



ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY

Low Water Plants



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

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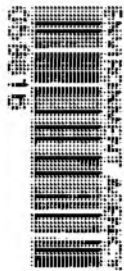
ANGLIAN REGION

Kingfisher House, Goldhay Way,
Orton Goldhay,
Peterborough PE2 5ZR

(Suggestions put forward for possible insertion to National Water Resources PR Strategy)
(in terms of low water use, aesthetics, and availability)

EA - Anglian Water - Radsburn

Low Water Plants				
Annuals/Perennials	Groundcover	Shrubs	Climbers	Ornamental Grass
Alpine Primula Bergenias Bleeding Heart (Dicentra Spectabilis) Californian Poppies Geranium Hollyhocks Iris Lavertera Marigold Nasturtiums Petunias Red Hot Poker	Alyssum Aubreta Cat Mint (Nepta) Ice Plant (Sedum) 'Spectabile/Rub Lambs' Ears (Stachys Byzantina) Straw Flower (Helichrysum) Periwinkle (Vinca Minor) Pinks (Dianthus)	Broom (Cytisus) Forsythia Hebe Lavender Periwinkle (Vinca Major) Rock Rose Sage Snowberry Thyme Viburnum 'Davidii' Yucca	Clematis 'Montana' Honeysuckle Ivy Jasmin Vine 'Purpura' Virginia Creeper Wisteria	Blue Fescue Maiden Grass Pampas Grass Sedge (Carex) - Frosted Curls



Annuals/
Perennials

PRIMULA Rockery Primrose

Primula is a large and complex genus. The flowers nearly always have a Primrose shape and they either droop gracefully or are held erect. There are hardly any general rules about cultivation — humus-rich soil and some shade are nearly always needed but the Primulas vary from easy-to-grow favourites which succeed anywhere to some of the so-called Asian varieties which offer a real challenge. The dividing line between the Rockery Primroses and the ones grown in the herbaceous border is not clear-cut. The Common Primrose, Polyanthus and the Drumstick Primrose are often planted in rock gardens, whereas the Auriculas described below are frequently used as front-of-the-border subjects.

VARIETIES: The fleshy-leaved Auricula (*P. auricula*) is an old favourite — height 6 in., spread 6 in., flowering period March–April. Clusters of large flowers in a range of colour combinations are borne on the flower stalks. *P. juliae* has a different growth habit. It is a carpeting plant — height 3 in., spread 1 ft., flowering period March–May. It is best known for its hybrids with their short-stemmed flowers nestling in the leaves — examples are *P. 'Wanda'* (wine-coloured) and *P. 'Victory'* (purple). *P. rosea* (height 6 in., spread 6 in.) is often recommended for its bright pink flowers which appear in the spring, but it will not thrive unless you can provide very moist soil. *P. vialii* is an unusual Primula — quite tall (height 1 ft., spread 1 ft.), it flowers in June and July and the flower-heads have the appearance of a Red Hot Poker. *P. marginata* is a small plant (height 4 in., spread 6 in.) which blooms in early April — clusters of sweet-smelling blue or purple flowers above the meaty leaves. 'Linda Pope' is the best variety. *P. edgeworthii* is a very early Primula, blooming in February. Attractive, with yellow-eyed mauve flowers, but difficult to grow in most areas of Britain. The baby of the family is *P. minima* — height 2 in., spread 6 in., flowering period April–May. The flower stalks bearing large pink blooms arise from the centre of the leaf rosettes.

SITE & SOIL: Well-drained, moisture-retentive soil in light shade is the usual requirement.

PROPAGATION: Plant cuttings under glass in summer or divide clumps after flowering.



BERGENIA Large-leaved Saxifrage

Bergenia is a splendid ground cover for a herbaceous or mixed border. It thrives under shrubs and trees, spreads rapidly when the conditions are favourable and provides colour nearly all year round. The large and leathery leaves are bright green, turning red in autumn. Above them rise the flower-heads in spring. Hyacinth-like spikes bearing white, pink, red or purple bell-shaped flowers. It will grow in all types of soils, including wet peats and dry chalks.

VARIETIES: The basic species is *B. cordifolia* — height 1½ ft., spacing 1½ ft., flowering period March–April. The deep pink flowers are borne in drooping sprays — the variety *purpurea* has pale purple flowers. *B. crassifolia*, a similar species, bears upright flower-heads. Nowadays a number of named hybrids are available — make your choice from this group. Amongst the best are *B. 'Ballawley'* (rose-red), *B. 'Silberlicht'* (white, tinged pink) and *B. 'Sunningdale'* (deep lilac).

SITE & SOIL: Any well-drained garden soil will do — thrives in sun or partial shade.

PROPAGATION: When plants are large and overcrowded, divide the clumps in autumn.



B. cordifolia



DICENTRA Bleeding Heart

Dicentra has collected many common names during its long history as a cottage garden plant. It flourishes in humus-rich soil under tall shrubs and trees, the arching stems above the ferny leaves bearing curiously-shaped flowers which give rise to the popular names such as Dutchman's Breeches and Lady in the Bath. Choose a sheltered spot at the front of the border or plant them to provide ground cover in a woodland garden. Applying a mulch each May is the only treatment required by this easy-to-grow old favourite.

VARIETIES: The most popular Dicentra is the largest — *D. spectabilis*. The basic details are height 2–3 ft., spacing 1½ ft., flowering period May–June. The rosy red, locket-like flowers bear protruding white petals and hang from the arching stems. This species is not always the best choice — it dies down after flowering and can be damaged by spring frosts. These faults are not shared by the smaller leathery-leaved species — *D. formosa* (1–1½ ft.) and *D. eximia* (1½ ft.).

SITE & SOIL: Any well-drained garden soil will do — thrives best in light shade.

PROPAGATION: Divide clumps in autumn or spring — be careful not to break the brittle roots.



D. spectabilis



Eschscholzia californica

ESCHSCHOLZIA California Poppy

HA

A drift of Californian Poppies in full flower is a colourful sight in summer, but it won't be if your soil is rich and the plants are in partial shade. The flowers are not long-lived but they continue to appear over a long period and the silky petals fluttering in the breeze are part of our garden scenery. After flowering the plants will produce self-sown seedlings — clear them away.

VARIETIES: *E. californica* produces golden yellow flowers in the wild, but there are now hybrids in many colours. For a rainbow mixture grow 'Art Shades' (frilled petals, semi-double) or 'Ballerina' (fluted petals, semi-double or double). Some people prefer single colours — choose 'Cherry Ripe' (cense), 'Orange King' (orange) or the dwarf 'Miniature Primrose' (yellow).

SITE & SOIL: A well-drained soil in full sun is necessary.

PLANT DETAILS: Height 6 in. - 1½ ft. Spacing 6 in. Flowering period June - September.

PROPAGATION: Dislikes root disturbance. Sow seeds in September where they are to flower — April sowing is often recommended but is less satisfactory.



E. californica

GERANIUM Rock Geranium

There are several species of Rock Geranium which flourish in the rockery. All are easy to grow if the site is not shady and the soil is free draining. The only enemies are wet ground and slugs in the spring — scatter Slug Pellets around the stems. The lobed leaves are grey or green, depending on the species, and the pink or red flowers are often prominently veined.

VARIETIES: *G. cinereum* is a popular species — height 6 in., spread 1 ft., flowering period May - September. The deep pink 1 in. flowers are dark-centred and veined — the leaves are greyish green. *G. dalmaticum* has the same height and spread, but the flowering period is shorter (June - August) and the pale pink blooms are not veined. The glossy leaves turn red in autumn. A large-flowered variety is *G. subcaulescens* 'Splendens' (deep pink flowers May - September) and *G. 'Ballerina'* (dark-veined lilac flowers May - September) is a popular hybrid.

