

Plant of the Month — June 2019

Thelymitra pulcherrima Jeanes



Thelymitra pulcherrima (Northern Queen of Sheba) is widely regarded as one of the most spectacular and showy orchids of Australia, and in fact the species name is derived from the Latin *pulcher* meaning beautiful. This early flowering species (June to early September) is endemic to WA and can be found between Lancelin and Dongara, where it grows in open areas among shrubs in laterite soils or occasionally sandy soils.

The Northern Queen of Sheba is one of three species of Queen of Sheba that occur in south-west WA, the other two being the Southern Queen of Sheba (*T. variegata*) and the Eastern Queen of Sheba (*T. speciosa*). The Northern Queen of Sheba is easily distinguished by its distinct pink petals and reddish sepals.

Photo: R. Davis

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