

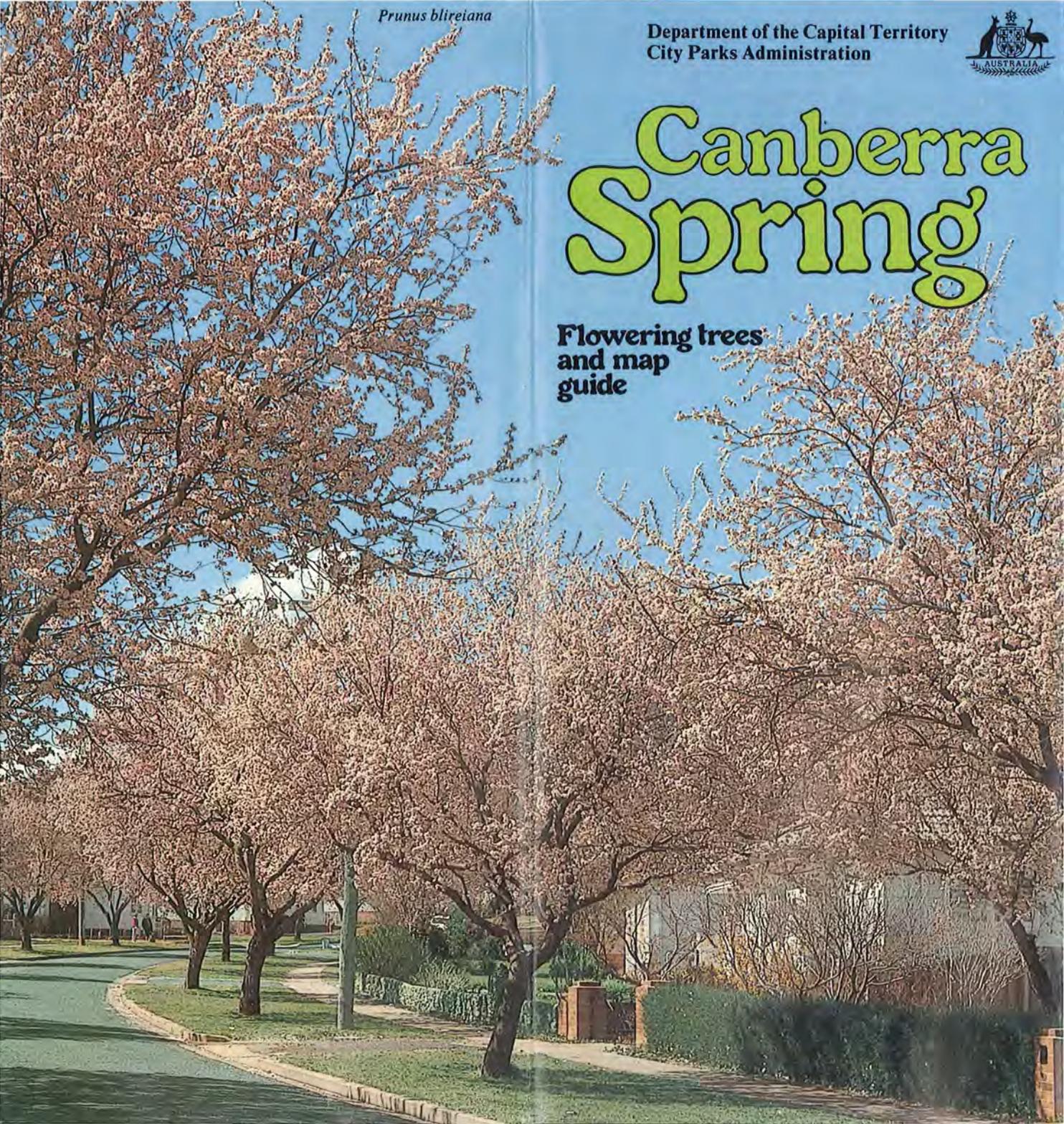
Prunus blireiana

Department of the Capital Territory
City Parks Administration



Canberra Spring

**Flowering trees
and map
guide**



As in other areas which experience hard winters, Canberra's residents and visitors look forward to the warmth of summer which is heralded by a colourful spring season (late August to October) in which the city appears to burst into blossom overnight.