SITE & SOIL: Any well-drained soil — thrives best in full sun.

PROPAGATION: Divide clumps in autumn or spring.



Geranium cinereum



Althaea rosea 'Chater's Double'

ALTHAEA Hollyhock

HA, HB or HP

The familiar Hollyhock is the giant of the flower garden, its tall spires of large, funnel-shaped flowers providing summer colour at the back of herbaceous borders or in cottage gardens. Nearly all colours apart from blue are available. It can be grown as a perennial but rust disease soon ruins older plants — it is better to treat it as a biennial or to grow one of the annual varieties.

VARIETIES: *A. rosea* is the Common Hollyhock and there are both single and double varieties from which to make your choice. 'Chater's Double' is the one most usually grown. If you want to grow Althaea as an annual then choose an early-flowering variety such as 'Majorette' or 'Summer Carnival'.

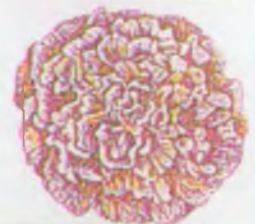
SITE & SOIL: Any reasonable garden soil will do — thrives in a sunny, sheltered spot. Stake on exposed sites.

PLANT DETAILS: Height 6 - 9 ft (annual vars. 3 - 6 ft). Spacing 2 ft (annual vars. 15 in.) Flowering period July - September.

PROPAGATION: Take cuttings in autumn or sow in June — follow the Biennial technique (page 83). Sow annual varieties under glass in February.



A. rosea



A. rosea
Powder Puffs



Iris Jane Phillips

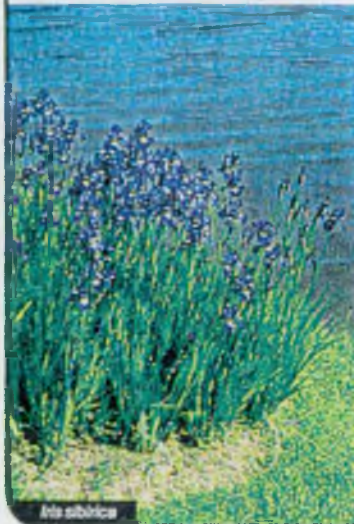
IRIS Iris

Iris are a vast group of plants ranging from bold-flowering specimens with 4 ft stems to tiny alpines peeping above the earth. Classification is complex, but getting a working knowledge of the main types is not difficult. There are two basic groups — the *Bulb* group (see page 118) and the *Rhizome* group described below, which spread by means of a thickened underground stem which creeps along horizontally. This latter group contains the most popular ones and they are dominated by the Bearded Irises (see the illustration for recognition details). The thick rhizomes bear a fan of flat, broad leaves at the tips and should be planted soon after the flowers have faded, choosing a day between midsummer and early autumn when the soil is moist. Set the rhizomes about 1 ft apart — leave the top half uncovered but if the soil is sandy completely cover the rhizome. Trim the tops off the leaves. Most gardeners look no further than the Bearded Irises but as listed below there is a wide range of interesting Beardless Irises.

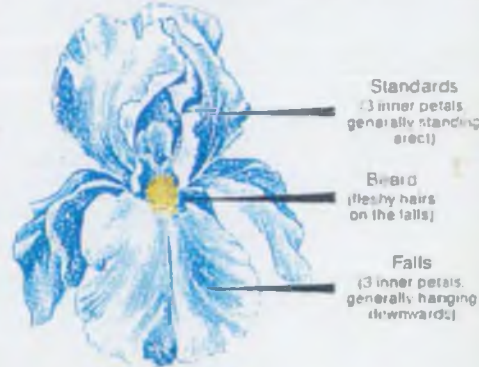
VARIETIES: The Bearded Irises have been given many true and false names — Flag Iris, German Iris, *I. germanica* and June Iris. The 3 sections are based on height and are derived from several species. The *Fall* section (2½ ft or over, June flowering) includes thousands of hybrids — a few names are 'Party Dress' (flamingo pink), 'Jane Phillips' (pale blue), 'Frost and Flame' (white, red beard), 'Top Flight' (apricot) and 'State Island' (gold standards, red falls). The *Intermediate* section (9 in. – 2½ ft, May flowering) also has many named hybrids — such as 'Golden Fair' (yellow) and 'Pione' (purple). The *Dwarf* section (under 9 in., April flowering) are for the front of the border or the rockery. These Irises are much less popular than the taller ones — look for 'Blue Doll' or 'Bright White'. A bearded novelty is the evergreen Gladwyn Iris (*I. loetidissima*), grown for its decorative orange seeds. The Beardless Irises are separated into several sections — some of the popular ones include the *Sibericas* (*I. sibirica* 'Perry's Blue', 3 ft, June–July, moisture-loving), *Winter-flowering Irises* (*I. stylosa*, 1 ft, November–February, sun-loving), *Water Irises* (*I. pseudacorus*, 2½ ft, May–June, water-loving) and *Bog Irises* (*I. kaempferi*, 2½ ft, June–July, wet soil-loving).

SITE & SOIL: Bearded Irises require well-drained soil and full sun.

PROPAGATION: Divide rhizomes in late summer every few years. Discard old and damaged portions.



Iris sibirica



Bearded Iris



Iris stylosa

IRIS Rockery Iris

Irises come in a bewildering variety of shapes and sizes, and they can be found in several parts of the garden and in two other sections of this book. From the border perennial section you can choose one of the many Dwarf Bearded hybrids of *I. pumila* — amongst the bulbs there are such rock garden favourites as *I. reticulata* and *I. danfordiae*. Described below are the most popular rockery perennials.

VARIETIES: The flowering time for Rockery Irises is May and June. Flower colours and heights are variable — individual plants may differ widely from the following details: *I. cristata* (purple and gold flowers, height 4 in., spread 6 in.), *I. lacustris* (lilac, yellow and white flowers, height 3 in., spread 6 in.), *I. innominata* (gold and brown flowers, height 6 in., spread 9 in.) and *I. douglasiana* (lilac and yellow flowers, height 1 ft, spread 2 ft).

SITE & SOIL: Requires well-drained, lime-free soil — thrives in sun or light shade.

PROPAGATION: Divide rhizomes in late summer every few years.



Iris innominata



Calendula officinalis 'Fiesta Gitana'

CALENDULA Pot Marigold

HA

This old garden plant was once widely used as a kitchen herb but now it is grown as a trouble-free, summer-flowering annual. Like radishes in the vegetable garden, the Pot Marigold is a favourite starter plant for young children. A pinch of seed in spring and in about 10 weeks masses of flowers appear above the hairy, pungent leaves. Pinch out growing points on young stems to encourage bushiness.

VARIETIES: There are now many variations on the flat, orange flowers borne on the old-fashioned *C. officinalis* of the potage garden. The colours range from the 1½ ft 'Lemon Queen' (yellow) to the 2 ft Chrysanthemum-like 'Geisha Girl' (reddish-orange). 'Radio' has orange, fluted petals and 'Art Shades' has pastel flowers — apricot, cream, etc. The best compact variety is the 1 ft 'Fiesta Gitana'.

SITE & SOIL: Thrives best in poor soil in sun or partial shade.

PLANT DETAILS: Height 1–2 ft. Spacing 1 ft. Flowering period June–October.

PROPAGATION: Sow seeds in September or March where they are to flower. Thin to required spacing.



