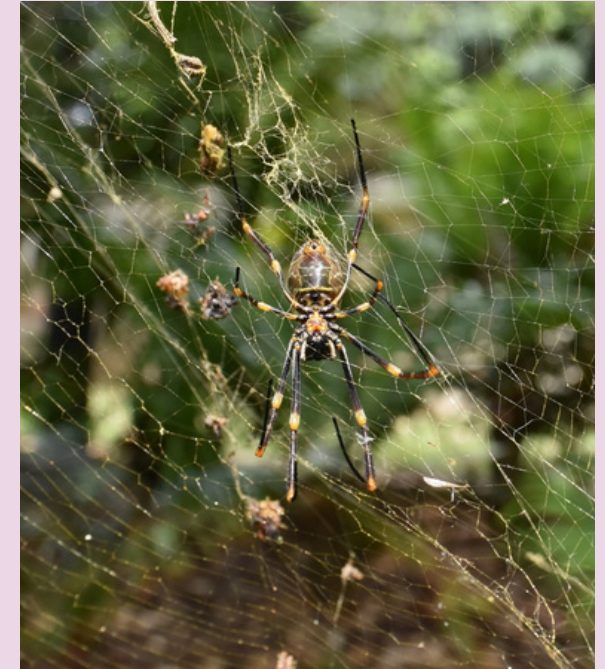


Must See

April 2025



Golden Orb Weaver - Various Locations

Fruit and seeds feature alongside flowers in the Garden as the weather cools in April.

Join a guided walk to discover more

Scan the QR code to book in for a daily guided walk.



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**BOTANIC
GARDENS
OF SYDNEY**

1 *Artocarpus nitidus* subsp. *lingnanensis*
Kwai Muk, Chinese Breadfruit



In autumn, curious fruit are produced by this small evergreen tree outside our Visitor Centre. These edible fruit have a velvety skin, pink-orange inner pulp and are used in Chinese medicine. Kwai Muk comes from tropical Southeast Asia and China and is in the same family as figs and mulberries. Stems ooze milky latex when cut and trees have separate male and female flowers borne on the same tree (monoecious).

Family: **Moraceae**

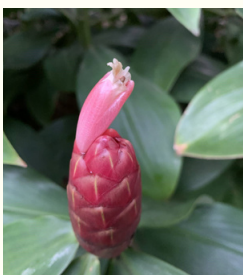
2 *Idiospermum australiense*
Ribbonwood



Look into the canopy of this rainforest tree from the Daintree area of Queensland and observe how the flowers change from cream, rose to burgundy with age. Their scent is a heavenly mixture of cloves, citrus and cinnamon. This extraordinary tree belongs to an early lineage of flowering plants with spirally arranged flower parts. First documented in 1902, this tree was believed extinct, until a mysterious incident with poisoned cows in 1971 led to its rediscovery.

Family: **Calycanthaceae**

3 *Costus spiralis* 'Pink Indianhead'
Spiral Ginger



This gorgeous perennial in the Costaceae (spiral ginger) family is native to tropical forests of South America. Growing to 2m from underground rhizomes, its leaves spiral around the stem. Overlapping dark pink bracts arise in a cone-shaped structure from which nectar rich, small pink flowers emerge, one at a time, attracting pollinating birds. Nearby, you will find other *Costus* species. They are wonderful ornamental plants, easily grown in Sydney, and available at our Growing Friends Plant Sales.

Family: **Costaceae**

5 *Davidsonia pruriens*
Ooray, Davidson's Plum



You may have eaten the fruit of this rainforest tree endemic to far North Queensland. It's an important food for Aboriginal cultural groups that is also used by home gardeners and chefs to make scrumptious jams, sauces and wine. Ripening in autumn, purplish-blue, plum-sized fruit grow in clusters directly from stems (ramiflory) and trunk (cauliflory) of the tree. The fruit's inner flesh is crimson, tangy-sour in taste, and rich in antioxidants.

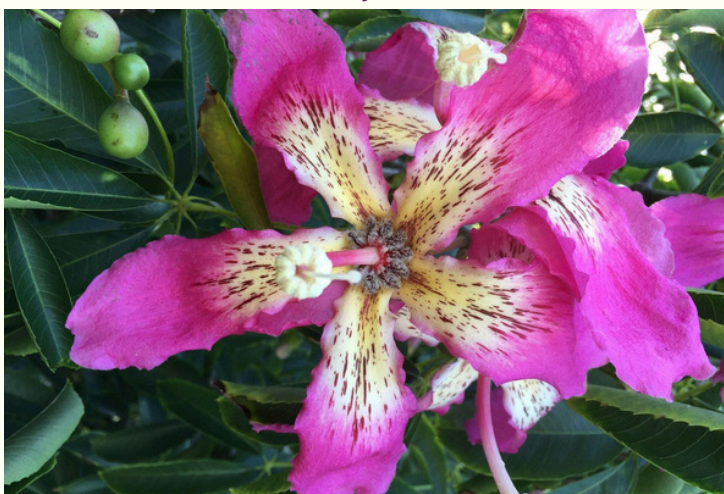
Family: **Cunoniaceae**

6 *Crataegus x lavalleyi*
Lavalle Hawthorn



This deciduous tree is a spontaneous hybrid between two Hawthorn species, discovered in 1870 growing at the Arboretum Segrez near Paris. It has lustrous green foliage and showy white flowers in summer, followed by scarlet berries ('haws') in autumn, which hang like red lanterns on bare stems throughout winter. Hawthorn has long been called 'the heart herb' - its antioxidant-rich berries have been used medicinally for centuries, for heart and circulatory conditions.

Family: **Rosaceae**



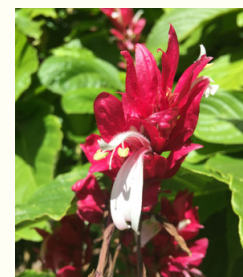
7 *Themeda triandra*
Kangaroo Grass



This grass with its distinctive seed spikelets nodding in the breeze is widespread in Australia. It tells an important story of this country's history. Archaeological evidence from Cuddies Springs shows that Aboriginal cultural groups have used seeds of Kangaroo Grass to make bread for over 30,000 years. This practice was documented by early European explorers and is part of the cultural knowledge of First Nations people.

Family: **Poaceae**

8 *Megaskepasma erythrochlamys*
Brazilian Red-Cloak



This evergreen shrub makes a colourful splash at the Garden's Conservatorium Gate. Native to rainforests of Venezuela and Suriname, this plant is happiest in moist shady spots with fertile soil. The genus name is an amalgam of Greek *mega* (large), and *skepasma* (covering), describing the crimson bracts that enclose the white flowers. A fabulous plant for Sydney gardens, available at our Growing Friends Plant Sales.

Family: **Acanthaceae**

Plant of the Month

4 *Ceiba speciosa*
Silk Floss Tree

The silhouette of this majestic deciduous tree, native to tropical and subtropical forests of South America is unforgettable. The genus name derives from the indigenous word for giant tree. In autumn, showy creamy-pink flowers unfurl on branch tips, calling to flying pollinators such as bats. Flowers are followed by avocado-shaped fruit which open to release silk-like floss and black seeds. The floss is used for packaging, paper-making and ropes. Young trees often have thorns for protection and green trunks for photosynthesis. Old trees have grey bark and may develop enormous buttress roots.

Family: **Malvaceae**