

Desirable Plants

Sarah & Julian Sutton

Pentamar, Crosspark, Totnes, Devon. TQ9 5BQ

sutton.totnes@lineone.net

www.desirableplants.com

Catalogue Autumn 2011 - Spring 2012

Desirable Plants

We specialize in perennials and bulbs, the choice, the interesting and the offbeat. Our bold intention is to list a modest range of immodestly interesting plants from our large and hard won collection. We sell plants by mail order to the UK and at a select group of plant fairs and smaller shows, as well as at the lectures which Julian is always keen to give. Don't expect to find us at the likes of Chelsea, Malvern or Hampton Court, though. Almost everything offered here is propagated on site, by the two of us.

Ordering

Place your orders by post or email using the order form. Prices reflect size as well as scarcity and ease of propagation. Most pot-grown plants are in 1 litre, 2 litre or 10cm pots. **We used to show a price range, but this confused lots of people. We now list only one price, but will sometimes charge you less according to plant size, at our discretion. Note that if something looks surprisingly cheaper than something comparable, its probably because we expect to sell smaller plants.**

Minimum order £15 plus carriage. We can only accept orders accompanied by a cheque! Please write a limit cheque, that is leave the amount blank, work out the cost of your plants plus carriage, then cross the cheque 'Not to exceed £36.50', or whatever. We can't make it out for more than that, but can make it out for less if something's out of stock, cheaper prices apply, or if carriage is less than expected. We will not cash the cheque until we send the plants. We cannot accept cards. Please specify substitutes if they'd be acceptable - otherwise we never substitute.

We can deliver prepaid orders to any of the plant fairs we attend, carriage free, but you must give us plenty of notice. The days before a plant fair are even more manic here than usual.

Timing

We send out from October to April, avoiding cold periods in winter and unseasonable spring heat. We can't accept spring orders after the end of April. Order as early as you can. Some items sell out really soon. First come first served, but we reserve the right to ration scarce items to one per customer if necessary. If you don't want your plants until spring, it pays to get your order in soon and tell us not to send until spring. That way we can keep plants back for you.

Carriage

Plants are normally sent in closed boxes, by carrier, but in some areas we may deliver in open boxes with our own van. We charge £11.50 for 1-15 plants, plus an extra 50p for each plant after the first 15, to mainland England, Wales and the lowlands of Scotland. As fuel prices rise, the carriers charge more and more – this just about covers what we pay them to deliver your plants. Sometimes if a parcel is light we will send it by Royal Mail and charge you less. To the rest of the UK, including all offshore islands, we use Royal Mail: allow as much as the cost of your plants in your 'not to exceed' cheque, but we'll try to keep the cost down. Let us know if you expect to be on holiday so we can avoid these dates. If you include an e-mail address we will advise you on dispatch. Please also note any special instructions to the carrier (e.g. if out please leave in back porch - no signature needed).

On arrival

Unpack immediately. Plant or pot up divisions straight away (but see notes in catalogue on *Arisaema*, etc). Consider whether to plant pot-grown specimens or to leave them potted until spring. Only you have the experience to judge under your conditions. Please tell us *promptly* if a plant is in bad condition; we can only consider a replacement or refund if plants *arrive* dead or ungrowable. Bear dormancy in mind before panicking!

Names, hardiness

We are serious plantspeople who try very hard to name our plants correctly. However, we can make no guarantee of their accuracy, especially at this esoteric end of horticulture where there is sometimes genuine uncertainty and disagreement about naming. We use the Plant Finder as a guide to up-to-date nomenclature, unless we disagree with their view. Similarly, we can only give pointers about hardiness and suitable conditions, based on experience and the literature. But if you have tracked us down, you're likely to be a serious gardener / plantsperson who understands this.

Sorry, no visitors except to collect orders

We are unable to sell plants to calling customers; however, we can usually arrange for you to collect an order from our house. Our nursery is not at this, our home address. So, down to business...

Acanthus dioscoridis perringii £4

A compact beauty, around 50cm tall in flower. Dark green spiny leaves; pink flowers. Once well established, it forms a tight, dense clump and flowers freely: we have it at eye level on top of a steep bank. Definitely for full sun, but thrives on heavy ground.

Acanthus sennii £5.50

Very different. In our climate, this makes beautiful clumps of stiff, spiny leaves, more like a greyish herbaceous holly than any other *Acanthus*, and reaching a bit less than 1m. In very sheltered gardens, such as the Chelsea Physic, it's taller and you get the dark red flowers. But it cuts the mustard purely as a foliage plant. Hardier than sometimes thought.

Achillea 'Schwellenburg' £4

Grey leaves in a dense clump 15cm or so tall, flower heads bright yellow and solid, really hard, like a chunk of cauliflower on a 30cm stem, definitely for sunny, dry places.

Acis autumnalis AGM £4

A rampant little bulb we'd never be without. Ultra fine leaves, with nodding ivory bells on 10cm stems over a long season in summer and early autumn. For rock garden, sink etc. If the name *Acis* is unfamiliar, these are the former *Leucojum* species with fine leaves and small bell-like flowers, without green tips.

Acis nicaeensis AGM £3.50

Pure opaque white bells, 1-3 per 10cm stem, in April. Very easy in a little pot and perfectly do-able in a trough or rock garden.

Acis trichophylla f. *purpurascens* £3.50

Soft pink bells, several per short stem, in spring. Grow like the others, but best on acidic soil.

Aconitum 'Blue Opal' £5

Large blue flowers, stiff dark stems, late August to September. 1.5m tall. Very fine.

Aconitum japonicum ssp. *napiforme* BSWJ943 £4.50

Late flowering, and dark blue, often with the good autumn foliage colours. 60cm.

Aconitum nagarum KR 7589 £4.50

Rather short and stout, almost fleshy and consequently a bit brittle. Rather big, rather dark flowers. Rather good- and now named, too!

Actaea asiatica £4

Attractive, finely divided foliage like the rest of these easy woodlanders. It's the glossy black (and toxic) berries that set it apart.

Actaea (Cimicifuga) simplex Atropurpurea group £5

Deep purple, almost black, divided leaves perfectly offsetting 1.5m spikes of fragrant white flowers in late summer. Colours best in full sun if you can keep it moist, otherwise part shade. Divisions of our fine dark clone.

Actaea simplex 'Brunette' £5

Our stock of the old Bloom's cultivar has never been through tissue culture, unlike most of what you find nowadays. I value it because in sun it is brown-purple, rather than black-purple.

Actaea simplex variegated £10

Green leaves irregularly splashed white, with white flowers. Does not seem to revert. A plant brought to the West from Japanese cultivation by Dan Hinkley. Very hard to obtain

Adiantum aleuticum 'Japonicum' £5

The Japanese Maidenhair has pink-flushed young growth and black stipes. Superbly delicate, for a sheltered place in shade.

Adoxa moschatellina £3.50

Town Hall Clock is an unmistakable native woodlander with its flowers arranged as five faces of a cube. Tiny and pale green in all its parts, it's also a dense and lusty spreader. Dormant from summer to early spring, and favouring moister woodsy conditions, you find it either endearing or utterly uninteresting.

Agapanthus

The African lilies are sun-lovers, which flower freely when left to bulk up undisturbed. Most of these should be hardy in the open ground, except in cold parts of the UK. All look good in large pots, perhaps given protection in severe weather. The evergreen *praecox* forms are hardy in a sunny position in southern England, and can flower well outside, but a little winter protection helps them look their best

Agapanthus 'Buckingham Palace' £6

A tall Lewis Palmer hybrid, to 1.5m or more. Globular flower heads of deepish blue. Scarce and slow to propagate.

Agapanthus 'Phantom' £10

Very large heads of white flowers stained with a clear light blue towards the edges. Tall (1.5m), stout, hardy and very slow to propagate. Fabulous.

Agapanthus praecox 'Flore Pleno' £7

Extraordinary and large deep blue double flowers. Evergreen.

Agapanthus 'Sandringham' £5

Short, blue and reliable, flowering from slender shoots. Deciduous.

Agapanthus 'Windsor Grey' £8

Big round heads of delicate grey-white flowers, with a faint hint of lilac, on stems to 1.2m or so. Deciduous and very hardy. Beautiful, uncommon, and in great demand.

Ageratina altissima (*Eupatorium rugosum*) 'Chocolate' AGM £5

Copious brown-purple foliage makes a lovely effect in the sunny border. Harmless white flowers. Hardy, winter dormant.

Ajuga incisa 'Bikun' £4

Sharply white-variegated toothed leaves and small heads of dark blue flowers make this quite unlike your typical *Ajuga*. Japanese, and not for hot sun where the white bits will discolour.

Albuca humilis £3.50

One of the smallest of these interesting South African bulbs, with upfacing flowers, white with yellow stamens, to 15cm. Sun and good drainage. All the species we list this year are winter dormant.

Albuca nelsonii £5

A monster among albuca, large bulbs producing flowering stems to 1.5m or more, the tepals being white with a reddish vein. Remarkably hardy! Thanks to Grace Officer who gave us the spare bulbs she'd kept inside over the cold winter of 2009-10 – yet it survived untouched in her Surrey garden.

Albuca shawii £3.50

Many, relatively small flowers which hang nicely from an upright 30cm inflorescence. They are clear yellow with a fruity fragrance. Very nice indeed.

Albuca sp. G&L 13 £5

To 40cm tall with big large white upward facing flowers, lined green on the back. Much like a seriously enlarged *A. humilis*.

X *Alcalthaea* 'Parkrondell' £5

Pink semidouble perennial hollyhock which doesn't get rust, a deeper colour than 'Parkfrieden'. To 1.5m. A very satisfactory garden plant.