C. officinalis
'Lemon Queen'



C. officinalis
'Orange King'



Tagetes patula 'Yellow Jacket'

TAGETES African Marigold, French Marigold, Tagetes

HHA

The ever-popular French and African Marigolds, ranging from a few inches to several feet tall, are mis-named — they both originated in Mexico. Some experts feel that we rely too much on the numerous varieties of *Tagetes* for summer bedding, but these plants continue to be the main source of yellow, orange and brown in the small flower bed. Staking is rarely necessary but dead-heading is required to prolong the floral display. The foliage is pungent when crushed and the flowers may be single or double.

VARIETIES: *Tagetes* are divided into three major groups. The *African Marigolds* (*T. erecta*) are the tallest and the flowers by far the largest, reaching a diameter of several inches. The blooms are double and ball-shaped in colours ranging from pale yellow to deep orange. Some are dwarfs, like 'Golden Age' (1 ft) — others such as 'Doubleloon' are 3 ft high with 5 in. blooms. The *French Marigolds* (*T. patula*) are shorter and the flowers are smaller, but there is an immense variety of colours and colour blends. This is the really popular group and seed catalogues offer many, many varieties — look for 'Naughty Marietta' (1 ft, single, yellow and maroon), 'Petite' (6 in., double, mixed colours), 'Tiger Eyes' (10 in., double, red with yellow centre) and 'Yellow Jacket' (5 in., double, yellow). The third major group is made up of the dainty *Tagetes* varieties (*T. signata*) which are widely used for edging. The plants are compact and the flowers are small and single. 'Lemon Gem' (9 in.) is popular — the new novelty is the yellow, orange and brown combination 'Starfire' (6 in.). The dividing lines between the groups are no longer clear-cut — there are Afro-French varieties such as 'Sunrise' (1 ft, double, orange and red).

SITE & SOIL: Any reasonable garden soil will do — thrives best in full sun.

PLANT DETAILS: Height 1–3 ft (African Marigolds), 6 in. – 1 ft (French Marigolds) or 6–9 in. (Tagetes). Spacing 1–1½ ft (African Marigolds) or 6–9 in. (French Marigolds and Tagetes). Flowering period June–October.

PROPAGATION: Follow the Half Hardy Annual technique — seeds outdoors in May.

Alternatively in mild areas sow



T. patula
'Naughty Marietta'
French Marigold



T. patula
'Tiger Eyes'
French Marigold



T. erecta
'Doubleloon'
African
Marigold



T. Sunrise
Afro-French
Marigold



T. signata
'Lemon Gem'
Tagetes



Tagetes erecta 'Yellow Climax'



Lavatera trimestris 'Loveliness'

LAVATERA Annual Mallow

HA

If you are looking for a bushy plant to provide a temporary hedge or a back-of-the-border specimen covered in bloom during the summer months, the Annual Mallow is a satisfactory answer. The trumpet-shaped flowers are 3 or 4 in. across, large enough to catch attention in the garden and long-lasting enough to serve as excellent cut flowers. The bushes need plenty of space and self-sown seedlings should be removed.

VARIETIES: *L. trimestris* has produced several excellent garden varieties which grow 3-4 ft tall and produce pink flowers — 'Loveliness' and 'Tanagra' are popular. The compact varieties grow about 2 ft high and do not require staking — 'Mont Blanc' bears white flowers and the new 'Silver Cup' has the brightest of all Mallow blooms.

SITE & SOIL: Any reasonable garden soil will do — thrives in sun or light shade.

PLANT DETAILS: Height 2-4 ft. Spacing 2 ft. Flowering period July-September.

PROPAGATION: Sow seeds in September or March where they are to flower. Thin to required spacing.



L. trimestris 'Silver Cup'



Tropaeolum majus 'Whirlybird Gold'

TROPAEOLUM Nasturtium

HA

There are varieties of Nasturtium (*T. majus*) for all sorts of purposes — climbers for clothing walls and fences or covering banks, semi-trailers for window boxes and dwarfs for bedding and edging. For a blaze of red, yellow or orange plant in poor, free-draining soil and do not feed. Spray, if necessary, against blackfly. Canary Creeper (*T. peregrinum*) is suitable for richer soil — a vigorous climber with small, yellow flowers and lobed leaves.

VARIETIES: Nasturtiums are grouped according to size — the *Climbers* grow up to 6 ft (look for 'Tall Mixed' or 'Climbing Mixed') and the *Semi-trailers* reach about 1 ft. This latter group is dominated by the fragrant semi-double Gleam varieties — 'Golden Gleam' (yellow) and 'Scarlet Gleam' (red). There are also the compact *Dwarfs* which grow 6-9 in. high — popular varieties include 'Red Roulette' (orange-red), 'Empress of India' (dark red), 'Whirlybird' (mixed) and 'Tom Thumb' (mixed).

SITE & SOIL: Thrives in poor sandy soil in either full sun or partial shade.

PLANT DETAILS: Height 6 in. - 6 ft. Spacing 6 in. - 1½ ft. Flowering period June - October.

PROPAGATION: Sow seeds in compost under glass in February or in April where they are to flower.



T. majus



T. peregrinum



Petunia hybrida 'Resisto Rose'

PETUNIA Petunia

HHA

Varieties of Petunias get bigger and brighter and bolder. The modern hybrids bear showy, funnel-shaped flowers on top of the sticky stems, a dazzling sight when the sun is shining but a scarry one in prolonged wet weather. An excellent bedding plant, of course, but also very useful for window boxes, containers and hanging baskets. Cut back the stems if they become too straggly — dead-head regularly.

VARIETIES: Buy an F₁ hybrid of *P. hybrida* for bedding — there are four groups. The *Multifloras* bear large numbers of 2 in. flowers — 'Resisto' stands up well to wind and rain. Many colours are available — 'Apple Blossom', 'Red Satin', 'Starfire' (red and white stripes), etc. The *Double Multifloras* also bear 2 in. flowers but they have many petals and look like Carnations — 'Cherry Tart' (rose and white) is a good example. The *Grandifloras* have fewer flowers but the blooms are larger, 3-4 in. across, and they are more susceptible to rain damage. 'Cascade' is the popular mixture, but there are many single and bi-colour varieties — 'Blue Frost', 'Red Cloud' and the blue-and-white striped 'Telstar'. The *Double Grandifloras* are the showiest group of all — huge, ruffled blooms in a wide range of colours. Look for 'Bouquet', 'Pan American Double' and 'White Swan'.

SITE & SOIL: Any reasonable garden soil will do — choose a sunny site.

PLANT DETAILS: Height 6 in. - 1½ ft. Spacing 6 in. - 1 ft. Flowering period June - October.

PROPAGATION: Follow the Half Hardy Annual technique. Plant out when the danger of frost is past.



P. hybrida
Multiflora



P. hybrida
Grandiflora



P. hybrida
Double
Multiflora



P. hybrida
Double
Grandiflora



KNIPHOFIA Red Hot Poker

Over the years this plant has changed its latin name from *Tritoma* to *Kniphofia*, and the hybridists have also extended its colour range. A word of caution — you can buy a Red Hot Poker and it may be all-red, yellow or even white, so choose with care if you want the traditional red-tipped variety. Whatever the flower colour, all produce clumps of grass-like foliage and spikes bearing long tubular flowers. Mulch in late spring and water in dry weather. Cold winters can be a problem. In autumn remove the flower spikes, tie the leaves together and cover with peat.

VARIETIES: The popular choice is a variety or hybrid of *K. uvaria* — height 2½–5 ft, spacing 3 ft, flowering period July–September. For a 'true' poker — red or orange at the top and yellow at the base choose 'Royal Standard', 'The Rocket', 'Springtime' or 'H.C. Mills'. For single colours, pick 'Alcazar' (orange), 'Maid of Orleans' (white) or 'Bees Lemon' (yellow). The giants 'Samuel's Sensation' (5–6 ft, red). There is a dainty orange dwarf — *K. galpinii*.

