

Communiqué

The Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden wishes to inform visitors and the general public that the current visual state of the *Nenuphar* (water lily) pond reflects a normal and seasonal phase in the plant's growth cycle.

In its natural habitat (Amazon Bassin, Brazil), the *Victoria* water lily is exposed to uniform day length of approximately 12 hours and water temperatures between 28-30°C throughout the year. Thus, the plant remains as a perennial.

In Mauritius, during the cooler months, typically from June to October, the light intensity is low along with the temperature, so *Nenuphars* naturally enter a dormant or regrowth stage, where leaf density and floral display reduce significantly. Later, the leaves wither. The effects of winter damage are browning of the edges and appearance of brown spots on the leaves. The winter season allows the plants to rest and regenerate.

As temperatures and daylight increase towards the end of the year, the pond gradually returns to full bloom, with the familiar vibrant green leaves and colourful flowers usually appearing between November and April.

The Garden's team regularly monitors water quality, sediment levels, and plant health to ensure optimal conditions for regeneration. Daily maintenance works, such as cleaning, pruning, removal of aquatic weeds and removal of senescent leaves are part of this ecological management process.

We thank all visitors for their understanding and continued appreciation of the Garden's living heritage.

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden Trust

Pamplemousses

17 October 2025