



**SOUTH TEXAS
BOTANICAL
GARDENS
& NATURE CENTER**

“Blooming in the Gardens”

LIBRARY 2026



BLOOMING IN THE GARDENS

(week of January 4, 2026)

Expanding its horticulture, environmental education and conservation mission,

BLOOMING IN THE BOTANICAL GARDENS, each week spotlights a featured tropical and native plant—to enjoy on a visit this week, try in your landscape, or simply increase your horticultural knowledge.

Each year of “BLOOMS” is archived on our website for your own Horticulture Library.

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DAISY ORCHID (*Bulbophyllum makoyanum*)

Daisy orchid (*Bulbophyllum makoyanum*), native to lowland forests of South East Asian Islands of Singapore, Malaysia & Philippines, is a dainty orchid with pale pink/peach petal-like structures which fan out like half a daisy flower, very different than most commonly-known orchids. Closer inspection shows each pseudo-petal reveals a tiny individual orchid flower!

This species flowers intermittently throughout the year producing a 1-1.5" inflorescence on the end of a thin flower stalk 6-10" long, raising the flower above the 4-8" pseudobulb foliage.

See this unusual specimen in a hanging basket in the front section of Samuel Jones Orchid Conservatory.



FIDDLEWOOD (*Citharexylum berlandieri*)

Fiddlewood is a large drought-tolerant shrub growing naturally in well-drained clay & clay loam soils in brush thickets along the Coastal & Rio Grande Plains. While commonly 6-10' tall, it may grow up to 18' in moist conditions. Plants can be trimmed into dense shrubs or small trees, growing in full sun or partial shade.

Fiddlewood has dark green glossy leaves about 1.5" wide & 3" long. Fiddlewood currently is blooming with long clusters of tiny, white, fragrant flowers (about a fourth inch across) on tips of branches. Warm fall temperatures have extended flowering season thus creating nectar sources for fall/winter butterflies & pollen sources for bees. After pollination, Fiddlewood plants produce orange-red berries eaten by songbirds.

Fiddlewood is a woody member of the Verbena Family (Verbenaceae) along with lantanas, vervains, frog fruit & vitex. Fiddlewood refers to other species of *Citharexylum*, used to construct violins. This Texas native form goes by several common names including Berlandier's Fiddlewood, named after French-Swiss physician Jean Louis Berlandier (1805-1850) who collected plants in Texas & northern Mexico in the early 1800s. It also may be called Tamaulipan Fiddlewood, Zitherwood, Negrito, Orcajuela, Encorba Gallina, Revienta-Cabra, Sauco Hediondo.



See both blooming & berried Fiddlewood between the Butterfly House & Samuel Jones Orchid Conservatory.