SITE & SOIL: Any well-drained garden soil will do — thrives best in full sun.

PROPAGATION: Divide overcrowded clumps in spring.



K. uvaria
Royal Standard

ALYSSUM Alyssum

Almost every rockery bears a bright yellow patch of *Alyssum saxatile* in spring. Grow it by all means, but do not let it dominate the site — so many rockeries are spoiled by allowing *Alyssum* and *Aubrieta* to run riot. There are so many choicer if less vigorous alpines to grow which can be relied upon to provide colour when the yellows of *Alyssum* and the blues of *Aubrieta* have gone. When not in flower *Alyssum* is a greyish shrubby perennial which flourishes in poor soil. Trim the stems back once the flowers have faded — in this way you will prolong the life of the plant, keep it within bounds and improve next year's display.

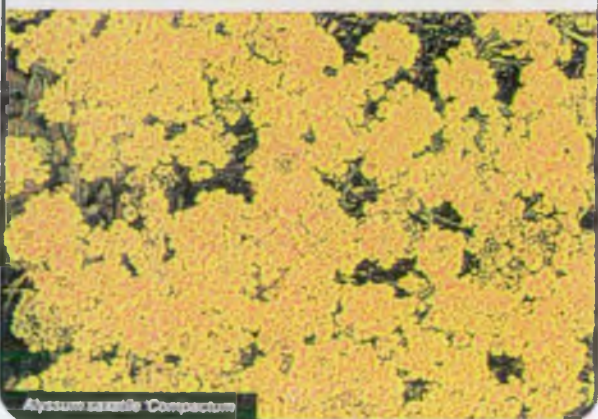
VARIETIES: *A. saxatile* is the basic species — height 9–12 in., spread 1½ ft., flowering period April–June. When in bloom the heads of bright yellow flowers may completely cover the plant. There are a number of named varieties which make a welcome change from the common-or-garden parent plant which is grown nearly everywhere. 'Citrinum' bears pale yellow flowers and at the other end of the scale are the buff-coloured blooms of 'Dudley Neville'. For double flowers choose the variety 'Flore Pleno' and if space is limited you can plant the dwarf 'Compactum' which grows only about 6 in. high. All these varieties of *A. saxatile* make fine rockery or wall plants but if you want a miniature then grow *A. montanum*. This May-flowering alpine grows about 4 in. tall and rarely spreads more than 1 ft.

SITE & SOIL: Any well-drained garden soil will do — add lime if the land is acid. Thrives best in full sun.

PROPAGATION: Sow seeds of species (not named varieties) under glass in spring. With named varieties plant non-flowering cuttings in a cold frame in early summer.



Alyssum saxatile 'Citrinum'



Alyssum saxatile 'Compactum'

ALYSSUM Sweet Alyssum

HA

Some experts feel that too much *Alyssum* is grown, but without it many of our small gardens would be poorer. The dwarf cushions are covered with tiny, honey-scented flowers throughout the summer, and it is used to edge flower beds, fill the spaces between paving stones, cover bare patches in rockeries and clothe window boxes. Trim off dead blooms with scissors to ensure continuous flowering.

VARIETIES: Most people choose a white variety of *A. maritimum* (proper name *Lobularia maritima*). The low-carpeting ones are 'Carpet of Snow' and 'Minimum' — the popular 'Little Dorrit' is more upright. For a change pick a coloured variety — there are 'Oriental Night' (deep purple), 'Rosie O' Day' (pink) and 'Lilac Queen' (deep lilac).

SITE & SOIL: The soil should be well drained but not rich — thrives best in full sun.

PLANT DETAILS: Height 3–6 in., Spacing 9 in., Flowering period June–September.

PROPAGATION: Sow seeds in compost under glass in February or in April where they are to flower.



Alyssum maritimum 'Little Dorrit'



A. maritimum 'Minimum'



A. maritimum 'Rosie O' Day'

AUBRIETA Rock Cress, Aubrieta

Aubrieta in full flower cascading over a wall or covering a sloping bank is one of the heralds of spring. In the average-sized rockery it certainly has a place, but it should not be allowed to take over. Cut it back once flowering is over so that choicer but more delicate specimens can expand and show their full beauty.

VARIETIES: The basic species is *A. deltoidea* (height 3 in., spread 2 ft., flowering period March–June) but the wild form is not grown. The garden varieties are hybrids of this species — pale purple and pink are the usual colours, but both blue and red are available. A few of the more popular *Aubrietias* are 'Dr Mules' (violet), 'Riverslea' (mauve), 'Dawn' (pink), 'Crimson Bedder' (red), 'Triumphant' (blue) and 'Barker's Double' (pink).

SITE & SOIL: Any well-drained, non-acid soil — full sun is required.

PROPAGATION: Sow seeds under glass in spring. With named varieties either divide clumps in autumn or plant basal cuttings in a cold frame in summer.



Aubrieta deltoidea

Groundcover



NEPETA Catmint

Catmint is popular with gardeners for use as an edging plant — it is even more popular with cats who love to roll amongst its aromatic grey-green leaves. It will flourish in sandy, stony and chalky soils but will die out rapidly in heavy or shallow soils which remain sodden in winter. The small tubular flowers are borne on upright spikes — dead-heading will encourage further flushes and the bushy plants will stay in flower from late spring until early autumn. Do not cut down the stems in autumn — remove the old growth when new shoots start to appear in the spring. An easy-to-grow plant which deserves its popularity — lift, divide and replant the clumps every three years.

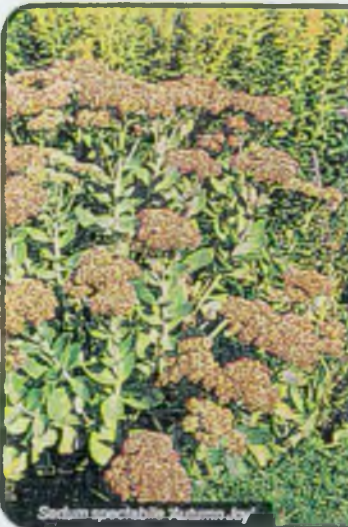
VARIETIES: The basic species is *N. mussinii* (*N. faassenii*) — height 1 ft, spacing 1½ ft, flowering period May–September. The flowers are pale purple. Taller varieties are available — 'Superba' (2–3 ft) produces lavender flowers and 'Six Hills Giant' (2 ft) has blooms which are violet. These taller Catmints require staking.

SITE & SOIL: Any well-drained garden soil will do — thrives best in full sun.

PROPAGATION: Divide clumps in spring (not autumn).



N. mussinii



SEDUM Stonecrop

The Sedums are a large group of fleshy-leaved plants which thrive in hot and dry conditions — their ability to cover rocks and walls is responsible for the common name. Many are rock garden plants but some Sedums, known as Ice Plants, are grown in the herbaceous border. The flower-heads of the Ice Plants are large plates of tiny flowers, their appearance in late summer acting as a magnet for the butterflies in the neighbourhood. These Border Sedums are tough plants, shrugging off drought and pests which would cripple more delicate perennials.

VARIETIES: The popular Ice Plant is *S. spectabile* — height 1–2 ft, spacing 1 ft, flowering period August–October. The flower-heads measure 4–6 in. across and the varieties generally differ in flower colour rather than plant form. Choose from 'Brilliant' (deep pink), 'Carmen' (rose-red), 'Meteor' (carmine-red) and 'Ruby Glow' (red). There is one variety which does stand out from the others — 'Autumn Joy'. It is tall (2 ft) and the 8 in. heads are salmon-pink at first, turning rusty brown in autumn. The leaves also change, becoming brownish purple at the end of summer. The Purple-leaf Ice Plant is *S. maximum* 'Atropurpureum' (height 1½ ft, pink flowers, purplish red leaves).

