

What's blooming in February

Pachystachys lutea



Golden Candles



Native to	Central and South America
Preferred growing conditions	Morning sun afternoon shade
Drought resistant	Yes
Position in Parkland	Patches of Golden Candles are to be found in Spectacle Garden and in the Tropical Garden near our children's playground

From Central and South America this plant is a close relative of the Shrimp Plant (*Justica* spp.). It is a tropical plant but grows very well in Brisbane provided that it is grown in dappled conditions. A position receiving morning sun and afternoon shade also suits it very well though they do grow in full sun in protected positions. They are grown for their striking yellow appendages which are not actually flowers. These are bracts which enclose the small, fairly insignificant white flowers.

Golden Candles is a great plant to use in one's garden for they flower continuously throughout the year in Brisbane. They do slow down in the colder winter months but even then show plenty of flower. They prefer a soil rich in organic matter which must be well drained. A light cut back, by about one third, in early spring will re-invigorate the plant for a full season's growth. The plant grows to between 90 to 120 cm tall and is a great plant to use as a backdrop in one's garden.

Written by Bob Dobbs, Roma Street Parkland Curator