What’s Blooming—September 2022

**Butterfly Plants**
September is a great month for butterflies as a lot of their favorite flowers are blooming!

- **Butterfly Pentas**
  - Pentas lanceolata

- **Powderpuff**
  - Calliandra spp.

- **Giant Milkweed**
  - Calotropis gigantea

- **Firebush**
  - Hamelia patens

- **Blue Butterfly**
  - Clerodendrum ugandense

- **Yellow Cestrum**
  - Cestrum aurantiacum

- **Porterweed**
  - Stachytarpheta jamaicensis

- **Monkey Brush Vine**
  - Combretum rotundifolium

- **Periwinkle**
  - Vinca sp.

- **Fiddlewood**
  - Citharexylum spinosum

- **Wild Coffee**
  - Psychotria nervosa

- **Blue sky vine**
  - (Thunbergia grandiflora) adorns the trellis across the Larchmont Avenue entrance to the museum and garden shoppe.

- **Florida native plants**
  - Fiddlewood, wild coffee, and American beautyberry (center) Callicarpa americana are blooming and fruiting this month.

**Wild Tamarind**
Lysiloma latisiliquum
This “garden gem” found on the Ford property is the larval host plant for the orange sulfur, mimosa yellow, and Cassius blue butterflies!

**Chenille Plant**
Acalypha hispida

**Ylang Ylang**
Cananga odorata

**Night-Blooming Cactus**
Hylocereus spp.

**Bottlebrush Tree**
Callistemon spp.

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You’ll find white poinciana (Delonix elata) blooming on the east side of the property near the overflow parking. Like its cousin the royal poinciana this flower has five petals with one extra colorful one called the flag petal.

Bromeliads (pronounced bro—me—lee—ad) of all shapes and colors are flowering this month. You can find these plants - all native to the tropical Americas - throughout the property, but they are especially plentiful in the new Research Gardens near the Marlyn Road entrance. Did you know that the pineapple is a bromeliad, and that when it was first introduced to Europe they sold for the equivalent of $1000s of dollars?

Funky Fruits
Pictured below are some of the more unusual fruiting plants currently active at the Estates.

Instead of seeing the bird-of-paradise flower (Strelitzia reginae) as the bird in picture #1, try seeing it as the bird in picture #2. Of course, it’s like staring at clouds; there is no “correct answer,” and the long flower stalk does look like a slender bird’s neck. You be the judge!