

Scents through the seasons



Lavender 'Violet Lace'

If you have an outdoor living area, like to sit within your garden, or cut flowers for the vase, plants with fragrance should be an essential part of your life.

Scented plants provide an additional sensory element to our outdoors and enhance the pleasure of being outside. Gardeners will usually smell what is in flower long before seeing it and the different fragrances provide a scent calendar to remind us of different times of the year.

Flowers produce volatile chemicals which attract pollinating insects by evaporating and creating fragrance. Plants with scent gland on foliage release perfume when leaves are brushed and should be placed near paths.

Many plants are most strongly perfumed at night to lure pollinating moths. Position these near outdoor entertaining areas or windows so the fragrance can waft inside.

Scented plants help create memories, so use their fragrance to enhance special occasions.

Place scented plants in pots and move them indoors for short periods or to outdoor living areas when in flower.

There are scented plants that thrive in different climatic conditions throughout Australia, providing every gardener with the opportunity to create their own perfumed paradise.

Angel's trumpet (*Brugmansia*)

Type: Evergreen shrub or small tree

Size: 3m-7m x 3m-5m

Flowers: Year round in flushes

Best climate: Tropical, sub tropical and frost free temperate and mediterranean

General: All parts poisonous

Arabian jasmine (*Jasminum sambac*)

Type: Evergreen vine or shrub

Size: 0.5m to 3mx1m

Flowers: Repeatedly on new wood

Best climate: Tropical, sub tropical, frost free temperate and mediterranean

General: Flowers flavour jasmine tea

Boronia floribunda

Type: Evergreen shrub

Size: 2mx2m

Flowers: Spring and early summer

Best climate: warm temperate, mediterranean, light frost only

General: Australian native, aromatic foliage

Bridal wreath (*Stephanotis floribunda*)

Type: Evergreen vine

Size: to 5m

Flowers: Summer

Best climate: Tropical, sub tropical, frost free temperate and mediterranean

Bushman's poison (*Acokanthera oblongifolia*)

Type: Evergreen shrub

Size: 2m-3mx 2m

Flowers: Winter to spring

Best climate: Sub tropical, warm temperate, mediterranean, light frost only

General: All parts poisonous, suits coastal areas

Cherry pie (*Heliotropium arborescens*)

Type: Evergreen shrub

Size: 80cmx80cm

Flowers: late winter to autumn

Best climate: Tropical, sub tropical, and frost free temperate and mediterranean

General: long blooming, vanilla-like fragrance

Citrus

Type: Evergreen shrub/small tree

Size: Prune trees to 3m x 2.5m

Flowers: Throughout the year, especially spring

Best climate: Sub tropical and tropical climates and frost free temperate and mediterranean



Frangipani (*Plumeria rubra*)

Type: Deciduous shrub

Size: 5m-8x4m

Flowers: Late spring to early autumn

Best climate: Tropical, sub tropical and frost free temperate and Mediterranean

General: Protect from cold winds

Freesia hybrids

Type: Bulb

Size: 30cm-60cm tall x 20cm

Flowers: Late winter and early spring

Best climate: Sub tropical, warm temperate and mediterranean with light frost only

Gardenia (*Gardenia augusta*)

Type: Evergreen shrub

Size: 1-2mx1m

Flowers: Late spring and summer

Best climate: Tropical, sub tropical and frost free warm temperate and mediterranean

Henna (*Lawsonia inermis*)

Type: Evergreen shrub

Size: 3.5mx2m

Flowers: Spring

Best climate: Tropical, sub topical

General: Leaves produce dye

Jonquil (*Narcissus tazetta*)

Type: Bulb

Size: 45cm-60cm x 20cm

Flowers: winter and early spring

Best climate: Sub tropical, warm or cool temperate, mediterranean, cool elevated areas

General: Plant bulbs deep in hot climates

Lavender (*Lavandula stoechas* or *L. angustifolia*)

Type: Evergreen perennial

Size: 0.6m-0.9m x 1.2m (*angustifolia*) 60cmx60cm (*stoechas*)

Flowers: *Lavandula stoechas*: early summer

Lavandula angustifolia: summer

Best climate (*L. angustifolia*) Mediterranean, warm temperate, cool, elevated areas

(*L. stoechas*) Mediterranean, warm temperate with light frost

General: Does not like humidity. Scented, flowers, leaves and stems

Lemon myrtle (*Backhousia citriodora*)

Type: Evergreen rainforest tree

Size: 6mx6

Flowers: Summer and autumn

Best climate: Tropical, sub tropical, warm temperate, mediterranean

General: Lemon flavoured leaves

Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*)

Type: Deciduous shrub/small tree

Size: 5m x 5m

Flowers: spring

Best climate: Warm temperate, mediterranean, cool, elevated areas

Lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*)

Type: Herbaceous perennial

Size: 0.5m-0.3cm x

Flowers: Late spring

Best climate: Cool elevated areas, cool temperate

General: Keep plants moist

Luculia gratissima

Type: Evergreen shrub

Size: 3m x 3m

Flowers: Winter

Best climate: Cool elevated areas with mild frosts, cool temperate areas

Mexican orange (*Choisya ternata*)

Type: Evergreen shrub

Size: 1m-2mx

Flowers: Spring and summer

Best climate: Sub tropical, temperate, mediterranean, cool elevated areas with mild frosts

General: Good hedge

Mock orange (*Philadelphus coronarius*)

Type: Deciduous shrub

Size: 2m-3m

Flowers: Late spring, early summer

Best climate: Temperate, mediterranean

Orchid cactus (*Epiphyllum hybrids*)

Type: Succulent epiphyte

Size: 75cmx1.5m

Flowers: spring and summer

Best climate: Tropical, sub tropical and frost free, warm temperate and mediterranean

General: Night blooming

Oregon grape (*Mahonia x media*)

Type: Evergreen shrub

Size: 4mx3m

Flowers: Spring

Best climate: Sub topical, temperate, mediterranean and cool, elevated areas

General: Good informal hedge, edible fruits



Dianthus 'Memories'

Pinks (Dianthus hybrids)

Type: Evergreen perennial

Size: 8cm-20cmx15cm

Flowers: Late spring

Best climate: Temperate, mediterranean

Port wine magnolia (*Michelia figo*)

Type: Evergreen shrub

Size: 3m x2m

Flowers: Spring

Best climate: Frost free, sub tropical, temperate, mediterranean

General: Good hedge, night fragrance

Primrose (*Primula x polyantha*)

Type: Seasonal annual or short lived perennial

Size: 30cmx20cm

Flowers: spring

Best climate: Temperate, mediterranean, cool elevated areas

Stocks (*Matthiola incana*)

Type: Seasonal annual

Size: 40cmx30cm

Flowers: spring and summer

Best climate: Sub tropical, temperate, mediterranean

Sweet olive (*Osmanthus fragrans*)

Type: Evergreen shrub

Size: 3-4m x 2m

Flowers: late winter to early summer

Best climate: Sub tropical, temperate, mediterranean

General: Flowers on old wood

Violets (*Viola odorata*)

Type: Creeping perennial

Size: 10cmx30cm

Flowers: Winter and spring

Best climate: Sub tropical, temperate, mediterranean, cool elevated

Wallflower (*Erysimum cheiri*)

Type: Evergreen biennial

Size: 60cm x 40cm

Flowers: Year round, abundant in spring

Best climate: Temperate, mediterranean, cool elevated

Wintersweet (*Chimonanthus praecox*)

Type: Deciduous shrub

Size: 3mx3m

Flowers: winter

Best climate: Cool elevated, cool temperate

General: Protect flower from frost