SITE & SOIL: Any well-drained soil will do — thrives best in full sun.

PROPAGATION: Divide clumps in autumn or spring.



S. spectabile
'Meteor'



STACHYS Lamb's Ears, Big Betony

Two quite different garden plants bear the name Stachys. The more popular one is a grey-leaved ground cover or edging plant known as Lamb's Ears or Lamb's Tongue. Flowers are borne in whorls on upright spikes but these blooms are insignificant — this perennial is grown for its attractive evergreen silvery foliage. The second Stachys is much less commonly seen — Big Betony is grown for the spikes of showy pink or purple flowers it bears in summer rather than for its plain green leaves. All varieties of Stachys hate heavy soils and the flowering spikes should be cut down once the blooms have faded.

VARIETIES: Lamb's Ears is the common name for *S. lanata* (*S. olympica*) — height 1½ ft, spacing 1 ft, flowering period July–August. The leaves are covered in woolly hairs and the pale purple flowers are small. The non-flowering 'Silver Carpet' (4 in.) is grown as a carpeting plant. Big Betony is called *S. macrantha* (*Betonica macrantha*) in the catalogues — height 2 ft, spacing 1½ ft, flowering period May–July. The lilac flowers are large and tubular — the variety 'Rosea' produces pink blooms.

SITE & SOIL: Any well-drained garden soil will do — thrives in sun or partial shade.

PROPAGATION: Divide clumps in autumn or spring.



S. macrantha



Helichrysum bracteatum 'Hot Bikini'

HELICHRYSUM Straw Flower

HA

Helichrysum is the most popular of the 'everlasting' flowers which look like double Daisies and bear strawy petals. It is popularly called the Straw Flower or Immortelle, and is prepared for indoor decoration by cutting just before the flowers are fully open. Tie the stems in bunches and hang upside down in a cool place away from sunlight.

VARIETIES: *H. bracteatum* is available as both dwarf and tall varieties in a bewildering array of colours. Amongst the dwarfs the glistening scarlet 'Hot Bikini' (1 ft) has the brightest flowers. For a mixture of colours for bedding and cutting, choose 'Bright Bikini'. Buy 'Monstrosum Double Mixed' if you want large plants — the 2 in. flowers are borne on 3ft stems.

SITE & SOIL: Any well-drained garden soil will do — thrives best in full sun.

PLANT DETAILS: Height 1 or 3 ft. Spacing 1 ft. Flowering period July–September.

PROPAGATION: Sow seeds in April where they are to flower — thin to required spacing. In cold districts treat as a half hardy annual.



H. bracteatum



Dianthus caryophyllus 'Mixed Hybrids'

DIANTHUS Border Carnation, Pinks

Dianthus is found in several parts of the garden. In the rockery you will see the Alpine Pinks and in the flower beds both Sweet William and the Annual Carnations are popular. This section deals with the hardy perennial varieties — the Border Carnations, the Old-fashioned Pinks and the Modern Pinks. All form tufts of grassy grey-green leaves with flowers borne on upright stems. Perfume is an important feature and all will flourish in chalky soil and urban smoke. The Border Carnations produce stout stems and the blooms are large. Staking is essential. A typical Carnation is quite different from a typical Pink, but the dividing line is not clear cut. Pinks have more delicate stems, narrower leaves, smaller flowers and a more dainty appearance.

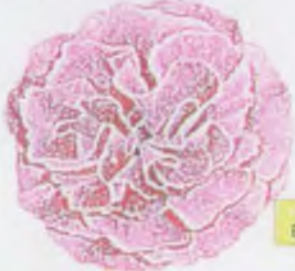
VARIETIES: The basic details of *Border Carnations* are height 2–3 ft, spacing 1½ ft, flowering period July (southern counties), August (northern counties). After a few seasons the plants deteriorate and will need to be replaced. The petals are smooth-edged (unlike the serrated petals of the Florist Carnations) and there are selfs (single colour), lancies (2 or more colours) and picolees (pale colour with a darker edging). The list of varieties is enormous — you will find names like 'Edenside Fairy', 'Consul', 'Fiery Cross' and 'Perfect Clove'. *Old-fashioned Pinks* grow about 1 ft high and should be planted 1 ft apart. There is a single flush of flowers in June and they are slow growing, but there is still a place for 'Mrs Sinkins' and 'White Ladies' (white), 'Excelsior' (carmine) and 'Emil Pare' (pink). The *Modern Pinks* (hybrids of *D. allwoodii*) are steadily taking over because they are quicker growing and have a 'perpetual-flowering' habit, blooming in June and July and again in autumn. Choose your Pinks from this Modern group — there are 'Doris' (salmon-pink), 'Show Pearl' (white), 'Robin' (scarlet) and many others.

SITE & SOIL: Any well-drained garden soil which is not acid will do — choose a sunny spot.

PROPAGATION: Sow seeds under glass in April or plant cuttings in a cold frame in July. Alternatively layer side shoots in August.



Dianthus plumarius 'Mrs Sinkins'



D. caryophyllus
Border Carnation



D. plumarius
Old-fashioned Pink



D. allwoodii
Modern Pink



Dianthus allwoodii 'Doris'

Shrubs



Cytisus 'Burkwoodii'

CYTISUS

Broom
 ⓐ or ⓑ or ⓓ

Many shrubs are grown for their foliage, but Cytisus is grown for its flowers which are numerous enough to clothe completely the whippy stems and tiny leaves. The usual flowering season is May, and nearly all are deciduous. Always buy pot- or container-grown plants and remember to prune them every year. Old wood will not sprout new stems, and so once a bush has become leggy it should be dug out and replaced. The pea-like flowers are often yellow, but a wide variety of colours are available and there are some attractive bi-colours. Cytisus will flourish in poor, starved soil, but it may die after a few years for no apparent reason.

VARIETIES: Our native Broom is *C. scoparius*, growing about 7 ft tall and carrying its yellow blooms in May and June. There are many excellent hybrids, including *C. 'Burkwoodii'* (crimson-red with yellow edge), *C. scoparius 'Andreanus'* (yellow and crimson) and *C. 'Killiney Red'* (rich red). A shrub which grows to a similar height but with arching stems is *C. praecox*. It is the earliest of all to flower, and its rich yellow variety (*C. praecox 'Allgold'*) is popular. White-flowered brooms (e.g., *C. albus*) are available. Smaller types of Cytisus exist — there is *C. kewensis*, a pale yellow spreading bush which reaches only 18 in., and even smaller is the sprawling *C. purpureus* (1 ft, lilac flowers) and *C. decumbens* (4 in., yellow flowers). At the other end of the scale is the 15 ft Moroccan Broom (*C. battandieri*) with spikes of yellow, pineapple-scented blooms in July.

SITE & SOIL: Full sun is required. Does best in poor, sandy soil.

PRUNING: After flowering cut back the stems which have borne blooms to about half their length. Never cut into the old wood.

PROPAGATION: Sow seed. For hybrids, plant cuttings in a cold frame in summer.



C. kewensis



C. scoparius



C. scoparius 'Andreanus'



C. purpureus



C. battandieri



C. albus



Cytisus praecox 'Allgold'



Forsythia suspensa

FORSYTHIA Golden Bells

Gardens are brightened each March and April by the masses of yellow flowers on the leafless branches. Many varieties are available, ranging from palest yellow to glowing orange. There are Forsythias to cover walls and bare ground or to grow as hedges and specimen shrubs. They are extremely easy to grow but there are two enemies — birds which strip off the flower buds (thread black cotton between the branches) and there are gardeners who hack down the branches each summer "to keep the bushes in check". The result is lots of growth and very few flowers.

