



# scent-sational!

Invisible, yet alluring and evocative of days gone by, fragrance is a must-have in any garden.

**T**he sense of smell was the first and most highly developed of the five senses in primeval peoples. It warned of impending danger and alerted sources of food. But as the world became a more civilised place, the human sense of smell weakened comparative to other animals. And although we're able to distinguish more than 10,000 different scents, some of us lack the genes to detect certain smells, meaning some of us may not notice the most sensational scents our gardens have to offer!

Spicy, musky, rosy, fruity, honey, vanilla or sweetly scented? Whichever your preference, there's sure to be a plant to please. But then scent is a strange thing. What one person finds captivating, another might find repelling. It therefore pays to try before you buy. Heady perfumes, such as the thick, fruity scent of port wine magnolia or opulent

angel's trumpets, have the ability to hang on warm, still air like an invisible cloud. In the right conditions, they'll even waft into your living room! To the sensitive nose they can be overpowering. Most floral scents, however, are pleasantly light and confined to the immediate area of their source, less likely to 'get up your nose'!

Scent is not only about the present. It has the ability to transport us into the past, evoking memories of important events in our lives, happy or sad occasions and, more subliminally, déjà vu. Happening across a fabulously fragrant plant in the garden also tends to switch on other senses, heightening your our awareness of all that surrounds. Suddenly, colours seem brighter, foliage more tactile and tiny noises more audible. As taste and smell are closely related, in the odd case, you may even 'taste' the smell surrounding you!

Quality, reliable plants in  
garden centres ***THIS SPRING!***



**Angel's trumpets**  
(Brugmansia Butterscotch)

### WHEN PLANNING A GARDEN FOR FRAGRANCE

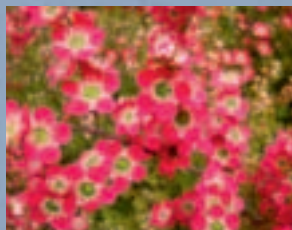
Place scented plants of various heights, from the ground up to at least nose level. It may even go beyond nose level if appropriate, such as training a tall shrub or climber to hug the window frame on a second storey. It's also important to give highly fragrant plants their own space, to avoid clashes of competing perfumes.

There are scores of wonderfully scented plants, from trees to climbers to perennials, such as appetizingly fragrant (but inedible) chocolate cosmos. A great place to start is with scented shrubs – those long-life, easy-care plants that provide ideal fillers, background greenery, and structural hedging. Here are just some of the scented plants you'll find on offer at your garden centre.



#### **Leptospermum 'Electric Red'**

Stunning intense red flowers on a dark foliage shrub make this a stand out compact garden specimen.



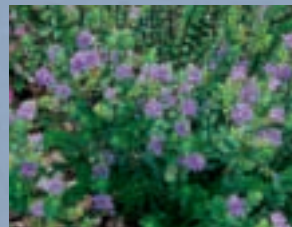
#### **Leptospermum 'Outrageous'**

An abundance of deep red flowers on an attractive shrub with a weeping habit.



#### **Boronia 'Purple Jared'**

A stunning new Boronia with large purple highly scented flowers on a strong vigorous plant.



#### **Hebe 'Champion'**

This wonderful new Hebe has a small rounded leaf, deep olive green on the upper surface and deep maroon underneath.



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## SQUEEZE ME PLEASE

Scented foliage brings another dimension to the garden. Sometimes it takes you by surprise, such as the release of essential oils when brushing past fine leaved plants like diosma and boronia. Coarser foliaged plants require you to initiate the release of scent by bruising a bunch of foliage – so you need to know which plants to grab hold of!

**Breathe** in the astringent fragrance of rosemary to stimulate your mind!

**Walk** over a chamomile lawn to release its sharp apple scent.

**Make** a potpourri of lemon scented myrtle (*Backhousia*) to emit a luscious lemon aroma.

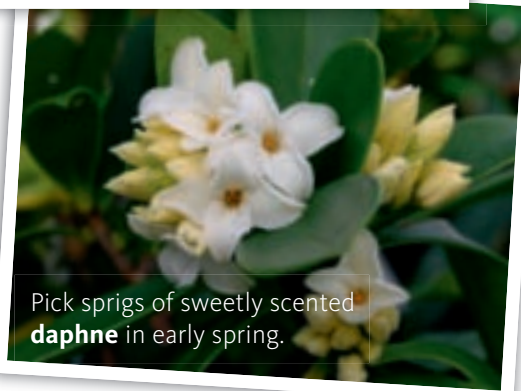
**Crush** spicy, cinnamon scented geranium to evoke thoughts of exotic places.

