle (*Tectocoris diophthalmus*).
Family: Malvaceae