

Amomyrtus luma**Luma****Chile Argentina**

This very distinctive large shrub or small tree has small dark glossy leaves and bronze coloured bark which glistens when wet. It has showy clusters of white flowers and is yet another plant that has connections with other parts of the former Gondwanan continent. It is in the Myrtle family of plants which also includes the *Eucalyptus* from Australia. Like many other members of this family such as Guava and the Malay apple and Lillypilly, the fruits are edible. It enjoys being close to streams and can be seen growing well in the lower part of the South American Gully where the moisture from the stream keeps the atmosphere damp.

Fuchsia arborescens**Tree Fuchsia****Central America**

Fuchsias may range from tiny ground covers through the more familiar types with colourful, tubular flowers to this tree form. The leaves are dark, glossy green and the long-tubed flowers are wine red with delicate pink centres that hang in panicles. The flowers are followed by fleshy red fruit, now ripening in various colours from pale pink to deep red. The tree is happiest with some shade and although there are no hummingbird pollinators in Adelaide, our honeyeaters are enthusiastic pollinators.

Tibouchina urvilleana**Princess flower****Brazil**

The large purple flowers of *Tibouchina* are a feature of the Gully at this time of the year. Also called glory bush or princess flower, this evergreen shrub grows to a large shrub or small tree. It has furry prominently veined leaves and large, open, rich purple flowers, with unusual stamens of differing lengths and anthers with appendages of different colours and lengths.

Lepechinia salvia**Chilean pitcher sage****Chile**

Very closely related to salvia, *lepechinia* has aromatic grey arrowhead shaped leaves and purple-pink spikes of flowers. It is apparently drought tolerant once established. The genus was named for the Russian botanist Ivan Ivanovich Lepechin.

Desfontainia spinosa**Chilean holly****Costa Rica to Tierra del Fuego**

A slow - growing, evergreen shrub, with holly like leaves and long, funnel shaped flowers; when freshly opened, the flowers are red with an attractive yellow tip that is lost as the flower matures and becomes uniformly red. Pollination of the flower is usually by a hummingbird and results in a yellowish berry. Commonly growing as a terrestrial shrub in temperate rainforests, the Chilean holly will occasionally grow as an epiphyte on *Fitzroya*, one of the southern hemisphere conifers. Named in honour of the French botanist, R L Desfontaines.

Eucryphia cordifolia**Ulmo****Chile**

As one ascends South American Gully, please do look up and ahead on your right. There is a beautiful display of flowers on a tall tree, *Eucryphia cordifolia*, which shouldn't be missed! This tree from Chile is a relative of the Tasmanian leatherwood which gives nectar for Tasmanian bees to create the famous leatherwood honey. In Chile the introduced European bees also make similar ulmo honey.

The *Eucryphia* genus is only found in the southern hemisphere and so provides evidence of a Gondwanan distribution. The trees grow in temperate rainforest and on moist rocky slopes. They need ample summer water and they dislike frost; our specimen is in the perfect spot.

EB, DS, RH2, PL, RH, JH Jan 25