Allium beesianum £3.50

The classic sky blue allium. Heads of drooping flowers on 20cm stems at the end of the summer. Rock garden or similar. Long flowering, lovely and usually replaced by something else in the nursery trade.

Allium callimischon ssp. *haemostictum* £3.50

A dinky summer dormant Cretan with an odd phenology: the flower stem grows with the leaves in spring, seems to wither with them in the height of summer (don't tidy them away), only for the flowers to open in autumn on the leafless plants. The flowers are white, spotted and veined dark red, and are one of the subtle joys of autumn. Pot or sunny raised bed, etc.

Allium cernuum £4

Nodding heads of pink flowers over blue green foliage, in early summer, on 30-40cm stems.

Allium insubricum £4

Nodding clusters of purple flowers, only 10-15cm high, in early summer again. Extremely pretty.

Allium olympicum of gardens £3.50

A tiny, thin leaved species (perhaps having something to do with *stamineum*) with plenty of pretty pink flower heads in summer. For pot or rock garden with sun and good drainage, but tolerant of winter wet and high rainfall.

Lovely, and rarely seen.

Allium paradoxum var. *normale* £4

The Snowdrop Allium. Nodding, pure white fls look really big on 10cm stems in spring. Broad, bright green leaves. Forms tight clumps, ideal in a sink. Stunning and safe, unlike the dreaded var. *paradoxum* on both counts.

Allium schoenoprasum 'Black Isle Blush' £4

Particularly attractive chives. The flower heads start a rather ordinary light mauve and you wonder what the fuss is about. Then a very distinct pink blush appears in the centre. From far in the North...

Allium schoenoprasum 'Silver Chimes' £3

A miniature, with flowers a very attractive silvery white.

Allium senescens £4

Densely clumping, with upright, slightly twisted leaves from bulbs attached to rhizomes. Lilac pink flowers in June in hemispherical heads, on 30cm stems. Sun.

Allium thunbergii 'Ozawa' £4

A tiny, easy, gently clumping species with tight little clusters of bright pink-purple flowers, with long protruding stamens, among ultrafine dark green leaves. At home in the rock garden, a safe little front-of-border corner, or on the AGS showbench for that matter. One of the plants that helps make September my happiest month.

Allium thunbergii 'Album' £4

Just the same, but with clean white flowers. Happy memories of Ingwersens – we had this from them in their final week. Most uncommon.

Allium victorialis 'Cantabria' AMH7827 £4.50

Slow growing, densely clumping species with 2 or 3 bold, upwardly inclined leaves per bulb. Dense round lollipop heads of a strange silvery pale yellow, on stiff stems. Peculiarly attractive, even before you learn that it was the original anti-vampire garlic. This clonally propagated western form is not that different to anonymous ones we've sold previously, but still very nice. See the fantastic habitat photo in the AGS Bulletin for June 2011.

X*Amarcrinum memoria-corsii* 'Howardii' £6

Big long-necked bulbs produce umbels of large, clear pink flowers which are so cheering in an unheated conservatory in autumn. Grow it either as a winter grower with protection, and a dry summer, or as a borderline hardy summer grower. Two harsh winters have trained ours onto the latter cycle, and they're thriving on it.

Amaryllis belladonna white flowered £7

Just what it says, but the real thing for once, not X *Amarygia parkeri* 'Alba' which usually passes for it in the trade. Smaller bulbs than the latter and much more reliably flowering for us. A special thing – thanks to Kevin Hughes.

Amorphophallus konjac £5

Reputedly the hardest of these big, arisaema-like aroids. Spathe purple-brown. Leaves lobed in a wonderfully complex way, and recall a big shuttlecock. Dark petiole, blotched cream.

Anemone 'Hatakeyama Single' £4

A dwarf (40cm) pink flowered Japanese Anemone.

Anemone hortensis £3.50

One of the tuberous Mediterranean species, like a much smaller, purply-mauve flowered *pavonina*. Rarely offered nowadays, for no good reason. Small plants this year.

Anemone hupehensis 'Bodnant Burgundy' £4

Middling height Japanese anemone with plenty of deep reddish pink sepals. 1m.

Anemone hupehensis 'Pamina' AGM £4.50

A tidy semi-double, fairly short in purplish pink. Belongs in ssp. *japonica*, but still not too invasive.

Anemone x lipsiensis £3.50

Essentially a smaller, more delicate version of *A. nemorosa*, with lovely pale yellow flowers. Well worth finding it the humusy soil it needs.

***Anemone nemorosa* varieties** each £3.50

The wood anemones need little introduction as tough, gently spreading woodlanders, never failing to charm, whether in leaf or flower. '**Miss Eunice**' is one of the darkest blues, with a rather round outline to the flower. '**Bill Baker's Pink**' is a good pink, starting pale and darkening. '**Blue Eyes**' is a shaggy semi-double, white with a blue flush around the centre of the fully double flower. '**Flore Pleno**' is a pure white double - increasingly I doubt whether the differences between this and 'Vestal', which people so freely quote, are valid. '**Gerda Ramusen**' is a fertile semi-double whose white sepals grade into bract-like structures, and sometimes have blue stains at the base – kinda like a Nordic 'Monstrosa' or 'Bracteata Pleniflora'... The muscular '**Lady Doneraile**' has really big white flowers standing head and shoulders above the leaves (it may be the same as Leeds' Variety and Wilks' Giant; nobody knows wood anemones well enough).

Anemone ranunculoides ssp. *wockeana* £3.50

Tiny, floriferous, buttercup yellow wood anemone relative: 5cm.

Anemone ranunculoides 'Semi Plena' £3.50

Just a little taller and semi-double.

Anemone trullifolia £3.75

Rosettes of silky leaves, and blue upfacing flowers on 10cm stems speak of the high mountains. Lovely in a cool

position.

Anemonella thalictroides large single white flower £4

You know the delicate woodland species – this is simply a form with rather impressive flowers.

Angelica gigas £4

Classic biennial monolithic umbellifer, with dark purple heads on dark, dark stems. Thanks to Matt Bishop for seed from the Garden House, where a good clump in evening light rekindled our enthusiasm for the species. Easy from saved seed.

Angelica sylvestris 'Vicar's Mead' £4.50

An umbellifer with dark brown-purple foliage and pink flowers in summer. Not for dry soil. Sometimes dies after flowering, so save seed.

Anthericum liliago 'Major' AGM £4

Rather substantial spikes of white flowers, relatively early on a short plant make this for me the finest *Anthericum*.

Anthericum ramosum £4

Airy branched spikes of starry white flowers in early summer.

Aquilegia 'Fruit and Nut Chocolate' £4

Thanks to Bob Brown for a peculiarly interesting and gardenworthy hybrid. He tells me the parents were *viridiflora* and something obscure which came to him as *brevistyla* but wasn't, so it's far and away from the usual kinds. Still with me? The greeny-brown flower colour comes from *viridiflora*, but it's a much bigger plant and flowers ridiculously early in spring. Oddly, comes absolutely true from seed.

Aquilegia schockleyi £4

A Californian miniature, with long narrow nodding flowers of scarlet and yellow. 20cm. Very pretty, and seems not to outbreed in cultivation.

Aralia cordata BSWJ 5511 £5

With herbaceous aralias, you know you're going to get fantastically bold deciduous foliage, little round heads of ivy-like flowers followed by berries, and SIZE. This Japanese collection is no exception. The bipinnate leaves have big rounded leaflets, the flowers are white, followed by black fruit, and the size – well, not as big as most, under 2m.

For rich, not over-dry soil.

Arisaema

The Cobra Lilies are dormant in winter, going up and flowering quickly once the tubers start growing. Everything about them is lovely, the spooky mottled emerging shoots, bold leaves and exotic aroid flowers. As a rule, plenty of warmth and moisture, a relatively well drained soil away from direct sunlight will suit them (most of these are from warm temperate Northern India and the Himalayas, and serious cold is not to their liking). Our heavy wet soil is not to the liking of every species, so we grow many very successfully as pot subjects. Once they die down, we let the compost dry off, then lift the tubers in early autumn, storing them in brown paper bags in a cool but frost-free room, potting up again from the end of February here. In autumn, we supply recently lifted tubers. Store as above, planting next spring. All are propagated here in Devon.

Arisaema candidissimum £5

White/pink striped spathes. Trifoliate leaves. One of the best known and best as garden plants, even on clay. 40cm.

Arisaema ciliatum £4

Freely dividing, and very late into growth (June here) - hence late flowering. Flowers when small, 25cm tall, but said to reach over 1m ultimately. A good bet in the open garden.

Arisaema consanguineum AGM £5

Tall, once it gets established, up to 1m.

Arisaema exappendiculatum £5

A few spares of this one, rather new to us.

Arisaema flavum £4

Short and pretty, flowering when young. Small spathes, green and yellow. Known as a good doer in the garden.

Armeria 'Brutus' £5.50

Our own monster-thrift, a selected hybrid of *A. pseudarmeria*, with a long succession of very large white heads on 50cm stems, surrounded in bud by smart bracts, fragrant in a carnation/garlic sort of a way, forming a very stout taprooted clump with broad leaves, so a devil to divide. Propagated very slowly by division and basal cuttings. For a sunny, well drained place. We're excessively proud of this plant, a single clone, and are horrified to see seed appearing as 'Brutus' in seed exchanges where doubtless over a few generations it will turn into some depauperate runt, full of genes from boring old *maritima*. Brian at Avondale, bless him, has taken us seriously and propagates it by basal cuttings. If you see any other nursery offering it, ask if it's from seed and give them what for if it is. Rant,

rant, grumble, gripe.

