



Must See

October 2024



Licuala ramsayi var. *ramsayi* - Jagarru (Girramay language) Australian Fan Palm - Palm Grove

Discover strappy-leaved monocots before exploring the diversity of rainforest plants in the Garden and in our new Alchemy of a Rainforest display @ The Calyx. Find out more by joining a guided walk, 10:30 am daily with a second walk at 11:30 am Tues, Fri & Sunday from the Garden Shop Visitor Centre.



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BOTANIC GARDENS OF SYDNEY

1 *Crinum x powellii* 'Album' – Swamp Lily



Crinums are bulbous perennials native to tropical, subtropical and warm temperate regions of Africa, Asia, Australia and the Americas. The generic epithet derives from the Greek *krinon*, meaning lily. This captivating Crinum hybrid is of garden origin, with large bulbs and a tuft of strappy basal leaves. In warmer months, angelic trumpet-like flowers rise from naked scapes in umbels of sweet-smelling flowers. These tough bulbs are easily grown.

Family: Amaryllidaceae

2 *Doryanthes palmeri* – Giant Spear Lily



The magnificent Giant Spear Lily is related to the Gymea Lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*), growing naturally on rocky outcrops along coastal ranges of north-east NSW and south-east Queensland. Rosettes of sword-shaped leaves to 3 metres long produce a flowering stalk (scape) towering to 5 metres. Flower heads comprised of hundreds of reddish flowers are so heavy that the scape droops, unlike the Gymea Lily's upright stalk.

Family: Doryanthaceae

3 *Xanthorrhoea* spp. – Gulgadya, Grass Tree



Grass Trees are endemic to Australia with 28 species across all states and territories. The genus name derives from Greek *xanthos* (yellow) and *rhoea* (flowing), referring to yellow resin exuded by the trunk. The 'trunk' or caudex is made from old leaf bases which protect the plant's growing tip from fire. Flowers emerge on a tall spike-like, woody scape, forming a spiral pattern of hundreds of white, honey-scented, nectar-rich flowers, irresistible to birds and our native stingless bees. Plants are slow-growing and often long-lived. **Family:** Asphodelaceae

4 *Sloanea australis* – Maiden's Blush



This rainforest tree is endemic to Australia's east coast, from Bateman's Bay to Cape Tribulation. Widespread in sheltered creeks and moist gullies, it can reach a height of 30 metres. 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. The common name refers to its pink-coloured heartwood, said to resemble a maiden's blush.

Family: Elaeocarpaceae

5 *Helmholtzia glaberrima* – Stream Lily



This beautiful Australian native lily grows in clumps along streams in steep rainforest gullies, on remnants of the Mount Warning shield volcano in north-east New South Wales and south-east Queensland. It survives such wet habitats due to large underground rhizomes and dense fibrous roots which secure it to creek beds during floods. Glossy, dark green strap-like leaves can reach 2 metres in length. In spring, flowers emerge in feathery, spike-like panicles, bearing hundreds of small, white or pink flowers.

Family: Philydraceae



6 Alchemy of a Rainforest - Explore a Vibrant Tapestry of Life @ The Calyx



Step inside this immersive, sensory exhibition featuring spectacular rare and unusual rainforest plants. Be enveloped by the vibrant, living essence of one Earth's most valuable ecosystems. Witness a shimmering, undulating canopy re-imagined with recycled materials designed by environmental artist Jane Gillings, crafted from plastic waste. These intricate pieces depict seeds, flowers, branches, fungi, and butterflies.

8 Horticultural Trial Garden



Here at the Trial Garden, our horticulturalists evaluate new and sometimes old plant varieties from across the globe. Contenders range from annuals, perennials, groundcovers to grasses, all subjected to Sydney's heat, humidity and heavy rainfall, with the aim of identifying species which perform best in Sydney's climate. Sustainability is a key element, as the Trial Garden seeks to promote plants requiring minimal input, relying on environmental and organic horticultural methods.

7 Plant of the Month *Alloxylon flammeum* - Tree Waratah

A spectacular flowering tree, endemic to north Queensland's rainforests, where it grows to heights of over 30 metres in a restricted region of the Atherton Tablelands. Vulnerable in the wild, this popular garden tree is grown for its brilliant vermilion flowers, comprised of pairs of tubular flowers fused together, resembling the Waratah, New South Wales' floral emblem. The species epithet *flammeum* is Latin for flaming, referring to the fiery flower colour. Fruit are woody, boat-shaped pods, containing winged seeds, dispersed by wind. **Family:** Proteaceae