This is brought about by the masses of exotic deciduous species and wattles planted in streets, parklands and home gardens since the early 1900s.

Most of these species flower with remarkable regularity each year, thus enabling the city's planners to design plantings to achieve maximum seasonal effect.

The predictability of flowering time is undoubtedly one of the most fascinating processes of nature although in some years there is variation in the quality and quantity of the blossom produced. This is caused by unseasonal weather patterns at flowering time, or even earlier when buds are being initiated.

Nevertheless, each year spring in Canberra is a most spectacular season, especially in the older, inner areas where there is such a large number of blossom trees intermingled with the native evergreens and coniferous species.

The first of the blossom trees to begin flowering is the Japanese apricot, *Prunus mume*, which on some sites blooms as early as June-July. These lovely trees with their scented pink flowers grow in home gardens and around public buildings. They are not hardy enough for use as street trees.

The most widely planted of the blossom trees are the plums—hardy trees which are generally hybrids or garden forms of the cherry plum of Asia, *Prunus cerasifera*.

The first of this particular group to flower is *P. cerasifera* var. *pissardii*, a broad-headed tree to 9 m with purple summer foliage and masses of small, white, single flowers.

Another single-flowered plum is a cultivar, *P. cerasifera* 'pissardii nigra', similar to the former, but having pink flowers and a more intense purple foliage.

The two double-flowered forms grown in Canberra are the cultivars *P. cerasifera* 'moseri' and *P. cerasifera* 'blireiana'. Both are of pink colouring, the former being earlier, slightly paler and of more spreading growth.

These two cultivars both flower a little later than the single types.

Following on from the plums is the ornamental peach, *Prunus persica*, a spectacular species with both single and double flowers borne in dense clusters along the stems. These generally begin flowering in September and are seen in shades of white, pink and red.

A little later, in October, the flowering cherries and crab apples begin blooming to provide a continuity of vivid colour beginning in August.

Good specimens of cherries and crab apples may be seen in the grounds of the Government Nursery at Yarralumla and in Weston Park adjoining the Nursery. Other notable stands of crab apples are in the grounds of the Australian National University.

One of the hardiest of the spring blossom trees is the hawthorn, *Crataegus* sp., either white or pink flowered. Flinders Way in Manuka has these trees interplanted with plums and as a result the street presents a spectacular appearance in spring.

Home gardens throughout the city also feature these species and many others such as magnolias, forsythias, spireas, chaenomeles and ribes.

Other blossom trees of note are the wattles, particularly *Acacia baileyana*, the Cootamundra wattle, which is extensively planted throughout the city's park system. It may also be seen at the National Botanic Gardens on Black Mountain.

The Gardens house the largest collection of Australian native flora in the world and are well worth a visit in spring to see the large range of native plants in flower in a natural setting.

The National Rose Gardens situated in the foreground of Parliament House are ablaze with colour from November onwards thus extending the spring season a little longer.

Some outstanding plantings are described in the following list. However, a drive or a stroll through some of the older suburbs such as Forrest, Griffith, Barton and Yarralumla on the south side of the city, and to Reid, Turner, Ainslie, Braddon and O'Connor on the north side will enable the visitor to see a wide range of spring flowering trees and shrubs in home gardens as well as public parks.