Artemisia lactiflora 'Jim Russell' £5

We think this more elegant than the well known Guizho group. The foliage isn't quite as dark, but the flowers are properly white, not a dirty off white, and the habit is rather more arching. Still a sound 1.5m clumper.

Arum creticum 'Marmaris White' £7

Unlike the rich yellow spathe and spadix of the familiar Cretan forms, plants from adjacent areas of Turkey have a white spathe contrasting with the yellow spadix. The stem is really dark. Very impressive and not difficult to grow.

Arum creticum x *italicum*? £4

An odd little thing has been passed around under this name. I'm not sure I believe it, yet it's not like anything else. We can't make it flower. Perhaps you'd like to try?

Arum italicum 'Chameleon' £4.50

A gentle, comely plant in leaf through the winter and spring. The large central part of the leaf is a misty blend of small areas of dark, pale and silvery grey greens. Easy in light shade.

Arum italicum 'Tiny' £4

Of the 'Marmoratum' persuasion, with white-veined leaves, but smaller. Not exactly *tiny*, though...

Arum italicum 'White Winter' £4.50

Very very bold creamy white veins. See Graham Rice's piece on the many forms of *A. italicum* in *The Plantsman*, December 2010.

Aruncus 'Johannifest' £4.50

Interesting German hybrid. Fuzzy spikes of white flowers age pinkish; leaves finely divided. 60cm.

Asparagus pseudoscaberrimus 'Spitzenschleier' £4.50

A German asparagus grown for ornament rather than food; 1m tall and useful for flower arrangers.

Aster We persist in the folly of listing a few unfashionable favourites from our garden in autumn. If we still have to mention the m-word, let's just say that we've never seen mildew on any of these, although if you treated them horribly enough for long enough you might be able to prove a point...

Aster 'Fellowship' £5

A big shaggy double lilac-pink michaelmas daisy. Julian's Mum uses it as a very effective cut flower. 1.2m.

Aster 'Glow in the Dark' £5

Lilac pink daisies shine out from among dark tinted leaves and stems. Introduced by Brian 'Avondale' Ellis who says it's 'Calliope' x 'Fellowship'. It has the leaf colour of the former without the daunting height, being rather under 1m tall. Different and good.

Aster 'Kylie' AGM £5

Loads of very small pale pink flowers on a bushy 1.2m plant. Lasts well when cut. A unique *novae-angliae* x *ericoides* hybrid which greatly impressed us as a brand-new cultivar in the erstwhile Wraxall National Collection, about 1990.

Aster 'Little Carlow' AGM £5

Heaps of medium sized really blue flowers in September, all over a bushy plant. Bred in Devizes. 'Creating large clumps of colour year in year out [it] is a first-class, 'no-fuss' hybrid' writes Paul Picton, who really should know. 1.2m.

Aster 'Ochtendgloren' AGM £5

Another floriferous hybrid, with slightly smaller pink flowers. Good bushy habit and strong constitution. 1.2m.

Aster 'Pixie Dark Eye' £4.50

Lots of medium sized rich purple, yellow eyed flowers on a compact (60cm for us) plant. Quite out of the ordinary.

Aster 'Sunhelene' £5

A recent one, with semidouble soft blue flowers at the top of stout 1m stems. Somehow the buds are conspicuous and attractive. "Marie Ballard' without the mildew", as Bob Brown perceptively puts it.

Astrantia

The Masterworts are classic perennials for heavy ground, thriving in sun or part shade. All have dense umbels of tiny flowers, surrounded by a conspicuous collar of bracts and looking for all the world like a large, single flower. All reach around 60cm. Divisions.

Astrantia 'Buckland' £4

Very attractive hybrid, with large pink and green flower heads - like all Masterworts, great on heavy ground.

Astrantia major Gill Richardson group £4.50

Dark red flowers on dark red stems. Divisions of a good form (I admit we've seen even better) in this sadly varied group, the result of seed raising by a nursery we shall not name here.

Astrantia major involucrata 'Snape Cottage' £5

Divisions from Angela Whinfield's 'super-shaggy', which stopped me in my tracks when in flower in Ruth Boundy's Somerset garden. Like all these large bracted forms, it needs to settle down in good soil in order to look special. Thanks to the ever-generous Ruth and Angela.

Astrantia major 'Ruby Wedding' £4

A good red-flowered form, by division.

Athyrium 'Branford Beauty' £5

Beautiful hybrid Lady Fern, vigorous and with a grey cast to the leaf. Deciduous.

Athyrium filix-femina var. *angustum* 'Lady in Red' £5

Another good, distinctive Lady Fern, light green fronds with a red rachis (the stalk/midrib bit...).

Athyrium filix-femina 'Minutissimum' £4

Adorable little Lady Fern, less than 20cm tall, but perfectly formed, and making a dense, spreading clump. Ignore Martin Rickard's disparaging comments - these are not dodgy Dutch imports which end up tall but divisions of the plant we've cherished throughout our gardening career, originally from Washfield. The epitome of mini-ferinness.

Athyrium filix-femina 'Victoriae' £7

One of the classic rarities, we offer divisions of established tissue-cultured plants, close to the ultra-slowly splitting original (which was found by someone named Cosh - just thought I'd share that with you). Avoiding mutant fern technicalities, the frond is long, narrow and almost parallel sided, the divisions are narrow and bracken-like, branching into little fingers at the tips, as does the tip of the frond. The divisions are paired on each side, making a cross. Undoubtedly weird and unnatural, but holds a peculiar attraction.

Athyrium 'Ghost' £6

On the same lines as 'Branford Beauty', but the metallic grey is more pronounced - stunning.

Athyrium niponicum var. *pictum* AGM £4

Classic easy silvery-grey leafed fern, with a mauve tint around the veins. Deciduous. 30cm.

Athyrium otophorum var. *okanum* £5.50

The dark red rachis and creamy yellow tint to the pinnae give a unique look. Deciduous, but retaining its colour long into autumn. For reasonably moist shade.

Baptisia 'Purple Smoke' £4.50

Differs from others in having smoky violet-purple flowers and dark-flushed stems. Slow to propagate. Subtle and distinct.

Beesia calthifolia DJHC 98447 £4.50

Spreading clumps of cordate leaves, bronzy green as they emerge and becoming marbled as they age. Lots of little white flowers on 30cm+ stems in summer, rather like the related *Actaea*, but it's the foliage that makes it so special. Effective either in the woodland garden or a pot.

Begonia boliviensis £4.50

Something to grow in a pot by the house or, as we do, in the conservatory. It arches out in all directions, with elegant bright orange flowers in summer. Store the tubers dryish but not necessarily frost free in winter. Impossible to miss. Few.

Begonia 'Candy Floss' BWJ 7858 £4.50

Lots of pink flowers over bold hairy leaves. 30cm or so. Strongly deciduous and apparently quite hardy. For humusy soil in shade. Tuberos and late to come into growth.

Bellevalia dubia £4

Diminutive muscari-relative. Light blue buds open milk chocolate with a cream edge. Spring.

Bellevalia tabriziana £3.50

One of the last spring bulbs to flower. The flowers flare like a bluebell, white with light blue tips, in an open bluebell-like inflorescence. 10-15cm tall, for sun. Just great.

Bergenia 'Bartók' £4

A good old Eric Smith plant, particularly good for its shiny but not flat, upwardly angled leaves, reddening well in cold weather. Red-pink flowers.

Bergenia 'Beethoven' £5

Densely packed white flowers with a fetching hint of pink. Another Smith composer.

Bergenia ciliata £5

Has hairy dinner plates for leaves; wonderful pale pink flowers in February. Pretty hardy, but hard frosts can mash the flowers, so choose a sheltered site.

Bergenia ciliata 'Wilton' £6

It's hairier, much hairier, soft and strokable, not bristly. Customers ask 'what's the difference?' until they feel it.

Bergenia emeiensis £4.50

A little sweetie from Western China, white flowers from pink calyces and small leaves. Compact and under 30cm in height.

Bergenia pacumbis CC3616 £4

Related to *ciliata*; big shiny leaves edged with hairs and pink flowers very early in spring while the leaves are still small.

Blechnum chilense £5.50

A very handsome large fern, evergreen with tough, glossy pinnate fronds. Bold and somewhat spreading, 1m or so in height. Hardy in southern and western areas, pretty good even in the Midlands, it seems, especially if mulched. Acidic or neutral soil.

Blechnum wattsii £6

A smaller (60cm) Australian counterpart of the previous fern, more definitely for shade, and much less grown so its hardiness is not well known - OK here.

Bletilla striata £4

An easy, large flowered, clump forming hardy orchid - what could be nicer? Bright green, pleated leaves and vivid pink flowers, dying back to tubers in winter. Recommended for humus rich partial shade, but can thrive in full sun or heavy soil.

Bletilla striata var. *japonica* f. *gebina* £4

And again, this time white flowered with a pink flush inside.

Brunnera macrophylla 'Looking Glass' £4

It's Jack again, but as the leaves expand the silver covers the surface. PBR.

Calanthe discolor £12

If you're new to these terrestrial orchids with broad, pleated leaves, this is one of the easiest species to start with. Starting into growth in spring, though never without leaves, the brownish flowers with paler lip are held on 30cm spikes. Do-able in a sheltered spot outside if you're clever, but easy and satisfactory in a pot under unheated glass.

Caltha 'Honeydew' £5

A unique hybrid, raised in Sussex about 25 years ago. The flowers are a wonderful pale yellow, large on a hefty 75cm plant. The flower stems will root at the nodes, so try layering it as the flowers go over.

