



Blooms at the
SSR Botanic Garden,
Pamplemousses

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INTRODUCTION

The Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden at Pamplémousses has a rich plant diversity comprising of some 500 plant species. These include trees, shrubs, perennials, climbers and bulbs of both native and exotic species. Some of them flower during summer and others during winter. In recent years, phenological observations have shown different responses of plant species due to the effect of climate change. Various plant species react differently and show phenotypic changes. The seasonal pattern of flowering have changed over the years. In species like *Brownea grandiceps*, the blooming is getting earlier each year. The flowering period that is shown in this presentation is based on observations made strictly at the SSR Botanic Garden, Pamplémousses. The blooming period of certain species may vary due to changes in the climatic conditions.



Scientific name: *Alpinia zerumbet*


Common name: Shell ginger

Family: Zingiberaceae

Alpinia zerumbet is a perennial herb with rhizomes which have an aromatic ginger smell. The fragrant flowers of the Ginger shell are borne in drooping clusters.

Flowering period: August-November

Origin: China







Scientific name: *Bombax ceiba*

Common name: Bombax, Red silk cotton tree

Family: Bombaceae

It is a large deciduous tree which has an attractive display of large bloom. Each flower consists of 5 petals and has numerous stamens with red filaments that are tipped with black anthers.

Flowering period: July-November

Origin: Asia







Scientific name: *Butea monosperma*

Common name: Parrot tree, Flame of the forest

Family: Fabaceae

Butea monosperma is a medium sized deciduous tree. The leaves are pinnate and the flowers which are bright orange-red are produced in racemes .

Flowering period: September-October

Origin: Tropical Southern Asia





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Scientific name: *Butea superba*

Common name: Red kwao krua

Family: Fabaceae

Butea superba has the characteristics of being a crawling vine that wraps itself around large trees. When in bloom, it has an attractive display of orange-red flowers.

Flowering period: September-October

Origin: Thailand





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Scientific name: *Brownea grandiceps*

Common name: Rose de Venezuela

Family: Fabaceae

Brownea grandiceps is a small striking tree with very large heads of red flowers which hang beneath the foliage when in bloom. The leaflets are aristate having an elongated apex and the young leaves which are pale pink and greenish white, finally turn uniform green as they mature.

Flowering period: June-September

Origin: Tropical America







Scientific name: *Cassia fistula*


Common name: Golden shower, Indian laburnum

Family: Fabaceae

The Golden Shower tree is a medium-sized tree. It has deciduous leaves which are broad, long and pinnate. The yellow flowers are arranged in large pendulous inflorescence .

Flowering period: December-April

Origin: India







Scientific name: *Calliandra surinamensis*

Common name: Calliandra, Powder puff

Family: Fabaceae

Calliandra is a small tree with bipinnate leaves and the flowers are axillary and pink in colour. The stamens are white at the base and pink towards the top.

Flowering period: Several times during the year.

Origin: Tropical America







Scientific name: *Clusia grandiflora*

Common name: Clusia

Family: Clusiaceae

Clusia is a small tree with broad green leaves. The flowers are large, white and pink in the centre. Each flower normally consists of 8 petals.

Flowering period: November-January

Origin: Tropical America







Scientific name: *Cochlospermum vitifolium*

Common name: Butter cup tree

Family: Cochlospermaceae

Cochlospermum vitifolium is a small tree which bears yellow flowers from the terminal ends of branches. Each flower consists of 5 large petals and a similar number of cupped brownish sepals and a central bunch of long yellow stamens. The leaves are palmate and alternately arranged.

Flowering period: July-October

Origin: Panama





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Scientific Name: *Colvillea racemosa*

Common name: Flame of the forest

Family : Fabaceae

It is a spectacular flowering tree with clustered inflorescences consisting of bright orange, red flower buds which open to show long orange stamens. The leaves are bi-pinnate. The International Union for the conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) has put *Colvillea racemosa* on its Red List as a threatened species.

Flowering period: February-April.

Origin: Madagascar







Scientific name: *Congea velutina*

Common name: Shower orchid

Family: Lamiaceae

A vigorous climbing plant which is covered with light purple flowers for long periods of time.

Flowering period: June-October

Origin: Tropical Asia







Scientific name: *Couroupita guianensis*

Common name: Canon Ball Tree

Family: Lecythidaceae

Couroupita guianensis is a large deciduous tree which bears spectacular flowers and canon ball like fruits. The flowers are large, aromatic and consist of 6 petals which are orange-red in colour.

Flowering period: Full bloom in summer.

Origin: South America







Scientific name: *Crinum asiaticum*

Common name: Spider lily

Family: Amaryllidaceae

This beautiful lily has long green leaves and white flowers .

Flowering period: Several times during the year

Origin: Tropical Asia







Scientific name: *Dombeya acutangula*

Common name: Dombeya

Family: Malvaceae

It is a shrub endemic to Mauritius and is considered as an endangered species.

Flowering period: May-July







Scientific name: *Dombeya wallichii*

Common name: Pink Ball

Family: Sterculiaceae

The Pink-Ball shrub has large heart-shaped leaves and dense heads of little pink flowers which hang from long stems.

Flowering period: July-August

Origin: Madagascar







Scientific name: *Delonix regia*

Common name: Flame of the forest

Family: Fabaceae

The flame tree (*Delonix regia*) which is commonly known as the flamboyant is considered among one of the most beautiful tropical trees in the world.