NORTH CANBERRA

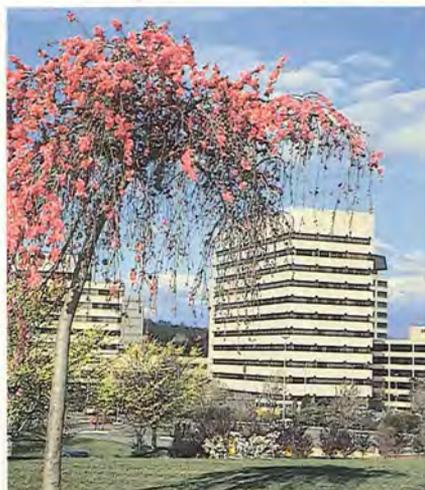
Botanical name	Common name	Location
<i>Crataegus acerifolia</i> , <i>C. crus-galli</i>	Hawthorn	Bagot St, Turner Hannan Cres, Ainslie
	Hawthorn	Hay St, Turner Blamey Pl, Campbell
<i>C. oxyacantha</i> 'rosea'	Hawthorn	Baker Gardens, Ainslie Banfield St, Downer Leslie St, Ainslie Berrigan St, O'Connor
<i>C. smithiana</i>	Hawthorn	Earle St, Lyneham Way St, O'Connor
<i>Malus</i> spp.	Crab apple	Bowen Park, Barton Australian National University Fisher St, Ainslie
<i>M. soningensis</i>	Crab apple	Lucas Pl, Downer
<i>M. spectabilis</i>	Crab apple	Yarrow Pl, Lyneham Darley Pl, Watson Colton Pl, Downer
<i>Prunus blireiana</i>	Blireiana plum	Lister St, Ainslie
<i>P. cerasifera</i> (mixed)	Plum	City Hill
<i>P. cerasifera</i> 'nigra'	Black plum	Paterson St, Ainslie Chaffey St, Ainslie Lomandra St, O'Connor Macarthur Ave, O'Connor
<i>P. mume</i>	Flowering apricot	Coolac Pl, Braddon Dickson College, Majura Ave Bull St, Downer Pigot St, Dickson
<i>P. persica</i>	Flowering peach	Limestone Ave, Ainslie Dickson Shopping Centre
<i>P. yedoensis</i>	Flowering cherry	Yapunya St, O'Connor
Australian native species		National Botanic Gardens, Black Mountain

SOUTH CANBERRA

Botanical name	Common name	Location
<i>Amygdalus pollardii</i>	Flowering almond	Quiros St, Red Hill
<i>Crataegus oxyacantha</i> var. <i>rosea</i>	Hawthorn	Flinders Way, Griffith Stokes St, Griffith Tennyson Cres, Forrest
<i>Malus</i> spp.	Crab apple	Ferguson Cres, Deakin Daly St, Deakin Collins Park, Forrest
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'moseri'	Cherry plum	Reliance St, Red Hill
<i>P. cerasifera</i> 'blireiana'	Blireiana plum	Hobart Ave, Forrest Sydney Ave, Forrest Tamar St, Red Hill
<i>P. cerasifera</i> 'nigra'	Black plum	Banks St, Yarralumla Broome Cres, Yarralumla Caley Pl, Narrabundah Keira St, Narrabundah Tungun Cres, Narrabundah Euroka Cres, Narrabundah Bungonia Cres, Narrabundah Telopea Park, Kingston Monaro Cres, Griffith La Perouse St, Griffith Wentworth Ave, Kingston Brisbane Ave, Barton
<i>P. persica</i>	Flowering peach	Captain Cook Cres, Manuka Eastern end of Telopea Park
<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Manchurian pear	Carruthers St, Curtin Kitchener St, Hughes Norman St, Deakin
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> (early summer flowering)	Black locust	Empire Crct, Deakin



1. *Prunus persica* (Telopea Park)
2. *Magnolia stellata* (left), *Prunus subhirtella pendula* (Yarralumla Nursery)
3. *Ulex europaeus flor-plena* (City Hill)
4. *Prunus persica pendula* (City Hill)
5. *Acacia baileyana*
6. National Rose Garden (Parliament House)
7. *Malus floribunda purpurea*



Canberra Spring

Areas of spring colour

SCALE

km 0 1 km

Map by Australian Survey Office, Canberra