Campanula 'Burghaltii' AGM £4

Large, pale grey-violet bells nicely contrasting with the much darker violet buds. 60cm. It can reflower if cut back and watered.

Campanula latifolia 'Buckland' £4.50

Large white bells with a small dark violet eye, in late spring to early summer, on an 80cm plant. Beautifully visible in light shade. From the Garden House in the Wiley era and rarely offered.

Campanula persicifolia large blue semi-double £4

Just that, very like the thing Bob Brown calls 'Blue Bloomers'.

Campanula 'Van-Houttei' £4

Very big, dark blue-purple flowers. A fine plant. 75cm or so.

Cardamine

Great plants as they are, we can't fill the catalogue with descriptions of plants which almost nobody wants to buy.

We have small numbers of the following, at £4, mostly dormant until spring and best left in pots, watered, until well into growth. Woodlanders unless stated: *diphylla* 'Eco Cut Leaf' (white-veined leaves), *quinquefolia*.

(Kew/Washfield flowering form, lilac-pink), *raphanifolia* (big, bold, pink flowered, a beaut for the bog garden in spring), *waldsteinii* (good sized white flowers, really nice low leaves).

Cardamine aff. *diphylla* £4

Special! A vigorous plant with well marked leaves which comes into growth in the autumn, unlike 'Eco Cut Leaf' and much stronger growing than the latter. White flowers in spring. Woodsy conditions. Thanks to Kevin Hughes.

Cardiocrinum giganteum red veined £5

You know the beast, with its rosettes of leaves getting bigger each year until eventually it blasts off, with white lilies hanging from neck-straining tall stems, leaving only small offsets and seed to repeat the cycle. This strain has particularly good red veins in the young foliage. Thanks to Kevin Hughes.

Carex atrata ssp. *pullata* £4

A dwarf Nepalaese sedge, with bright green leaves and lovely nodding black flower clusters in May. From the Kew

Edinburgh Kanchenjunga Expedition of 1989. Listed some years back as *C. duthei*.

Carex grayi £4.50

The flower spikes look like maces (the weapon not the spice) and look rather spectacular from early May through to the summer. A broad leaved hardy sedge for ordinary conditions. Everyone seems to want it when we take them to early May plant sales (then we run out).

Caryopteris divaricata 'Electrum' £5

A rarely seen variegated herbaceous foliage plant for summer effect, ideally out of intense sunlight. It's not much like the familiar *C. x clandonensis*. The leaves are strongly white variegated (unlike that miserable wretch 'Jade Shades'). Nip out the tips (cuttings?) in spring to get a bushier mound of foliage to 80cm or so by mid-summer. The tubular pale violet flowers are harmless. We had it from Monksilver 20 years ago, who reckoned it was a Japanese cultivar. Something looking identical is gaining popularity in the US under the sickening name 'Snow Fairy'.

Caulleya cathcartii 'Tenzing's Gold' BSWJ2281 £4.50

A small species even in this genus of diminutive, hardy-ish, winter dormant ginger relatives. Spikes of rich yellow flowers in early summer, under 30cm for us, but might get a bit taller when well established. The backs of the leaves are nicely flushed with red. Collected by the Wynn-Jones's in northern India on an expedition guided by a relative of the famous Tenzing Norgay.

Cenolophium denudatum £5

An excellent umbellifer, with finely divided foliage and white umbels in summer. Best of all, it thrives in dry shade. Variable in height, but can reach 1m.

Centaurea atropurpurea £4.50

A fine tall plant with excellent silver grey foliage when grown dry and lean. Wine red knobby flower heads. 150cm. Previously listed by us, and everyone else who grew it, as *benoistii*.

Centaurea bella £4

Silvery pinnate leaved clumper with decent sized lilac-pink flowers on 30cm stems. Sun, reasonable drainage.

Centaurea 'Caramia' £4

A very nice plant which doesn't seem to be getting about as quickly as I'd have expected. 30-60cm tall, with undivided greyish green leaves and purple-pink rayed flower heads over a long summer season. It's in the area of *C. phrygia*, perhaps a hybrid with *jacea* – some intermediate forms have been recorded in the wild.

Centaurea cheiranthifolia £5

Lovely large palest yellow cornflowers. Grey-green leaves. 40cm.

Centaurea fischeri £5

Rather similar, with pale pink flowers.

Centaurea kotschyana £4

Low growing, with rather shiny green leaves, and purple thimble flower heads: yellow stamens contrast beautifully.

Centaurea montana 'Carnea' £5

Light pinky-lilac variety of the common perennial cornflower. Tough and easy in sun.

florets more blue than violet, the centre purple-pink. Narrow grey green leaves, gently running habit. Not quick, but worth the effort. Well drained soil in sun.

Centaurea montana 'Lady Flora Hastings' £5

As above, but nice spidery white flowers with contrasting dark stamens.

Centaurea montana 'Ochroleuca' £5

An interesting pale yellow flowered form, later flowering than most. I could believe it is a hybrid with *cheiranthifolia*.

Centaurea montana 'Purple Heart' £5

White rays, proper purple centre. A no-nonsense perennial cornflower

Centaurea montana 'Purpurea' £5

As above, with unambiguously purple flowers.

Centaurea glastifolia £5

Tall but not overbearing, spreading but not thuggish, yellow but not brash, this knobbyheaded 1.2m sound perennial is one of our old favourites.

Centaurea thracica £5

Obscure but interesting perennial from the eastern Balkans. The bold leaves are distinctively lobed - I suppose lyrate is the word. Knobby yellow flower heads, 50cm. Sunny site. Taxonomically isolated, and at one time placed in *Serratula*.

Centaurea triumfettii 'Hoar Frost' £4.50

A sister seedling to 'Blue Dreams', more vigorously growing. Good sized white flowers with pink-purple tinted

centres in May. A great plant for a sunny, well drained place.

Centaurea 'Blewit' £5

Previously, and correctly, sold as *triumfetti* x *montana*. Blue *montana*-like flowers at the tops of unbranched stems to 75cm, with a more open, running habit than *montana*, but still tough in the garden. The result of one of Joe Sharman's experiments. His accidentally giving it to us in place of another plant gives rise to one dimension of the Sharmanic pun in the cultivar name. Unlike anything else, and very attractive.

Chaerophyllum hirsutum 'Roseum' £4

Universally known as 'Pink Cow Parsley', but actually a Rough Chervil, which makes it even better since it's a sound perennial. Classic.

Chamerion (Epilobium) angustifolium 'Album' £5

The White Willowherb, valuable as a splendidly clump-forming back-of-the-border plant. Dies down completely in winter; pure white flowers on 1m or taller stems in early summer. One of those white flowers which is properly, opaquely, beautifully white.

Chasmanthe bicolor £5

The hardiest *Chasmanthe*, but still an outdoor prospect only in very mild coastal gardens, in a place which dries out in summer. Exotic looking swept-back sunbird-pollinated orange flowers in winter on a *crocosmia*-looking plant. Unlike *crocosmias*, it grows in winter and goes dormant in summer.

Chelonopsis yagiharana £5

A bushy, wiry-based perennial reaching about 40cm in flower by early autumn. The flowers are good sized, wine-red of typical labiate shape. If you've already got *C. moschata*, you've got this! There's only one in cultivation – what you call it depends on whether you lump or split the two species.

Chloranthus fortunei £4.50

A whorl of four leaves, purple/brown tinted when young, on each 30cm stem, and little white flowers in May. A hardy clumper for woodland conditions. Very peculiar, very attractive.

Chrysosplenium macrophyllum £4.50

The golden saxifrage that thinks it's a *Bergenia*. Round bristly leaves, new rosettes forming at the ends of obscene fat hairy stolons. Flowers quite large but uninteresting compared with the foliage. Mad ground cover for a woody bed.

Cirsium rivulare 'Atropurpureum' £5

The classic crimson-purple flowered species for the border. 1.2m.

Cirsium sp. white £5

Basal rosettes of shiny, only weakly prickly-edged leaves. Fine white flower heads on 1.5m stems in autumn. Some people say it's *Serratula bulgarica*, but I agree with Victor Meldrew on that. An excellent plant, anyway. Thanks to Roger and Sue Norman.

Convallaria majalis var. *rosea* £4

Lily of the Valley is one of those infuriating plants that likes some people/gardens and not others, for no discernible reason. This is the pink form...

Convallaria majalis 'Haldon Grange' £4.50

...while this is a butch plant, triploid I'm told, with a cream margin to the apical third of the leaf...

Convallaria majalis 'Vic Pawlowski's Gold' £5

...and this has particularly good yellow stripes to the leaves; we've hardly ever seen a reversion.

Coptis japonica var. *major* £4.50

From the backwaters of the Ranunculaceae comes this small Northern genus for cool, humusy positions. Finely divided, but rather stiff, ternate leaves to 25cm, and tiny white flowers in autumn, as the leaves go down, with extraordinary whorls of seed pods with the new leaves in spring. Gently running. Very rarely seen.

Corydalis leucanthema DJHC 752 £4

A fibrous rooted species for shade. Rather substantial leaves, grey and somewhat marbled in silver. Pink-and-white flowers in spring. 15cm.

Corydalis 'Kingfisher' £4.50

Much more compact and less running than the next two, it is a really lovely sky blue in flower; *cashmeriana* x *flexuosa*.

Corydalis 'Spinners' £4

There are many *flexuosa/elata* hybrids around now. We still consider this and the next to be the finest. 'Spinners' is close to *elata* in appearance with scented indigo blue flowers, but bulks up more densely and generously, as with *flexuosa*.