VARIETIES: *F. intermedia 'Spectabilis'* is seen everywhere, growing about 8 ft high with a profusion of bright yellow flowers. The petals are narrow and slightly twisted. *F. 'Lynwood'* has much broader petals and *F. 'Beatrix Farrand'* bears blooms up to 2 in. across.

Not all varieties grow as tall, upright shrubs — some are rambling bushes belonging to the species *F. suspensa*. One of them (*F. suspensa fortunei*) has stout, arching stems but the popular *F. suspensa sieboldii* has lax branches which trail along the ground if not trained against a wall.

Less well known are the compact varieties. *F. ovata* only reaches 4–5 ft; even shorter is *F. 'Arnold Dwarf'* which will cover a large area but be warned — it bears few flowers.

SITE & SOIL: Any garden soil will do. Best in full sun, but will also thrive in partial shade.

PRUNING: Avoid excessive pruning. Immediately after flowering cut back only those shoots which bear faded blooms. Every few years shorten some of the most mature branches.

PROPAGATION: Easy. Layer shoots or plant cuttings outdoors in autumn.



F. 'Beatrix Farrand'



F. 'Lynwood'



F. intermedia 'Spectabilis'



F. ovata



F. suspensa



Forsythia intermedia 'Spectabilis'



Hebe 'Autumn Glory'

HEBE Veronica

These evergreen shrubs come in all sizes, but the two most popular ones (*H.* 'Autumn Glory' and *H. brachysiphon*) represent the typical Hebe growth habit — neat, compact bushes with shiny oval leaves and spikes of small blue or white flowers. They are both quite hardy, but unfortunately many Hebes are not — the larger the leaf, the more tender the variety is likely to be. Tenderness apart, Hebe is easy to grow even in smoky or salt-laden air, and many types flower all summer and autumn long.

VARIETIES: There are scores to choose from — make sure the one you pick is the right size for the spot you have in mind. Some are suitable for the rockery or as ground cover — good 1 ft-high varieties include *H.* 'Carl Teschner' (violet-blue flowers, June-July), *H. pinguifolia* 'Pagei' (white flowers, May) and the cypress-like *H. armstrongii* and *H. ochracea*. The medium-tall group offers many choices, such as *H.* 'Autumn Glory' (violet-blue flowers, June-November), *H.* 'Midsummer Beauty' (lavender flowers, July-November) and *H. brachysiphon* (white flowers, June-July). The giant of the family is *H. salicifolia*, a summer-flowering shrub which reaches 10 ft or more.

SITE & SOIL: Choose a sunny or lightly shaded spot. Any garden soil with reasonable drainage will do, but it is unwise to plant the less hardy varieties in northern gardens away from the coast.

PRUNING: Not essential. Cut back straggly shoots in May. Remove frost-damaged branches.

PROPAGATION: Easy — plant 3 in. cuttings in a cold frame in summer.



H. 'Autumn Glory'



H. pinguifolia 'Pagei'



H. armstrongii



H. 'Midsummer Beauty'



H. 'Great Orme'



Hebe salicifolia



Lavandula spica 'Hidcote'

LAVANDULA Lavender

A favourite in English gardens for centuries. The bushy stems and grey-green leaves provide an edging or low hedge for countless paths and borders, and the aromatic flowers and foliage are used for making pot-pourri. The flowers which appear between July and September are not always lavender — there are white, pink and blue varieties.

VARIETIES: Plants labelled *L. spica* are Old English Lavender (3 ft, grey-blue flowers) — choose the variety 'Hidcote' (1½ ft, deep violet flowers in dense spikes). 'Munstead' has green leaves — 'Loddon Pink' has pink flowers. *L. vera* is Dutch Lavender — pale blue and robust, 3-4 ft high.

SITE & SOIL: Any soil (preferably limy) provided it is well-drained. Best in full sun but will grow in partial shade.

PRUNING: Remove stalks when flowers fade, then trim back plants in April. Do not cut into old wood.

PROPAGATION: Plant cuttings in a cold frame in summer or outdoors in autumn.



L. spica 'Hidcote'



Santolina chamaecyparissus

SANTOLINA Lavender Cotton

If your soil is well-drained and there is an unshaded site available, Santolina will provide a splash of colour. You can use it as a specimen plant at the front of the border or as a low hedge, and the colour of this compact, mound-forming bush comes from the silvery grey foliage as well as from the yellow, button-like flowers which appear in summer.

VARIETIES: The popular variety is *S. chamaecyparissus*. It grows about 2 ft high and is densely covered with narrow, finely divided leaves which are strongly aromatic. The flowers appear from June to August. A smaller variety is *S. chamaecyparissus* 'Nana' (1ft) — a larger one is *S. neapolitana* (3 ft). The green-leaved variety is *S. virens*.

SITE & SOIL: Any reasonable soil will do, but it must be well-drained. A sunny spot is essential.

PRUNING: Trim after flowering — every 2 or 3 years cut back hard in April.

PROPAGATION: Plant 3 in. cuttings in a cold frame in summer.



S. chamaecyparissus

S. virens



Vinca minor 'Variegata'

VINCA Periwinkle

The Periwinkle may be lowly in height and some authors may not even include it in their shrub books, but it is a highly regarded ground cover plant. It will grow in sun or shade, its stems rooting into the soil as they spread. Use it for covering banks or the bare ground under trees and you will be rewarded by flowers all summer long.

VARIETIES: The big one is *V. major*, growing about 8–10 in. tall and producing large blue flowers from May to September. You can buy varieties with leaves splashed with yellow ('*Maculata*') or white ('*Variegata*'). Less invasive and smaller is *V. minor* (2–4 in. high, blue or white flowers, green or variegated leaves).

SITE & SOIL: Any reasonable well-drained soil will do. Thrives in sun or shade.

PRUNING: Not necessary — cut back shoots in spring if spread is to be contained.

PROPAGATION: Divide plants or remove rooted side-shoots in late autumn or winter.



V. minor

V. major



Symphoricarpos albus

SYMPHORICARPOS Snowberry

The Common Snowberry is a rampant shrub which will grow anywhere — in full sun or in the dense shade under trees. It will cover large areas in the wilder parts of the garden, and its glory is the mass of large, marble-like berries which appear in October and persist for months. Good for indoor decoration and for hedging, but take care to keep it in check.

VARIETIES: *S. albus* (*S. racemosus*) is the Common Snowberry — 6 ft, pink flowers from June to August, berries large and pure white. *S. orbiculatus* (Coralberry) bears white flowers which are followed by large clusters of small purple berries. For the average-sized border pick one of the non-suckering Doorenbos Hybrids — 'Magic Berry' (pink) or 'Mother of Pearl' (white, flushed pink).

SITE & SOIL: Any reasonable garden soil in sun or shade.

PRUNING: Thin out unwanted shoots in early spring. Trim hedges in summer.

PROPAGATION: Remove and plant up rooted suckers or plant cuttings outdoors in autumn.



S. albus

S. doorenbosii
'Magic Berry'



Cistus 'Silver Pink'

CISTUS [Ⓔ] Rock Rose

The flowers of the Rock Rose are short-lived, the papery petals opening in the morning and falling before nightfall. But new buds appear regularly during the flowering season, and the shrub is constantly in bloom during June and July. This is not a plant for shade or heavy soil, although it thrives in other problem sites such as chalky soils, sands and seaside gardens. Always use pot-grown specimens at planting time. The great enemy is frost — no variety is completely hardy. Take summer cuttings to replace the winter casualties. Some exude a sweet-smelling gum and all bear attractive flowers in various hues.

