

Queens Gardens – Townsville Botanic Gardens

Visitors to Townsville's Queens Gardens can experience the wonderful diversity offered by British Colonial plants in an environment of tropical exotic splendour. Initiated in 1870 in North Ward, the four hectare garden is the oldest of three botanic gardens in Townsville and provides a serene haven close to the city.

The grounds were established as a trial garden for the European settlement, but nowadays provide a brilliant palette of ornamental plants with colourful, attractive foliage or flowers. The tropical flowering trees, bromeliads, climbers and heliconias are particularly spectacular.

Current collections include a tropical rainforest with canopy of banyans, raintrees and blue quandong underplanted with palms, aroids, ferns and bromeliads; a palm lawn featuring a fine specimen of a stolen date palm (*Phoenicophorium*); a rose and herb garden and arbours clothed in stunning climbers and vines.



The latest additions to the garden are the exotic perennial borders which provide a stately entrance from Paxton Street. Swathes of *Codiaeum*, *Draceana* and *Cordyline* of which Queens Park has a rich history dominate the borders, and are punctuated by scores of African cycads, agaves, yuccas and bromeliads against a backdrop of mature golden cane and regal silver date palms.

Queens Gardens hosts many events through the cooler months including Shakespeare productions, Eco-Fiesta, Chamber Music Festival and numerous weddings and private functions. Children are well catered for with the maze, playground and bird aviaries.

Completing the family of Townsville Botanic Gardens is The Palmetum, which holds one of the world's most comprehensive collections of palms, and Anderson Gardens which displays native plants and species from dry tropical regions.

The gardens are free and open every day from dawn until dusk.