Corydalis 'Tory MP' £4

This one is more obviously intermediate. It's tall (to 75cm), forming a vigorous, dense, spreading clump, with intense blue flowers and red tinted stems. It flowers for an unusually long time in late spring and summer, then may repeat in autumn after a summer recess. It grows well in full sun as well as partial shade. I've recently been advised to find a Lib-Dem species with which to hybridize it.

Crinum from Glasgow £6

An old cultivated plant (not hardy in Scotland!) which I've no hope of naming – perhaps an old hybrid. Flowers with a very long perianth tube, most attractive, capable of flowering on relatively small bulbs. Thanks to Paul Matthews.

Crinum x powellii 'Haarlemense' £6

A particularly good clone of the well known hardy hybrid, much less coarsely leafy than the usual pink form, and a lighter pink. Very rarely offered. Ours stock goes back to Messrs Archibald and Smith.

Crinum x powellii 'Album' AGM £6

Clean white flowers, of slightly better form than the usual pink one. Divisions of our own stock which really does have white flowers, unlike some you find in the bulb trade.

Crocsmia It's hard to imagine British gardens without these summer stalwarts, yet they are essentially a garden phenomenon of the 20th Century. The 1898 edition of Robinson's cutting-edge 'The English Flower Garden' mentions only *aurea*, under a synonym. All £5

'African Glow' Orangey yellow, but definitely a variant of yellow not orange. Oh for a colour chart we can all afford...

'Baby Barnaby' Branched stems with orange flowers, blotched maroon. 60cm. Sarah says I must emphasize how very nice it is.

'Debutante' Peculiar, but attractive pinky orange. Quite early, but with staying power.

'Ellenbank Firecrest' 60cm small-but-many flowered orange and red bicolor. Eyecatching.

'Fire Jumper' Dan Hinkley's red/orange bicolor. Excellent, still rarely seen. Unusually many flowers per stem.

'Harmonia' Prolific flowers, the colour of barbecued tomatoes, with yellow throats. Mid height. Uncommon.

'Jackanapes' Good old dwarf red/yellowy orange bicolor, making a cheeky face at you..

'Limpopo' Large flowers, pinky-apricot.

'Paul's Best Yellow' Very large, rich golden yellow flowers face outwards. Impressive.

'Star of the East' Huge, open, slightly inclined orange flowers.

'Walberton Red' Upfacing (*masoniorum*-type) tomato red flowers, 90cm.

'Zambesi' Best of the African Rivers hybrids. Tall and long flowering. Many large outfacing orange flowers. PBR

Crocus tommasinianus 'Roseus' £3.50

As enthusiasts for summer dormant bulbs and corms, and for irids in general, you might expect us to be crocus fans. We are. It's just that we've never got round to selling any. Here, as a statement of intent, is a particularly fine, proper pink form of a classic easy species for the garden, from the late Richard Nutt, by way of Bob Brown. Several in a pot.

Cyclamen hederifolium seedlings from Ruby Strain £4

A good proportion are flowering deep red-pink. Autumn flowering.

Cymophyllus fraserianus £4.50

Small North American sedge whose flowers are an improbable pure white, against the dark foliage. 15cm. Probably needs acid soil. Slow.

Cypella herbertii £3.50

Orangey yellow flowers like small tigridias on a branching plant over a long summer season. A no-trouble bulb for unheated glass, tough enough that you might risk it outside in a mild garden.

Deinanthef bifida £4.50

Strange and lovely herbaceous Hydrangea relative. White, waxy, weirdly shaped flowers. The rough, pale green leaves have a characteristic broad notch at the apex. 50cm tall, humus rich soil in shade.

Delphinium 'Alice Artindale' £5

Not the only double *Delphinium*, but a unique, celebrated and scarce one. The blue flowers are so lovely on bud, with all the doubling retained within the normal tubular shape, only later opening to a full fuzzy double. The colour varies with weather and stage of the flower through all moods of sky blue, often with a peculiar iridescent quality. Tall, extremely so on fertile ground, and best given a bit of support before they look like they need it. I believe it's the only survivor of a number of pre-war doubles, and is a fuller double than the usual modern ones.

Slug food, like all the others, so protect this treasure from the slimy fiends.

Desmodium canadense £4

Branched spikes of pink pea flowers, up to 1m tall. Small (cheaper!) plants this autumn, bigger as next year goes on. Thanks to Grace Officer.

Dierama 'Coral Bells' £4.50

Warm pink flowers in summer, from silvery bracts. 1m. Like all these, for a sunny place which doesn't dry out in the summer.

Dierama Blackbird seedlings £5

'Blackbird' was an old seed strain from the defunct Slieve Donard nursery in Northern Ireland, characterized by broad, tubby, dark purple flowers. Most (perhaps all) of what's around nowadays is 'seedlings ex...', whether they tell you that or not. We do, and know that while most have these qualities, a few vary in the direction of the more usual pink garden hybrids. Typically 1m+ in flower.

Dierama 'Guinevere' £4.50

A vigorous, pure white flowered garden hybrid with typical arching habit. Divisions of established plants.

Dierama 'Knee-high Lavender' £4.50

Interesting, free-flowering plant of the *media* type, flowers as described and upward facing. 50cm or so.

Dierama 'Puck' £4.50

A nice hybrid of the *dracomontanum* persuasion, but a little taller and more vigorous, and rather pinker in flower. 50cm.

Digitalis parviflora £5

Tiny, rich brown foxgloves packed into a tight cone in summer. Well perennial. No rarity, but so good.

Diphylleia cymosa red marked form £5

Beautiful *Podophyllum* relative with red-stained leaves in spring. White flowers. Height to 50cm. Woodsy position.

Disporum A genus of luscious Solomon's Seal relatives, for moist humusy shade.

Disporum cantoniense 'Green Giant' £5.50

Clumps of tall, strong, upright, olive green stems with similarly coloured leaves and little clusters of long, bell shaped green-white flowers in late spring. The leaves die very slowly and gracefully, with many subtle and interesting colours. A Dan Hinkley selection.

Disporum maculatum see *Prosartes maculata*

Disporum megalanthum £4

Cream bells on a branchy plant, up to 1m tall.

Dryopteris x australis £6

This natural hybrid (*celsa* x *ludoviciana*) male fern from the American northeast is sterile so rarely makes it into the nursery trade. The 1m lanceolate fronds are strongly upright even into mid-summer. A very striking thing.

Dryopteris filix-mas 'Linearis Polydactyla' £4

The form of the male fern frond is transformed by the pinnae becoming extremely narrow, giving it a skeletal look. It is however very stiff, so the shape is weatherproof and has an interesting raspy feel.

Dryopteris wallichiana AGM £6

Upstanding fronds with a dark-scaly rachis unfurl like tarantula legs. Deciduous.

Echeveria 'Black Prince' £4

Dark rosettes 20cm across. Orange-red flowers in autumn. Needs some winter protection.

Echeveria secunda var. *glauca* £4

Good sized, really glaucous rosettes with nicely contrasting orange and yellow flowers. Protection again.

Echinacea Pixie Meadow Brite £4

Bright pink daisies on a short (50cm) bushy plant. Floriferous, not brittle, and seems to want to live! Full sun, excellent drainage and a reasonable level of fertility are to be recommended. An outlandish 3 way hybrid.

Ellisiophyllum pinnatum BSWJ 197 £5

A pretty little woodlander ground cover plant, with pinnately lobed leaves and plenty of small white flowers in summer.

Eomecon chionantha £4

Poppy of the Dawn. Translucent white flowers of great, if fleeting beauty; grey foliage. It runs wild and free in a shady bed, even on heavy ground, popping up at intervals. Great if you value serendipity, not if you prefer regimented formality.

Epimedium

Better access to western China for Japanese, European and American collectors in the 80s and 90s has led to a flood of exciting new species in cultivation. As a rule, these spring flowering species need the classic moist-but-well-drained (i.e. humus rich) soil in at least partial shade. All are irresistible; we grow far more than are listed here and never tire of them. We will send out well rooted plants, almost all in 1 litre pots this autumn. Not a bad idea to keep them in pots in a frame or cool glasshouse until spring.

Firstly, two of our own hybrids (there are more in the pipeline). These are not chance finds, but individual clones selected from many controlled crosses, then bulked up by division.

Epimedium 'King Prawn' £6 NEW CULTIVAR NAME

Tall and extremely vigorous, with long evergreen leaflets resembling *E. wushanense*, the pollen parent, well marked when young. The inflorescences are upright and branched, with many flowers, but are larger and with broader sepals, taking after the seed parent *E. latisepalum*. Flower colour varies a bit with weather but are generally a pinky beige (sounds nothing but actually attractive). A really substantial plant. We entered a close sibling which we'd finally rejected in favour of this one in the Cornwall Spring Show this April – and won the new 'Plantsman Award' with it. The flower colour wasn't quite as good on that one, and we only entered it because it hadn't been split down. We still think this is the one you want. It's a big clumper, not a runner.

Epimedium 'Totnes Turbo' £6 NEW CULTIVAR NAME

A really outlandish hybrid this, *latisepalum* x *pinnatum* ssp. *colchicum*, geographically and taxonomically distant. My aim was for a sort of 'Turbo Sulphureum' and we reckon we've done it. Let's compare it with the old familiar x *versicolor* 'Sulphureum': firstly, the flowers are two tone yellow, bright yellow petals under soft paler yellow sepals, the same pattern as 'Sulphureum' but both are a touch deeper. The inflorescences are considerably taller, the flowers held decisively above the strongly evergreen leaves. There are more flowers per inflorescence, which is sometimes branched. Rather than the heavy brown zone on the young leaves of 'Sulphureum', there is a rather uniform bronze cast. Both flowers and young foliage are displayed well whether or not the old leaves are removed. It's definitely a good spreader, though quite how fast remains to be seen. It seems quite tolerant of summer dry, but we're only now testing it in a really challenging place on alluvial soil beside a high wall 1m from the trunk of a mature beech. That position really sorts the men from the boys – we'll let you know the results in a couple of years.