VARIETIES: The most popular variety is C. 'Silver Pink' (2–3 ft, pale pink flowers), although it is not the hardiest nor the most attractive. The trio with the best reputation for hardiness are C. laurifolius (6 ft, white flowers), C. cyprius (6 ft, white flowers with maroon-blotched centres) and the much more compact C. corbariensis (3 ft, white flowers, crimson buds). The smallest is the wide-spreading C. lusitanicus 'Decumbens' (1½ ft, white flowers with maroon-blotched centres). The most spectacular is the large-flowered C. purpureus (5 ft, rosy crimson flowers with maroon centres). Some of the most beautiful Rock Roses are unfortunately tender — an example is the large-flowered Gum Cistus (C. ladanifer).

SITE & SOIL: Well-drained soil in full sun is essential. Avoid frost pockets; protect from N and E winds.

PRUNING: Not necessary — in spring both unwanted and frost-damaged growth should be removed, but avoid cutting into old wood.

PROPAGATION: Sow seed in spring or plant cuttings in a cold frame in summer.



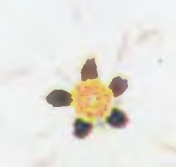
C. laurifolius



C. purpureus



C. cyprius



C. ladanifer



C. 'Silver Pink'



C. lusitanicus 'Decumbens'



Cistus ladanifer



Yucca filamentosa

YUCCA [Ⓔ] Yucca

A plant to grow on its own so that its sword-like leaves and immense flower-heads can be enjoyed to the full. There are several fallacies — despite their tropical appearance the popular varieties are hardy in Britain, and it will bloom quite happily every year despite the old wives' tale of only one floral year in seven.

VARIETIES: The stemless varieties are the ones usually grown. Top of the list is Y. filamentosa, with a basal rosette of 2 ft high stiff leaves and a 4–6 ft flower stalk in August. The blooms are white and cup-shaped, and you can expect to see the first flowers about 3 years after planting. There is a variety ('Variegata') with yellow-striped leaves.

SITE & SOIL: Needs good drainage and absence of heavy clay. Thrives in sun and partial shade.

PRUNING: Not necessary.

PROPAGATION: In spring remove rooted offsets growing at the base of the shrub.



Y. filamentosa



Viburnum fragrans

VIBURNUM Viburnum

A large genus of garden shrubs with varieties to produce colour all year round and to suit almost every purpose — ground cover, screening, specimen plants and bushes for the shrub border. A wide assortment, but they do have a few features in common. All are easy to grow and will succeed in chalky soils. There is no need for regular pruning and all are hardy. The Viburnums are divided into three basic groups and each contains one or more garden favourites — the winter-flowering group, the spring-flowering group and the autumn berry/leaf colour group.

VARIETIES: The winter-flowering group contains the popular *V. tinus* (*Laurustinus*). A useful evergreen, 6–10 ft high, producing clusters of pink buds and then small white flowers between December and April. The old favourite *V. fragrans* (*V. farreri*) produces clusters of scented white flowers from November to February. For larger but equally fragrant flowers, grow *V. bodnantense*. The spring-flowering group usually have small white blooms clustered in large flat heads or 'snowballs'. There is the popular *V. carlesii* (4 ft, white fragrant flowers in tight domes in April and May), *V. burkwoodii* (6 ft, rather similar to *carlesii* but taller and evergreen), *V. rhytidophyllum* (10 ft, grown for its huge, heavily veined evergreen foliage and red berries), *V. opulus* 'Sterile' (8 ft, white ball-like flower-heads) and *V. plicatum* 'Lanarth' (5 ft, white plate-like flower-heads). The final section is the autumn berry and leaf colour group — *V. opulus* has fiery foliage and red berries in autumn. *V. davidii* produces blue berries.

SITE & SOIL: Prefers well-cultivated soil containing ample humus. Most do best in full sun.

PRUNING: Not necessary — cut back old or damaged branches after flowering (deciduous types) or in May (evergreen types).

PROPAGATION: Layer branches in autumn or plant cuttings in a cold frame in summer.



V. opulus 'Sterile'

V. davidii

V. tinus

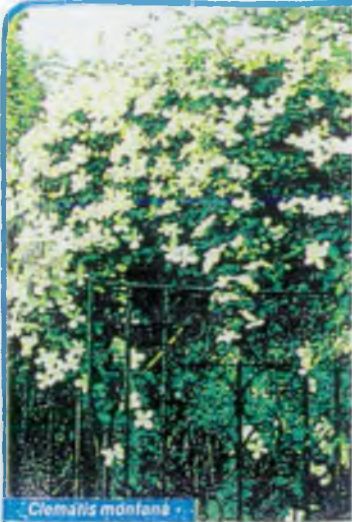
V. bodnantense

V. rhytidophyllum



Viburnum opulus

Climbers



Clematis montana

CLEMATIS

Virgin's Bower

(D or SE or E)

The queen of the climbers, with a bewildering amount of advice in the textbooks and a host of varieties in the catalogues. Plant firmly in a spot where the soil around the roots will be shaded but the stems will be in the sun. The usual advice is to place stones or low shrubs around the base. It is the leaf-stalks and not the stems which twine, so provide adequate support. Each year mulch with compost and keep watch for clematis wilt. The affected stems suddenly die — cut out immediately.

VARIETIES: The large-flowered hybrids, growing about 10 ft high, are the popular group. The biggest blooms you are likely to see will be on 'W. E. Gladstone' (lavender, June – September). Favourite varieties include 'Nelly Moser' (pale pink, striped red, May – June and August – September), 'The President' (purple, silver reverse, June – September), 'Jackmanii Superba' (violet-purple, July – September), 'Ville de Lyon' (red, deeper margin, July – October) and 'Vyvyan Pennell' (violet-purple, double, May – July). The smaller-flowered species are easiest to grow — *C. montana* (30 ft, white, May) is the favourite one — a colourful form is *rubens*, with bronzy leaves and pink flowers. *C. tangutica* is quite different — yellow, bell-shaped flowers opening in August. *C. alpina* is a lovely spring-flowering species. The novelty variety *C. orientalis* 'Orange Peel' has thick and spongy petals.

SITE & SOIL: Quite fussy — the soil must be fertile and moist. Chalk is beneficial. Sun is essential for the stems but not for the base of the plant.

PRUNING: Complicated. Some require light pruning — spring-flowering ones immediately after flowering and summer-flowering ones in early spring. Varieties which flower in late summer or autumn need harder pruning — in early spring cut back to within a few inches of previous year's growth.

PROPAGATION: Layer stems in spring or plant cuttings in a propagator in summer.



C. 'Ville de Lyon'



C. 'The President'



C. 'Nelly Moser'



C. montana



C. tangutica



C. alpina



C. montana rubens



Clematis 'Jackmanii Superba'



Lonicera periclymenum

LONICERA

Honeysuckle

(D or SE)

The Honeysuckle has many virtues — it produces masses of colourful, tubular flowers and it often blooms over a long period. It is easy to raise from cuttings and will grow quite happily in partial shade, not demanding sun on its stems like Clematis. Above all there is the spicy fragrance but it also has one fault — *Lonicera* is a rather untidy shrub and therefore usually looks better if left to clamber over arches and fences or up trees and hedges rather than being clipped and tied into a neat shape against a house wall.