This tree produces striking yellow flowers and the leaves are delicate and fern-like.

Flowering period: November-January

Origin: Endemic to Madagascar







Scientific name: *Erythrina falcata*

Family: Fabaceae

Erythrina falcata is an evergreen tree which bears red flowers in clusters.

Flowering period: September-October







Scientific name: *Hornea mauritiana*

Common name: Arbre a l'huile

Family: Sapindaceae

Hornea mauritiana is a tree endemic to Mauritius. The leaves are compound, large and long. The flowers are in axillary and terminal panicles.

FLOWERING PERIOD: November-March







Scientific name: *Lagerstroemia speciosa*

Common name: Queen's flower

Family: Lythraceae

It is a deciduous tropical flowering tree with beautiful purplish flowers in racemes.

Flowering period: December-January

Origin: Australia







Scientific name: *Magnolia grandiflora*

Common name: Magnolia

Family: Magnoliaceae

The Magnolia is a large, broad-leafed evergreen tree. The leaves are large and dark glossy green above with rusty velveteen undersides. The flowers are white in colour with a pleasant fragrance.

Flowering period: November-January

Origin: North America







Scientific name: *Mathurina penduliflorum*

Common name: Bois Gandine

Family: Turneraceae

Mathurina penduliflorum is a heterophyllous tree endemic to Rodrigues. Its bark is distinctive with its pale colour and rough texture. The flowers are axillary and the petals are oval and white in colour.

Flowering period: October-November







Scientific name: *Millingtonia hortensis*

Common name: Indian cork tree

Family: Bignoniaceae

Millingtonia hortensis is a tall deciduous tree which has a beautiful display of white trumpet-shaped flowers that are white and fragrant.

Flowering period: May-August

Origin: Myanmar







Scientific name: *Mucuna warburgii*

Common name: Mucuna

Family: Fabaceae

It is a beautiful climber that bears its orange red flowers in long pendant inflorescences.

Flowering period: April/October

Origin: South East Asia







Scientific name: *Napoleona impatiens*

Common name: Napoleon's hat

Family: Lecythidaceae

Napoleona impatiens is a medium sized tree with unusual botanical trait. It is considered as a cauliflorous plant species since its flowers are developed on the trunk.

Flowering period: During the summers

Origin: Nigeria







Scientific name: *Oncoba spinosa*

Common name: Snuff-box tree

Family: Salicaceae

Oncoba spinosa is a small tree. The leaves are simple, elliptic in shape with a pointed tip. The flowers are large and sweet-scented. Masses of yellow overlapping stamens can be seen in the centre of the flower.

Flowering period: October-December

Origin: North Africa







Scientific name: *Petrea volubis*

Common name: Sandpaper vine

Family: Verbenaceae

It is a climber with long racemes of purple coloured flowers.

Flowering period: September-December

Origin: Tropical America







Scientific name: *Pseudobombax grandiflorum*

Common name: Shaving bush tree

Family: Bombacaceae

The shaving bush tree is deciduous with palmate compound leaves. The flowers open on bare branches shortly before the foliage.

The petals of the flowers are white inside and purplish brown on the outer side.

Flowering period: Mid to late winter.

Origin: Antilles, Brazil







Scientific name: *Saraca indica*

Common name Ashoka

Family: Fabaceae

It is a small evergreen tree with compound leaves which form a dense crown. It's bright orange flowers can be seen in small dense branches .

Flowering period: July-November

Origin: Malaysia, India





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Scientific name: *Schotia brachypetala*

Common name: Weeping schotia

Family: Fabaceae

Schotia brachypetala is a medium evergreen tree. The flowers are deep red in colour and are found in clusters.

Flowering period: September-November

Origin: Southern Africa







Scientific Name: *Senecio Lamarckianus*

Common Name: Bois de chèvre

Family: Asteraceae

Senecio lamarckianus is endemic to Mauritius and is threatened by habit loss. The yellow flowers are in clusters .

This species has become very rare and can be found in dry mountainous regions around the summit peaks of the island especially Mondrain, Pieter both, Piton du Fougé.

Flowering period: May-July







Scientific name: *Spathodea campanulata*

Common name: African tulip tree

Family: Bignoniaceae

Spathodea campanulata is an attractive tree when in full bloom. Its leaves are opposite and pinnate. The flowers are grouped in large clusters and their crinkled petals are orange red in colour.

Flowering period: May-November

Origin: West Africa







Scientific name: *Triplaris surinamensis*

Common name: Mulato tree

Family: Polygonaceae

Triplaris surinamensis is a deciduous tropical tree. Its trunk is straight and slightly cracked. The flowers are in big compound clusters.

Flowering period: July-November

Origin: South America

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Scientific name: *Trochetia boutoniana*

Common name: Boucle d'oreille

Family: Sterculiaceae

Trochetia boutoniana is an endemic shrub to Mauritius. The leaves are oval shaped and leathery on the underparts. The petals of the flower are bell-shaped and the colouring is dark red with a white background.

Trochetia boutoniana is the national flower of Mauritius since 1992.

Flowering period: July-October







Scientific name: *Victoria amazonica*

Common name: Giant water lily

Family: Nymphaeaceae

Victoria amazonica is an aquatic plant which has large leaves floating on the water surface. The flowers are white the first night they open and turn pink the second night.

Flowering period: Throughout the year.

Origin: Brazil