Epimedium acuminatum L575 £4

Large mauve and white flowers, dark green evergreen leaves, bulks up well. This is by division from Roy Lancaster's original introduction, which we had from Washfield back in the 80's.

Epimedium acuminatum 'Galaxy' £4.50

And this is Roy's other collection of the species, L1962 – he tells us he collected a single pod, of which one seed germinated. Wonderfully, it turned out to have creamy white flowers.

Epimedium 'Amanagowa' £5

More or less evergreen hybrid (*acuminatum* x *dolichostemon*), lots of large flowers with white bracts and amber petals. Red mottling on young leaves. Seems a good do-er.

Epimedium 'Beni-kujaku' £4

A typical deciduous *grandiflorum* type in growth, but the flowers are unusual in having slender petals, rather on the scale of the spurs, giving a bunchy look. Petals and sepals are purplish red.

Epimedium brachyrrhizum £5

Big, soft violet flowers; new foliage bronzed. Close to *leptorrhizum*, and shares its matt green leaves.

Epimedium 'Buckland Spider' £4.50

Big, dusky pink, spidery flowers. Deciduous.

Epimedium chlorandrum £4.50

Splendid mottling on the new foliage. Large, spidery, palest greenish yellow flowers.

Epimedium davidii £4

Butter yellow flowers, quite finely divided evergreen foliage, vigorous and floriferous.

Epimedium diphylllum £4

Rather like a spurless white *grandiflorum*. Delicate looking but easy in acidic soil. Deciduous.

Epimedium ecalcaratum £4.50

Another of the spurless ones, with bright yellow flowers. Evergreen.

Epimedium 'Enchantress' £4.50

One of the first garden hybrids between Chinese species, with a good track-record as a garden plant. Substantial lilac sepals are the most obvious feature of the flower; tiny, short-spurred dark purple petals and down-thrusting stamens reveal *dolichostemon* as a parent, along with *leptorrhizum*. Evergreen. Thanks to the marvellous Elizabeth

Strangman.

Epimedium 'Phoenix' £4.50

Wendy Perry's chance hybrid of *acuminatum* (with *grandiflorum*?) has plentiful large flowers: sepals lilac-purple, petals deep rich purple fading out almost to white at the tips of the spurs; young leaved very well blotched red. An extremely good and distinctive evergreen.

Epimedium epsteinii £4

Broad perianth segments, outer pale, inner purplish, give the flower a really substantial, chunky look (Sarah goes as far as saying they look 'square'). Recently introduced, and scarce.

Epimedium fargesii £4.50

Lots of delicate, backswept white and purple flowers with a protruding spike of stamens; evergreen.

Epimedium fargesii 'Pink Constellation' £4.50

A pretty lilac-pink counterpart. Strangely the pollen colour is different, a fact of botanical if not horticultural significance.

Epimedium flavum £4

Evergreen, with pale yellow flowers over a very long season, sometimes into the autumn. Leaves tinged purple in winter. Horticulturally, a pale counterpart to *dauidii*.

Epimedium franchettii 'Brimstone Butterfly' £5

A clumper with really bold evergreen foliage and soft yellow flowers – the young leaves often blush uniformly red right at flowering time, a fabulous effect.

Epimedium 'Golden Eagle' £4.50

Good sized light yellow long spurred petals, paler bracts. Spidery and long-flowering. Evergreen. Looks like a form of *membranaceum* to me.

Epimedium grandiflorum varieties: This is the classic deciduous species from the Far East, preferring acidic soil.

E.g. 'Akebono' £4 Pale lilac-pink, low-growing.

E.g. 'Beni-kujaku' £4 Red with some lilac.

E.g. 'Crimson Queen' (£4.50) Deep pink flowers, wonderfully fragrant on a warm sunny day, and bronzed young foliage. Maybe the same as 'Crimson Beauty' and 'Rose Queen', but I'm still not certain of this.

E.g. 'Freya' (£4.50) Small, deep purple with pale spur. A Washfield special, also known as 'Nanum Freya'. Rarely seen

E.g. 'Nanum' AGM (£4) A very dwarf form of the species, slow growing, no more than 15cm tall. Pure white flowers over dainty foliage, with red-brown margins when young.

E.g. 'Purple Prince' (£4.50) Rich red-purple sepals and petals. Impressive and not often seen.

E.g. 'Saturn' (£4) Similar to 'Nanum' but looser growing and with a happier constitution.

E.g. 'Queen Esta' (£4.50) Very striking American selection, with big flowers in two-tone pink.

E.g. 'Yellow Princess' (£4) Short, with soft yellow flowers. I think that's enough *grandiflorum*s to be getting along with.

Epimedium ilicifolium £4.50

Lovely prickly, rather holly-like leaflets. Good sized pale yellow flowers much like those of *flavum*. Late flowering. Rare and slow to propagate, but not hard to grow.

Epimedium 'Jean O'Neill' £4.50

An interesting new plant, a gift from Peter Chappell of Spinners Garden in the New Forest. He and Kevin Hughes raised a batch of hybrid seedlings from *dauidii*, from which this was selected after a few years in the open garden. It grows and flowers well, with glossy, rather prickly evergreen leaves and profuse flowers which look creamy lilac from a distance, although on close examination are flushed with both pale yellow and violet. Intermediate in flower and leaf between *dauidii* and *acuminatum*.

Epimedium Spinners' new special £5

From the same stable, a plant which was enormously tall (1m+ in flower) and bulky in the garden. Like the previous, rather indeterminately creamy coloured flowers, but well sized, and lots of them. Definitely a leafy evergreen presence in the woodland garden. No name at present, but I'll ask again, and it may well have one by the time the plants are sent out!

Epimedium latisepalum £5

Huge flowers of glistening white and cream. Evergreen. Highly desirable.

Epimedium leptorrhizum £4

Large pink-purple flowers, attractive toothed, acuminate leaves.

Epimedium leptorrhizum 'Mariko' £5

Long light magenta sepals contrast with white petals and yellow pollen. Very choice.

Epimedium lishihchenii £4.50

A rarity. Light yellow spurred flowers. Evergreen.

Epimedium myrianthum £4.50

I stoutly defend the subtle beauty of this minute-flowered species from Hunan. The flowers are so small that I won't give a precise description - what you see is the yellow of the protruding stamens and the white of the inner sepals. They are very numerous - up to 200 per inflorescence. The leaves are heavily and coarsely red blotched when young, a very striking feature. You need to show it to your visitors but they will thank you. Good reports as a garden plant but remains rare in cultivation.

Epimedium ogisui £4.50

A beautiful plant, with good sized white flowers on horizontal stems, and a spreading habit. Native to limestone rocks near waterfalls, but seems perfectly amenable and very vigorous when treated like the other Chinese species.

Epimedium x omeiense 'Akame' (= 'Emei Shan') £5

Eyecatching flowers in a sweetshoppy reddish-pink-and-yellow colour scheme.

Epimedium x omeiense 'Stormcloud' £4.50

Another form of this variable Chinese natural hybrid (*fangii* x *acuminatum*), this time with flowers of a sinister metallic hue. Someone with the right sort of imagination could use this pair in a Ying/Yang or Jekyll/Hyde planting.

Epimedium x perralchicum 'Lichtenberg' £4

German clone of the superb tough and easy bright yellow flowered old-timer. On close inspection, you see the small red-spurred petals against the big rounded yellow sepals.

Epimedium pinnatum ssp. *colchicum* L321 AGM £4 One of the former's parents, in Roy Lancaster's distinctive collection. Pure yellow, and tough.

Epimedium x rubrum AGM £4

Another tough but beautiful primary hybrid. Carmine sepals, white petals. Old leaves often red in winter.

Epimedium sempervirens 'Okuda's White' £4.50

This species is the evergreen counterpart to *grandiflorum*, coming from the snowier western side of southern Honshu. It's an acid lover and still loses its leaves in some winters with us. Some forms are a nightmare to grow, but this white variety is a doer, and at the height of flowering can be stunning. From Japanese cultivation via Heronswood.

Epimedium stellulatum 'Wudang Star' £5

A vigorous evergreen, taking on red tints in winter. Arching flower stems carry many starry white flowers, giving a lovely hazy effect.

Epimedium 'Tama-no-genpei' £5

A very pretty deciduous hybrid, of the *grandiflorum* persuasion. Bright pink inner sepals contrast with pale lilac-pink petals fading into long white spurs. Reflowers in autumn more frequently than any other we grow. Extremely pretty. From Japan, by way of Seattle.

Epimedium 'William Stearn' £5

Good sized spurred flowers of a sombre dark red, matching the dark marked young foliage. Evergreen. One of Robin White's hybrids, named for the late authority on the genus.

Epimedium wushanense 'Caramel' £4.50

Elegant evergreen leaves, sometimes mottled red, with very large spidery flowers on tall stems to 1m. The name describes the flower colour. Amazing.

Epimedium x versicolor 'Sulphureum' £4

One of the old indestructibles, with soft yellow flowers over the bronze stained new leaves.

Epimedium x versicolor 'Neosulphureum' £4.50

Looks almost identical to the previous. Big deal. But for us it flowers about a fortnight later. Now that could be useful.

