

Garden Highlights April 2015

1. Several **Fuchsias** are in flower this month. Like many garden plants, Fuchsias have been subject to fashion. They disappeared from nurseries some 20 years ago, but have reappeared in the last couple of years. Fuchsias originated from tropical and southern areas of the world, from Central and South America through to NZ. Fuchsias may be available in the Friends Nursery.



1.

2. **Cedar trees**, *Cedrus atlantica*, *Cedrus deodara* and *Cedrus libani*, in the gardens and in Eastern Park, shed their pollen this month. If you are nearby when this happens, you will see clouds of yellow streaming from the tree. You may see male (pollen) cones on the ground, spilling pollen. While Cedar trees are in the Pine family, there are several, very different, trees that have been given common names that include the word 'cedar', because their timber is similar.



2.

3. **Parrot impatiens or Congo Cockatoo**, *Impatiens niamniamensis*, has red & yellow beaked flowers. This small plant from high altitudes in tropical Africa enjoys the shade of tall trees. Across the 487 species of Impatiens, the flowers are quite variable.



3.

4. The fruit of the **Tamarillo**, *Solanum betaceum* are ripening this month. The fruit colour varies, depending on the plant variety. Red fruits are more acidic, while yellow and orange fruits are sweeter. Originally called **Tree Tomato**, the marketers in NZ gave this fruit the name Tamarillo. This member of the nightshade and tomato family originated in the Andes of South America.



4. Photo: Eigenes Werk
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What's on in April

Bus trip to Creswick and Lambley Saturday 11 April.

Friends GBG \$45, others \$55. Book with FGBG Office by 7 April.

Discovery Table Sunday 12 April, 1.00 to 3:00 pm.

Discovery Walk, '**National Trust Trees in the GBG**'

Sunday 19 April 2.00 pm. Gold coin donation.

Discovery Walk, '**Gallipoli, plants and war**' in Eastern Park and GBG

Sunday 26 April 2.00 pm. Gold coin donation.

Free Guided Walks other Sundays 2.00 pm, Wednesdays 11.00 am.

The **Friends' Nursery** is open on Wednesdays 9.30 am - 12.30 pm.

In the **Curiosity Cabinet** see the **Bat display**.

Bat Watch School Holiday Activities, 7 and 9 April 5:30 pm.

Booking essential. www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg

Project Wild Things: Free Family Event 15 April 6:00 pm.

www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg

The **Tea House** is open every day.



Over page: Map showing these plants

www.friendsgbg.org.au

Phone: 5222 6053

Geelong Botanic Gardens Map



- 1. Fuchsias
- 2. Cedar trees

- 3. Parrot impatiens or Congo Cockatoo
Impatiens niamniamensis
- 4. Tamarillo or Tree Tomato *Solanum betaceum*



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

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