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## Alive with colour this autumn

As the leaves start to fall throughout Canberra's suburbs and we prepare for the cooler months, come and see the beautiful autumn display of native blooms at the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

The bright red spikes of the bottle brush, the distinctive bell-shaped flowers of the correa and the golden banksias are just some of the flowering delights you'll see while strolling along the Gardens' paths.

"Now is a great time to visit us as there is so much in flower," David Taylor, Curator of Living Collections says.

"Our Australian garden has really responded to all the summer rain we've had. The regular rainfall combined with lower than average temperatures this year has triggered a tremendous growth spurt. Many plants are continuing to grow at a time when we normally see them slowing down."

Visiting the Gardens is a great way to get some inspiration for your own garden. Take *Banksia spinulosa* for example – no garden should be without these plants. They come in all shapes and sizes – from a small shrub, ideal for the smallest garden or balcony, through to a small tree.

"Once it's established, this particular banksia is almost guaranteed to have flowers every autumn – and it withstands our winter frosts," David says.

"With bright gold, red or orange flowers, it also attracts a range of nectar feeding birds who frequently visit the Gardens throughout autumn and winter."

Not only can the Australian National Botanic Gardens give you ideas for autumn native flowering plants in your own garden, it's also a great place to spend a relaxing autumn day. From kids' storytelling, school holiday programs, exhibitions, guided walks and talks, there is something to suit everyone.

The Australian National Botanic Gardens is the world's most comprehensive display of living Australian native plants. With over 6,000 species representing one-third of known Australian plants, the Gardens is the only place in the world you can see this diversity of Australian native plants in one location.

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