Epimedium x versicolor 'Versicolor' £4.50

Just as tough but less often seen. Sepals from coppery red to rose pink contrast with soft yellow petals. Winter foliage shiny dark red, young foliage nicely bronzed. Utterly lovely. I'm starting to think that nobody knows the difference between 'Versicolor' and 'Cupreum', and that they may well be the same plant.

Epimedium x warleyense £4

Classic tough hybrid with unique burnt orange flowers.

Epimedium x youngianum 'Tamabotan' £4

Various varieties of youngianum are well proven as easy garden plants. This newish hybrid has striking broad pink sepals to the flowers, giving them an unusually chunky look. Deciduous.

Epimedium sp. nov. from Yunnan £4.50

Broad white bracts contrast with pale yellow spurred petals. Late flowering. Pale green leaves, evergreen. Very impressive in a pale way.

Equisetum 'Bandit' £5

Impressively banded horsetail, each internode with a dark green and at best almost luminous light yellow-green section. Dense clumping, of the *hyemale* persuasion. 60cm. Said to be from Japan, altho' I've heard of similar forms in Latvia. Blame that Sharman for the punny name.

Equisetum camtschatcense £5

A densely clumping horsetail, with medium thickness, leafless stems to 1m. Wet ground, hardy here. Probably a form of *hyemale*.

Eragrostis curvula SH10 £4.50

A particularly nice form of a variable South African grass with light, airy 1.5m flower heads. Not hardy in the coldest areas.

Eragrostis curvula 'Totnes Burgundy' £4

Our own introduction, now getting lots of good press in Britain and the US. Long, arching stems of steely grey flowers in summer, as in the type. The mature leaves are dark wine red from midway. Best in a sunny, well-drained site or large pot. It always looks best against gravel, wood, stone or silver foliage, not against green or earth. Surprisingly hardy if well drained.

Ericas from South Africa

Three horrid winters running, time to give them a rest... But there are lots of seedlings of lovely species growing well for future years.

Erigeron aff. *philadelphicus* £4

I'm not an *Erigeron* fan, but this one is irresistible. Nodding buds open upright to loads of wild daisy sized pale pink, yellow centred heads on 60cm stems in early summer. Bulks up freely and seems perennial with us. Previously listed as *E. pumilus*, which it's not, but it doesn't quite fit this either.

Eucomis: the Pineapple Lilies are summer growing bulbs, suited to sun or dappled shade in borders which don't become excessively cold, and to pots. When pot grown, repot in February, before the roots grow. For a superb gallery of *Eucomis* pics, go to www.theafricangarden.com.

Eucomis bicolor 'Alba' £4

Relatively short, broad, blunt ended leaves make a tidy rosette: squat heads of green-white flowers. Few.

Eucomis bicolor spotty £5

We selected this clone from a large batch of seed-raised plants for the excellent heavy, even spotting on the stem and leaf backs. The flowers are pale green with a red edge. My favourite of all the *Eucomis* we grow.

Eucomis comosa var. *striata* £4

The red spots on the undersides of the leaves, and leaf sheaths join up to make pin stripes. Attractive all the time it's in growth

Eucomis 'Frank Lawley' £4

Short, white flowered, with crinkly edged pale green leaves. Not flashy, but highly satisfactory.

Eucomis vandermerwei £4.50

One of the smallest pineapple lilies, but rather exciting. Flat rosettes of pointed, crinkly edged leaves heavily speckled with maroon on the upper surfaces. 20cm spikes of dark red flowers, even on quite small bulbs. Perhaps less hardy, and best in a pot.

Euphorbia amygdaloides 'Craigieburn' £4.50

An even darker version of the classic 'Purpurea', apparently less prone to mildew. The contrast between the yellow-green of the flowers and the rich purple of the bracts is a delight when caught by spring sunshine.

Euphorbia 'Blue Haze' £5

A short (to 40cm), very blue leaved hybrid (*seguieriana niciciana* x *nicaeensis* - the two classic glaucous spp) selected by Robin & Sue 'Blackthorn' White. 'Prune hard in August for compact blue foliage all winter' - I'd do what Robin tells you if I were you.

Euphorbia rigida AGM £4.50

The spirals of short, broad, pointed leaves around thick stems recall the well-known *E. myrsinites*, but instead of flopping around they stand upright in a branching 50cm bush. Yellow green flowers at the stem tips early in the year (from late January here). The leaves near the tips turn a lovely red brown towards summer. A great favourite of ours for a sunny well drained spot, perhaps on the edge of a low wall. Very drought-tolerant: in the American southwest we've seen it used to great effect in semi-arid amenity plantings.

Ferraria divaricata £4

Ferrarias have weird crinkled flowers with six more or less equal tepals, superficially unlike any other irids. They're all from winter rainfall South Africa. This species has proved remarkably hardy for us, grown in very gritty compost but without heat – we lose the commoner *F. crispa* like that. Flowers are yellowy brown in this species. A few spares only.

Filipendula palmata dwarf form £4

Short and neat, only 15cm high, with frothy pink flowers over a long season. Summer moisture is important.

Filipendula ulmaria 'Rosea' £4.50

The scarce pink flowered form of our native meadowsweet. Most reds/pinks belong to other, taller species.

Freesia lactea (= *alba*) £4

Winter growing corm with plenty of white flowers marked yellow and purple. What a powerful fragrance! It's the right fragrance too, the sweet delicious one, not the peppery scent of some cut freesias you buy. Dry summer dormancy; sun, shelter - perfect for a pot.

Freesia (Anomatheca) laxa / *grandiflora* hybrids, pink £4

Larger flowered than the familiar *laxa*, taller too, in a deep pink. Best in a pot almost frost free. At its best, a real attention grabber.

Freesia (Anomatheca) viridis £3.50

The green flowers, like little skeletal hands grasping at you, would suit a horror film. Winter growing, tenderish small corm for a pot.

Galanthus

In past years there's been a reasonably interesting snowdrop list here. We sell them potted, and aim to supply them with other plants, from the autumn until they sell out (quickly, usually). Last year's special snowdrop list, sent out predominantly by email in late September made life so much simpler that we're doing it again. Those who ordered snowdrops last year will automatically receive it. Email us now if you'd like a copy – leave a phone message if you can't do email and need a paper copy.

Galega 'His Majesty' £5

Spreads to make a splendid mound of glaucous pea foliage, topped by long spikes of strongly bicoloured violet flowers in early summer. Height to 1m at end of flowering. Extremely satisfactory.

Galega orientalis £5

Very distinct from the usual *officinalis/hartlandii* varieties in its upright spikes of indigo blue pea flowers. Pale green foliage, loosely spreading habit. Height to 1.2m. Sunny site.

Geranium 'Blue Cloud' £4.50

Blue geraniums are too many and too similar. This is quite distinctive with pale blue flowers, veined crimson over a long season; height 50cm.

Geranium 'Distant Hills' £4.50

Alan Bremner's *pratense* x *collinum* has lilac flowers veined pink over a very long season. The overall effect is a light grey-blue. 60cm. I really don't want too many *pratense* hybrids, but this is a fine plant.

Geranium 'Elworthy Eyecatcher' £5

Good sized shiny light magenta flowers over a very long season. 60cm ish. A good plant, still uncommon. Thanks to Jenny and Mike 'Elworthy Cottage' Spiller.

Geranium erianthum 'Calm Sea' £4

Peter Yeo's pale lilac, veiny form of this lovely slow growing species for a bit of shade.

Geranium erianthum 'Neptune' £4

Rather similar to, and bred from the previous, but a considerably deeper colour.

Geranium himalayense 'Derrick Cook' £4.50

A very good form of this low clumper. Large flowers are ice blue and veined, white from any distance.

Geranium 'Ivybridge Eyeful' NEW CULTIVAR NAME £4

Essentially a 50cm, branchy plant with smaller but more abundant, vivid magenta *psilostemon* flowers over a long

summer season. We listed it last year as a *psilostemon* hybrid, with its history. Having consulted widely, it's not any of the cultivars it might have been, and needs a name. Very bright.

Geranium 'Jean Armour' £4

You might not want to replace dear old 'Mavis Simpson', but if you don't have Mavis, I'd go for Jean instead.

Geranium libani x *ibericum* £4

In effect, an *ibericum* with dark, inky violet flowers. Leaves often age red. Quite like 'Sabani Blue' but an inkier shade.

Geranium maculatum 'Elizabeth Ann' £4

Brown tinted foliage and pale pink flowers in spring. Height 30cm or so.

Geranium maculatum 'Silver Buttons' £4.50

Essentially a white *maculatum* with fringed petals. Rare, and we can't trace its origin. Thanks to John Newbold.

Geranium nodosum 'Julie's Velvet' £4

A great species, quickly forming low (to 30cm) clumps with rather shiny green leaves and nice purple flowers in summer, tolerating rather dry shade. If you don't grow 'Whiteleaf', 'Svelte Lilac' or 'Swish Purple', this is probably the cultivar you want, richer in colour than any of those, but still with a paler margin to the petal. If you do, well, it's not *that* different...

Geranium 'Orion' AGM £4.50

Grown on the recommendation of the Wynn-Joneses of Crûg Farm, this is now our favourite of the many blue *pratense*-type plants. Big flowers of a clear deepish blue. 50cm or so.

Geranium phaeum 'Blue Shadow' £5

About as blue as *phaeum* gets.

Geranium phaeum 'Margaret Wilson' £4.50

Very distinctive fine, creamy white net-variegation across the leaf surface, violet flowers. It's the leaves you want, so cut the flower stems back right after flowering, or even before. Rumour had it that the variegation comes through in seedlings, but missed out the word 'sometimes'.