**Taste** the pungent, peppery foliage of horopito (*Pseudowintera*) for an exciting gastronomic experience!

New **Fairy Magnolia Blush** smells as delicious as it looks.



Pick sprigs of sweetly scented **daphne** in early spring.



**Port wine magnolia** (*Michelia figo*) makes the perfect scented hedge.



## TAKE IT LOW

Prized for its intensely fragrant blooms, **Daphne odora** is an all-time favourite, and deservedly so. It's deliciously sweet, yet fresh, scent is one of the most alluring nature has to offer. **Daphne 'Leucanthe'** is upright and rounded growing to 1m x 1m. **Daphne 'Rubra'** is low and spreading (60cm x 1m), with longer flower stems that are ideal for picking. Other types of daphne are equally as fragrant but generally taller growing. **English lavender** is the preferred type used in lavender oil production and the most fragrant. Its camphorous perfume is as beguiling as its colour. Lavender makes a wonderful low hedge or informal edging for a pathway and is simply stunning when planted en-masse. Much less hardy is the heavenly scented **brown boronia**. Recently released **Boronia 'Purple Jared'** combines the fragrance of brown boronia with the large reddish bells of red boronia. **Camellia 'Quintessence'** is a deliciously fragrant, low mounding camellia. Lesser known and frost tender, but very worthy of a place in mild climate gardens, are pretty pink **Adenandra fragrans** and waxy white **bouvardia**.

## MID-HEIGHT RANGE

The mid-height range includes one of the largest and most loved groups of fragrant plants – **roses**. Most roses have some scent but only a few are intensely fragrant. Modern favourites and winners of 'Most Scented Rose' awards include: 'Aotearoa', 'Margaret Merrill', 'Blackberry Nip' and 2010 new release 'Crème de la Crème'. A rich fragrance is a determining factor in the breeding of all English roses and can be found in any of the old rose groups with Damask,

# Beautiful Plants for Beautiful Gardens

## PLANT SCENTED SHRUBS:

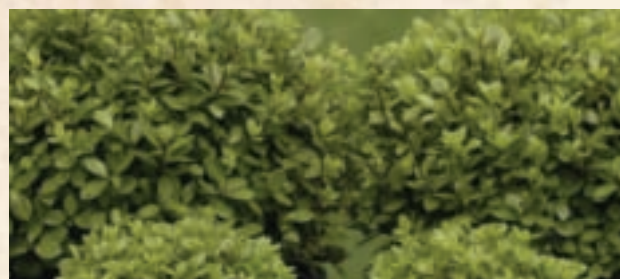
- close to paths and entranceways
- in hidden corners as a surprise
- beside seating areas
- around decks, doorways and windows
- in containers by front entrance
- beside garden gates
- as hedging and screening
- to attract bees, butterflies and beneficial insects

Gallica, Bourbon or Hybrid Perpetual parentage.

**Osmanthus 'Pearly Gates'** is a heavenly scented plant indeed! This hardy plant flowers from mid winter in warmer areas through to spring and as it's quite amenable to clipping, makes an excellent scented hedge or topiary for an entranceway. For frost free areas, there's nothing as alluring as a **gardenia** or **brunfelsia** in full bloom. Choose the variety which best suits your situation.

## NOSE-LEVEL PLUS

At nose-level and above, we're spoilt for choice. Larger growing scented plants make ideal screen and filler planting. Some are well suited to container growing and those with smaller, denser foliage can be trained as topiary or clipped into hedging. Position them in borders adjacent to a pathway or close to an entranceway to ensure their delicious fragrance does not go undetected! In the deciduous, frost hardy category, we have several old-fashioned favourites like **philadelphus**, **lilac**, **witch hazel**, **wintersweet**, **star magnolias** and various scented **viburnums**. Amongst the evergreens, there are a number of highly scented **camellias** and **rhododendrons**. Tolerant of light frost once established, are **buddlejas**, **michelias** and **citrus**. Look out for the latest michelia hybrid, the truly stunning **Fairy Magnolia Blush**. Frost tender, subtropical shrubs, which all possess the most exotic fragrance include: **frangipani**, **luculia** and **angel's trumpets (Brugmansia)**. Seek out a few gaps in your garden and plant fragrance today! 🌱



**Pittosporum 'Goldball' (pvr)**

*Dwarf pittosporum ideal for topiary balls*



**Rosemary 'Chef's Choice'**

*Superior rosemary in flavour and form*



**Arctotis 'Silverdust Series'**

*Vibrant colour for that hot spot*



**Coprosma 'Golden Glow'**

*Striking colours of lime, yellow and orange tones*



*Available at your Garden Centre now*