VARIETIES: Our native Honeysuckle or Woodbine (*L. periclymenum*) produces stems up to 20 ft long. The flowers appear from June to August — long trumpets which are reddish purple outside and cream within. The catalogues offer improved varieties — 'Belgica' blooming in May and June, and 'Serotina' blooming from July to October. *L. japonica* is a more vigorous Honeysuckle, usually keeping its leaves over winter but unfortunately often hiding its yellow flowers in the foliage. Choose the variety 'Aureoreticulata' for its yellow-netted leaves. *L. americana* is a vigorous species which is excellent in every way. Some books recommend the red-flowering *L. brownii* (June – September) and the yellow-flowering *L. tellmanniana* (June – July) but they are not scented.

SITE & SOIL: Fertile, moist soil with some shade at the base of the plant. Thrives in sun or partial shade.

PRUNING: Remove unwanted stems when flowering is over — at the same time remove some of the old stems.

PROPAGATION: Layer stems or plant cuttings in a cold frame in summer.



L. periclymenum



L. japonica 'Aureoreticulata'



L. americana



L. tellmanniana



L. brownii



Lonicera japonica 'Aureoreticulata'



Hedera helix

HEDERA ^{Ivy} €

Ivy is regarded by far too many gardeners as either a useful houseplant or a tree-damaging weed. If you choose the right variety and prune properly it is a reliable and colourful climber. The great benefit of ivy is that it will grow anywhere and it is evergreen — a property shared by very few other climbers. Neither sound brickwork nor trees are damaged, but you should prune regularly so that the weight of the plant does not threaten the structure supporting it. Do not forget its use as a ground cover plant — the variegated forms will brighten up the space between deciduous shrubs in winter. The shape of the leaves of the climbing and flowering strains is often quite different. The flowers are inconspicuous.

VARIETIES: For ground cover choose the largest-leaved ivy of all, the Persian ivy (*H. colchica*). The variety 'Dentate Variegata' has yellow-edged leaves. *H. canariensis* 'Variegata' is a rather similar plant with large, yellow-splashed leaves but the stems are red and it is not completely hardy in cold districts. For quick cover choose the vigorous Irish ivy (*H. hibernica*). It grows about 12 ft x 12 ft and the glossy, dark green leaves effectively hide unsightly objects. The Common ivy (*H. helix*) has many colourful varieties. For all-yellow leaves, choose 'Buttercup'. For a yellow centre there is 'Goldheart' and for white veins on a dark green leaf there is 'Caenwoodiana'. Common ivy certainly need not be a dull plant!

SITE & SOIL: Any garden soil will do. Thrives in shade, but the variegated types need some sunshine.

PRUNING: Keep in check by pruning in spring and summer. Do not let it grow into house gutters.

PROPAGATION: Remove and plant rooted runners.



H. canariensis
'Variegata'



H. colchica



H. colchica
'Dentate Variegata'



H. helix



H. hibernica



H. helix 'Goldheart'



Hedera helix 'Goldheart'



Jasminum officinale

JASMINUM ^{Jasmine} Ⓛ

The popular Winter Jasmine (page 35) is usually grown against a wall or trellis but it is not a true climbing shrub. White Jasmine is a climber — its twining stems will quickly cover an old tree or a pergola. In summer the clusters of white, trumpet-shaped flowers appear. It is not completely hardy and will not survive in a cold, exposed site.

VARIETIES: *J. officinale* (Common White Jasmine) has been a cottage garden favourite for hundreds of years. An improved variety ('Grandiflorum') is now available — between July and September pink buds open into fragrant flowers. The houseplant *J. polyanthum* is even more fragrant, but survives in only the mildest areas.

SITE & SOIL: A warm and sunny site is necessary. Any reasonable garden soil will do.

PRUNING: Not necessary — remove dead or unwanted stems after flowering.

PROPAGATION: Layer stems or plant cuttings in a cold frame in summer.



J. officinale



Vitis vinifera 'Purpurea'

VITIS Ornamental Vine

Vitis is usually grown for its fruit, but several types are offered for their ornamental value. Species of Vitis are not self-clinging — they climb by means of tendrils so some form of support is necessary. The main feature of these Ornamental Vines is the glowing colour of their autumn foliage, but a few bear clusters of edible grapes.

VARIETIES: The giant of the group is *V. coignetiae*, with lobed leaves more than 10 in. across and stems 40 ft long. In autumn the foliage turns golden and then crimson. *V. vinifera* 'Brandt' is a variety of the ordinary Grape Vine with green leaves which turn red before they fall. *V. vinifera* 'Purpurea' has red leaves which darken to purple before they fall.

SITE & SOIL: Any free-draining garden soil — the presence of chalk is beneficial. Thrives in sun or partial shade.

PRUNING: Cut back unwanted growth in summer.

PROPAGATION: Layer stems in April or plant cuttings in a cold frame in late summer.



V. coignetiae



Parthenocissus quinquefolia

PARTHENOCISSUS Virginia Creeper

Virginia Creepers are well known — tall and spreading vines growing on the sides of houses, the leaves turning bright red in autumn. Surprisingly there is a great deal of confusion over their names — you may find them listed under Ampelopsis or Vitis at the garden centre. They need some support at first, but soon become self-clinging.

VARIETIES: The most popular 'Virginia Creeper' is *P. tricuspidata*. Its proper name is Boston Ivy and it is seen everywhere. The shape of its leaves is variable, but the foliage is usually 3-lobed on a mature plant. The Large-leaved or True Virginia Creeper (*P. quinquefolia*) grows 20–40 ft high, each leaf being made up of 5 oval leaflets. The variegated *P. henryana* is the most colourful of all the Virginia Creepers.

SITE & SOIL: Fertile, free-draining soil is preferred. Thrives in sun or shade.

PRUNING: Remove unwanted growth in early spring.

PROPAGATION: Layer stems in autumn.



P. henryana

P. tricuspidata



Wisteria floribunda 'Macrobotrys'

WISTERIA Wistaria

A very popular climbing plant — its twining stems covered with hanging trails of blue flowers are a familiar sight in May and June. It can be disappointing, however, if you don't take care in selection, planting and pruning. Use container-grown plants and choose a sheltered spot. The plant may remain dormant for several months after transplanting.

VARIETIES: The popular one is *W. sinensis* — a rampant grower with flower-trails about 9 in. long. It can get out of hand — not a good choice for a house wall as it often gets into gutters and under roofs. Choose instead the less vigorous *W. floribunda*. The variety 'Macrobotrys' has lilac-blue flower-trails 2½ ft long.

SITE & SOIL: Any reasonable garden soil — dig in compost before planting. Requires full sun.

PRUNING: Cut back current year's side growths to about 6 in. in July.

PROPAGATION: Layer stems in spring or summer.



W. sinensis

Ornamental
Grass



Cortaderia selloana 'Sunningdale Silver'

CORTADERIA Pampas Grass

Decorative grasses have no place in a book on garden flowers, but one of these grasses produces a flowering spike which is so spectacular and so popular that it deserves a place here. The silvery silky plumes of Pampas Grass are about 1½ ft long and their tips are up to 10 ft above the ground. Female plants produce the best plumes and the display is always at its best after a hot summer. Plant in April as a single specimen in the lawn or against a background of dark evergreen foliage. The bluish green leaves are narrow and arching — wear gloves when handling them. In late autumn cut off the flowering stems and in early spring cut away or burn the dead leaves.

VARIETIES: *C. selloana* (*C. argentea*) grows about 7 ft high, bearing showy plumes on stiff stems. The tallest plants and the largest plumes are produced by the variety 'Sunningdale Silver' — the plumes are more spreading than those of other varieties. The dwarf is *pumila*, growing about 4 ft high and the decorative-leaved form is 'Gold Band' (6 ft), bearing yellow-and-green striped foliage.

SITE & SOIL: Any well-drained garden soil will do — thrives in sun or partial shade.

PROPAGATION: Clumps can be divided in April but it is better to buy new plants.



C. selloana