

Garden Highlights, December 2018

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens

Plants use the energy from sunlight to separate hydrogen from water drawn up from the soil, and release its oxygen into the air. They then combine the hydrogen with the carbon dioxide from the air to make sugar. The sugar becomes the energy source that drives the growth of the plant. Plants turn sugar into starch and protein. These provide food for us and other animals.

In the centre of the gardens you will find many of the plants that give us food. You can see two plants that are uncommon in vegetable gardens. A local plant, eaten in this area for thousands of years is the **Murnong or Yam Daisy** *Microseris*. Its thick roots provide a plentiful source of starch, like a potato. Unfortunately sheep dig out Murnong and have led to it becoming scarce.

The second plant is grown in tropical areas around the world. It is **Sugar Cane** *Saccharum*. The sugar in its stems is extracted and used in food or turned into ethanol to fuel cars.

What's on in December 2018

Friends Christmas Fair: Artwork, Prints, Books, Cards, general merchandise and flowering pelargoniums for sale in the meeting room at the rear of the gardens. Weekend: 1 and 2 December 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Discovery Table:

Sundays 2 and 16 December 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

'More Australian Plants', Themed Walk:

Sunday 9 December 2:00 pm.

Gold coin donation.

Family Christmas Nature Craft Workshop, for children 5-12 years accompanied by an adult. Details and booking on the GBG website. Wednesday 19 December 04:30 - 06:00 pm.

Free Guided Walks: Wednesday 11:00 am, Saturday and Sunday 2:00 pm, except 23, 26, 29, 30 December.

Friends Nursery is open:

Wednesdays 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.

See the **orchid display** in the Curiosity Cabinet.

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



Top: Murnong or Yam Daisy *Microseris scapigera* roots are good to eat, cooked. GBG.

Middle: Murnong *Microseris lanceolata* has a daisy flower.

Photo: Lorraine Oliver, Flickr CC BY-SA 2.0.

Bottom: Sugar Cane *Saccharum* grows tall in the tropics. Photo: Pixabay CC0.



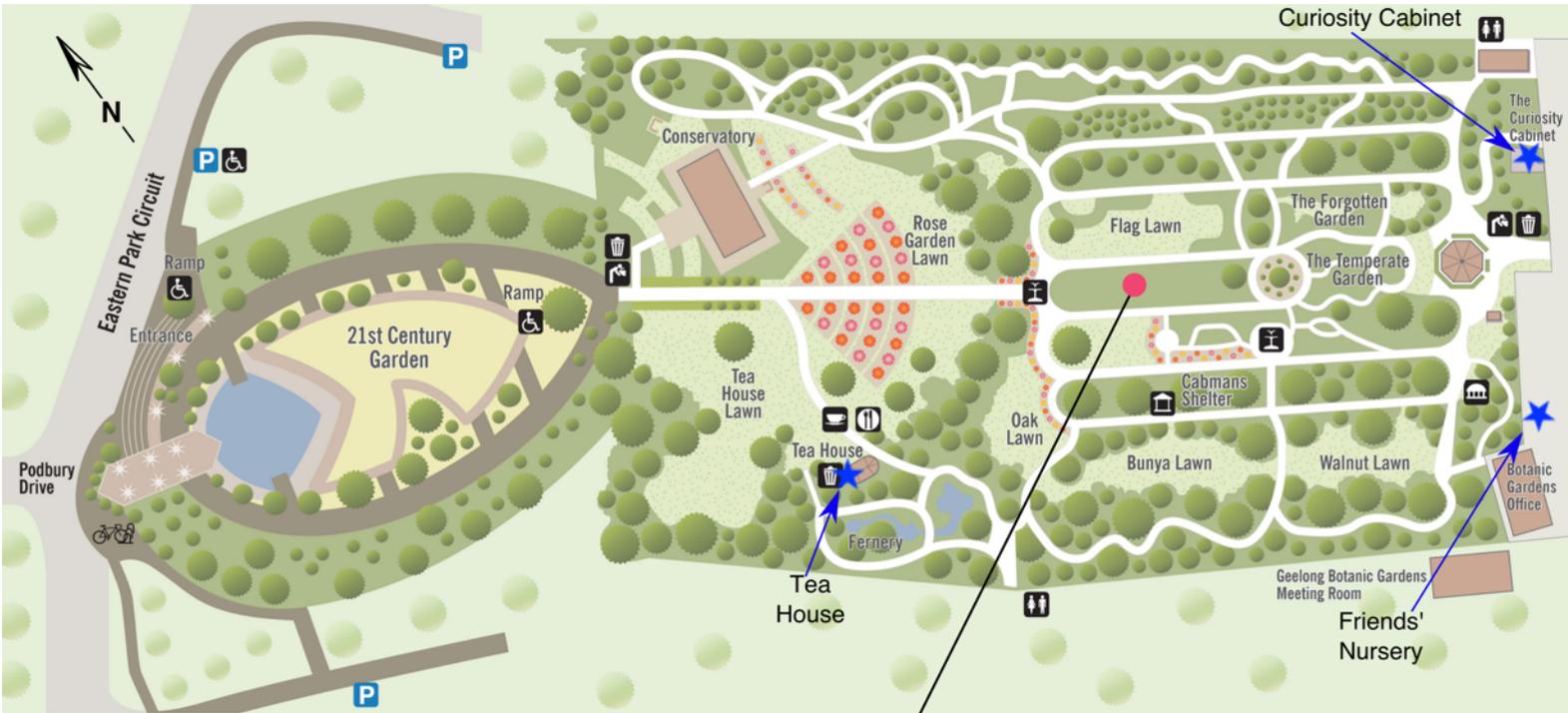
Over page: Map showing plant locations

www.friendsgbg.org.au

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www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/

Geelong Botanic Gardens map



Food plant bed including
Murnong (Yam Daisy)
and Sugar Cane

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