Nymphaeaceae
Nymphaea gigantea
giant waterlily

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ETYMOLOGY	(nim-FEE-a) Linnaeus 1753; Greek from nymphe = water nymph; The species gigantea (jy GAN-tee-ah) exceptional large; giant compared to other members of the genus;
LIFEFORM	Aquatic 1-3 m deep
STATUS	Previously Rare under the Qld Nature Conservation Act 3R; Found Across Northern Australia down east coast to Northern eastern NSW (NG)
OCCURS	Qld, NSW, Strangways River NT
HABITAT	Tropical Freshwater, Lagoons, Billabongs
LEAVES	Floating,10-75 cm, round regularly spaced teeth 4 m margin. The basal slit often overlapping;
FLOWERS	Blue, purple to white 25 cm blunt rounded petals, stamens incurved towards the centre Scented yellow tips 1.5 mm on anthers
	Flowering times Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April, May, June, July
FRUIT	Berries, 5 x 7.5 cm, arillate which matures underwater contains numerous seeds with red coat;
ROOTS	Rhizomatous, perennial, strobili pendulous, rooting at intervals
STEM	Floating, terminating short branches, main stems 5 m, creeping above ground, appressed to substrate, erect much branched glabrous or hairy;
ETHNOBOTANY	Edible seeds, leaves better if fried;
WILDLIFE	Flower very fragrant visited by native bees, small beetles, small flies attracted by smell colour and food value of stamens; Seeds eaten by water birds;
INDIGENOUS USES	Edible plant Leaf and flower stalks are peeled and eaten raw; Seeds can be ground into flour to made damper; tubers are staple food; Raw fruit eaten and the rootstalks eaten after baking
ID FEATURES	Flower are very fragrant, pollen saturation of the stigma precedes that anthers preventing self-pollination;

My garden is part of a Pollinator Link