



# Must see

*Costus comosus* var. *bakeri* - Red Tower Ginger  
Spring Walk near Stop 1 on this month's walk

February

## ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN SYDNEY

This month's walk highlights the incredible diversity of plants around the world. Scan the QR code to learn more about our plants and garden on a Daily Guided walk.



#RBGSydney  
#MustSeeRBG

### 1. *Lagerstroemia* 'Eaves Pink' - Crepe Myrtle

Crepe Myrtles are a genus of about 50 species that are native to a wide geographic range in eastern Asia. Records show that Crepe Myrtles were introduced into Australia in 1836 and since that time they have undergone extensive breeding for flower colour and tree size. They are popular for their colourful and long-lasting summer flowers that have a crinkled look, somewhat like crepe paper. Another great feature, best appreciated in winter when trees lose their leaves, is their smooth mottled bark and distinctive twisted limbs. **Family: Lythraceae**



### 3. *Cyphostemma juttae* - Elephant's Foot

This slow-growing succulent tree from Namibia survives in very hot and dry conditions. It has a swollen trunk or caudex that stores water. Patches of light brown paper-thin bark help to reflect sunlight. The large fleshy leaves act as a water reservoir during drought but are shed in winter. Large grape-like bunches of bright wine-coloured berries produced during summer may look delicious but are toxic. **Family: Vitaceae**



### 4. *Hylocereus undatus* - Dragon Fruit

This succulent plant from Tropical America is an epiphytic member of the cactus family. Large, spectacular white flowers open at night, although they are usually visible early in the morning. Pollination is by insects or mammals active at night such as moths or bats. The resulting fruit is unique with thick red bracteoles covering the edible red or white flesh dotted with black seeds. Find our plants growing on the fence at the northern end of the Succulent Garden.

**Family: Cactaceae**



### 5. *Tacca integrifolia* - White Bat Flower

This striking and unusual flower is native to the tropical and subtropical rainforests of South Asia where it grows in leaf litter on the forest floor. The inflorescence consists of two pairs of large spreading wing-like bracts with thread-like whiskers growing beneath them, known as bracteoles. The inner berry-like structure is the actual flower with five petals. Flies are thought to pollinate the flowers attracted by their sweet musky odour and trapped by the unique floral structure. **Family: Dioscoreaceae**



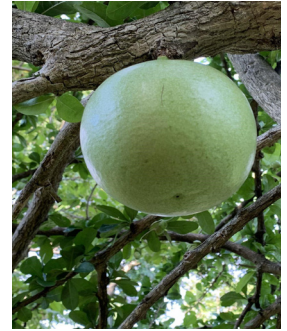
### 6. *Markhamia obtusifolia* - Golden Bean Tree

Widely distributed in tropical and southern Africa, this large suckering shrub or small tree is prized by gardeners in warm climates for its beautiful trumpet-shaped yellow flowers with reddish stripes on the petals. Flowers are followed by long capsule-shaped seed-bearing fruit characteristic of many members of the family. Wood is used for basic construction and bark, roots and leaves are used medicinally, after extensive preparation, by many cultures across the species natural range. **Family: Bignoniaceae**



### 7. *Crescentia mirabilis* - Calabash Tree

*Crescentia mirabilis* is endemic to Cuba where it is found only along the northern coast. *Crescentia* species are collectively known as Calabash for their large woody fruits that resemble woody gourds. It is easy to miss the trumpet-like flowers, borne on the trunk and branches, which have a musky smell at night. The large, round fruits are obvious at this time of year and while they are not edible, the shells are traditionally used to make containers and musical instruments. **Family: Bignoniaceae**



### 8. *Zingiber spectabile* - Beehive Ginger

This species of ginger is native to SE Asia where it has been used as a medicinal herb. Its inflorescence is a cylindrical, beehive-like spike with a rounded apex, hence the plant's common name. The true flowers are white with dark purple markings that protrude from pouches and generally open from the bottom of the beehive inflorescence upwards. The fragile flowers are short lived with a papery texture. As the inflorescence matures it changes colour from yellow through pink or orange to red. **Family: Zingiberaceae**



## 2. PLANT OF THE MONTH

### *Melicope elleryana* Pink Euodia

This rainforest tree is native to New Guinea, parts of eastern Indonesia, the Solomon Islands and northern Australia. In summer, masses of pink flowers are arranged in panicles along the branches producing a spectacular effect. The fruit is a green capsule that splits to reveal small black seeds contained in up to four follicles. In its native habitat, the leaves are a vital food source for caterpillars of the Ulysses Butterfly (*Papilio ulysses*). **Family: Rutaceae**

