

Garden Highlights September 2014

1. Is it Spring or Autumn?

The leaves of deciduous plants are often yellow, orange, red or brown before they are shed in late autumn or early winter. However, there are some plants whose **new leaves** show these colours. The plant in the upper photo is growing in the Shrubbery. The lower one is the **Purple Fringe Bush** *Loropetalum chinense* var. *rubrum* bred for the colours of its flowers and new leaves.



2. **South African Bottlebrush** *Greyia sutherlandii* has such a striking large red flower head that it is also called Beacon Tree in South Africa. It grows high in the mountains of temperate/sub-tropical South Africa.

There are more flowers in the Shrubbery and Camellia Walk.



3. Two plants that have hanging flower heads are displaying their tiny flowers this month. Look closely at the exquisite tiny beauty. The photos show the female flower (left) and the male flower head (right) of the **Corkscrew Hazelnut** *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta'. (Photo of female flower H. Zell, Wikimedia)

The other plant, **Early Spiketail** *Stachyurus praecox* has masses of delicate white flowers.



4. We have early explorers and plant hunters to thank for many well-known plants. Test your plant hunting skills in the GBG **Curiosity Cabinet Plant Hunt**. There are 8 plants to find, growing next to many others, just as they are in the wild. See how many tea and drink plants you can identify in the display. You may see some of them growing out in the gardens.



Events in the Gardens in September

- Discovery Walk: 'Chicory Trickery', Sun. 28 September, 2:00 pm, gold coin donation.
- Friends Nursery open Wednesdays 10:00 – 12:00.
- The Tea-house will open in September.

Over page: Map showing these plants.

Geelong Botanic Gardens Map



1a. Bronze leaves in shrubbery
1b. Purple Fringe Bush
Loropetalum chinense
var. rubrum

2a. South African Bottlebrush
Greyia sutherlandii
2b. Plants in flower in Shrubbery
2c. Plants in flower along
Camellia Walk

3a. Corkscrew Hazelnut
Corylus avellana 'Contorta'
3b. Early Spiketail
Stachyurus praecox
3c. Traillie Fountain

4. Curiosity Cabinet
5. Tea House opens in September
6. Friends Nursery
open Wednesday mornings



This information was developed by the Volunteer Guides
Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens

www.friendsgbg.org.au
www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/