Geranium phaeum 'Séricourt' £4.50

A French variety with leaves clear yellow in spring. The flowers are red-brown.

Geranium pratense 'Else Lacey' £4.50

A pale lilac loose double. Unlike 'Summer Skies' which is a similar colour, it doesn't have the unfortunate tendency for the flowers to make a brown mess in wet weather. Else Lacey lived in East Cornwall and was much respected in hardy perennial circles. Rarely offered.

Geranium pratense 'Plenum Album' £4.50

10p sized double white flowers, with a little violet veining the centre. More picky than the other forms of this species, thriving in a moist and fertile but well-drained soil, in sun or partial shade. Slow to propagate; few.

Geranium pratense 'Purple Heron' £4

Dark, dark purple foliage; deep violet flowers in summer on a compact plant to 45cm. A clone of the highly prized 'Midnight Reiter' which is variable from seed and painfully slow to propagate by division - but we divide it anyway. Small, and slow growing.

Geranium pyrenaicum 'Bill Wallis' £4

Loveable self seeding sprawly job which drapes itself pleasantly through other vegetation. The deeper purple blue form with red stems.

Geranium shikokianum var. *quelpaertense* £4.50

Low-growing, densely clumping but not running, this Japanese species has an unusual habit. Pretty pink, darker veined flowers with white centres. Ideal for the front of a sunny border, or path edge. Uncommon. We've grown this, and no other form of *shikokianum* for over 20 years - we're told that hybridization within the species is blurring the original varieties in gardens and nurseries, but that ours should be 'clean' *quelpaertense*.

Geranium soboliferum Cally strain £4

Flowers a solid, rich pink from later in summer than most, through to September. 30cm tall with narrowly lobed leaves. From Michael 'Cally' Wickenden's Russian collection.

Geranium 'Solitaire' £4

Like its parents, a summer dormant plant with attractive leaves low to the ground in winter, and large clear blue flowers on 40cm stems in spring, but more vigorous and quicker growing than either. Goes on flowering for longer, too. Previously (and correctly) listed as *libani* x *peloponnesiacum*, but Alan Bremner who raised it has now named it. Why 'Solitaire'? 'First thing that came into my head' he claims.

Geranium 'Stephanie' £4

A recent hybrid, *pelopponesiacum* x *renardii*. Summer dormant-ish, with flowers like the former parent and leaves midway between the two. Very floriferous and desirable.

Geum coccineum 'Eos' £4

Kevin Marsh's eye-boggling selection of the true violently orange flowered *coccineum*. This one has bright yellow leaves. Has to be seen to be believed, but not nearly as tasteless as you might imagine. A real hot dog.

Geum hybrids: classic border plants for any normal soil in sun or part shade. All these are summer flowering, and 30-40cm tall in flower. All £4

'Abendsonne' Soft orange flashed burnt orange. Effective.

'Diane' Big upward facing bright yellow flowers on a very short plant. Excellent.

'Farmer John Cross' Lovely nodding lemon yellow flowers on red stems.

'Fire Opal' AGM Fiery orange-red, large open flowers.

'Herterton Primrose' Nice nodding flowers with yellow petals (brighter than 'Lemon Drops') contrasting very well with the red sepals and flower stems.

'Kathryn' A seedling from *capense*: single, very pale yellow flowers fringed pink, giving a peachy effect. Previously sold as 'unnamed hybrid', now (thankfully) named by Kevin Marsh for his Mrs.

'Karlskaer' Apricot orange semidouble.

'Mandarin' Tall (50cm) with very big coppery orange flowers late in the season. Excellent but slow to propagate. A Cally special.

'Mrs W. Moore' Nodding flowers in pastel red.

'Sigiswang' Small but plentiful, somewhat nodding, flowers the colour of ripe oranges.

Gladiolus

We delight in the huge diversity of the wild species and more natural-looking hybrids. The winter growers need protection from severe frost, although they will survive very low night temperatures briefly. We recommend Goldblatt & Manning's authoritative and beautiful 'Gladiolus in Southern Africa' for anyone wanting to get their head around the bewildering diversity of this genus. Mostly in small numbers, we'll probably have to limit several to 1 per customer, but if you don't ask you won't get.

Gladiolus angustus £3.50 WINTER GROWER

A rather chunky winter grower whose large creamy flowers have an extremely long tube which, once you get your head around pollination in African Iridaceae, screams 'long tongued flies' at you. We find it easy in pots with unheated winter protection. They flowered fine after the cold 08-9 winter, but we have to say 'subject to crop' at time of writing, since they're still safely buried in pots of dried-out compost.

Gladiolus cardinalis £4

Large, vivid scarlet flowers with three white flashes. The flower stems tend towards the horizontal and cry out for a rock across which to flop out. In growth most of the year, usually going more or less dormant briefly in summer with us.

Gladiolus carinatus £3.50 WINTER GROWER

Delicate blue-lilac flowers, with yellow too on the lower tepals; deliciously fragrant. Slender, around 40cm tall.

We've grown it in pots so far, but it's said to make a good garden plant in winter-rainfall parts of South Africa - sun and good drainage here. A traditional cut flower in the Western Cape.

Gladiolus 'David Hills' £4.50 SUMMER GROWER

Upstanding stems with medium sized, somewhat hooded flowers, red on the backs, a rather peachy red inside with yellow throat. A straightforward tough plant, but absolutely NOT a form of *papilio* as it is usually labelled.

Gladiolus flanaganii £4 SUMMER GROWER

Scarlet, up-facing flowers in early summer on out-arching stems. Impressive and not hard to grow.

Gladiolus garnieri £5 SUMMER GROWER

Slightly pinkish red flowers with pale yellow throat. Tall spikes of big flowers only just stay within the bounds of good taste. I'm told it's native to Madagascar, but it's hardy and does well at chilly Rosemoor.

Gladiolus aff. *huttonii* £4 WINTER GROWER

Scarlet with a yellow throat and edging, this showy self supporting plant gives a blast of summer colour in spring. As easy and self-supporting as *G. tristis*, and shares its growth cycle despite coming from the Eastern Cape coast. I suspect some hybridity with *tristis*.

Gladiolus huttonii x *tristis* £4 WINTER GROWER

More definite hybrids, yellow streaked and peppered with red.

Gladiolus lilaceus x *huttonii* £4 WINTER GROWER

Hand pollinated seedlings giving a wonderful range of mostly veined, mostly night-scented flowers in purple/pink /cream /orange shades, and tending to the upright habit of *huttonii* in the dim light of a Devon winter. You'll forgive us for having kept back a handful to bulk up vegetatively, but these are far from rejects, each a unique and pretty thing.

Gladiolus miniatus £3.50 WINTER GROWER

Coastal limestone endemic from the Western Cape. Low, but rather broad leaved plants, good sized salmon pink flowers on out-turned spikes in spring. Very scarce in the wild and in cultivation.

Gladiolus oppositiflorus £5 SUMMER GROWER

A rather sturdy plant from KwaZulu-Natal and the eastern Cape, this form is about 50cm tall with large salmon pink flowers in two ranks, but not in a single plane, typical of inland populations. Nearly as hardy as *dalenii*.

Voluptuous but not (quite) blowsy.

Gladiolus papilio £4.50 SUMMER GROWER

Slaty purple flowers on 1.2m stems. Vigorous and hardy. Grows a treat in our wet clay.

Gladiolus 'Ruby' £4.50 SUMMER GROWER

An easy hybrid of *G. papilio*, of which even the PlantFinder rashly suggests that it's a form. The flowers are much larger and broader than in *papilio*, of a luscious purple-red. A plant that's become quite well known in the south west, but is more rarely seen up country.

Gladiolus saundersii £4 SUMMER GROWER

One of the first glads we ever grew, we took it on trust that it was an orange form of *dalenii*, and never thought critically about it. James Hitchmough did, and identified it as a good compact form of *saundersii* – the scales fell from our eyes.

Gladiolus tristis £4 WINTER GROWER

Easy, with fragrant cream flowers on 75cm stems which don't flop, in early spring. Potsfull.

Gladiolus undulatus £4 WINTER GROWER

Fairly tall and stout, with extremely long-tubed flowers, cream, marked red on the lower tepals. From moist stony ground.

Gunnera perpensa £5

The African representative of a classic Gondwanic genus, the River Pumpkin has modestly sized leaves and dark red flower spikes to 40cm or so. Strongly deciduous, and hardy in milder parts of Britain. Keep well moist when in growth.

Hacquetia epipactis AGM £4

Ground level umbels with petal-like bracts from late winter – the effect is of yellow-green, roughly primrose-sized flowers. An easy, densely clumping small woodland perennial.

Hedychium

The Ginger Lilies are among the most exotic looking herbaceous plants you can hope to grow in a British garden. Great thick, creeping, ginger smelling rhizomes send up 'canes' with bold, alternate leaves in two ranks, around the beginning of April here.

No *Hedychium* is a straightforward hardy perennial right across the UK. On the other hand, none of these is an out-and-out heated glasshouse subject. All need a fertile soil with plenty of water in the growing season. Some species are evergreen in the wild, but this is only possible under warm glass in Britain, even in Cornwall. We allow all ours to become fully dormant in winter, which has the advantage of preventing pests overwintering: others find that a tortrix moth caterpillar, which munches holes through the rolled young leaves, can get the upper hand if the plants are overwintered in growth. Once the stems have been frosted, we cut them off at the base and protect the rhizomes. For pot-grown stock, this entails keeping them fairly dry, and avoiding extremes of frost. Plants grown in the open garden may need a protective mulch. What can you get away with in the open ground? The hardier ones are viable in the south of England and beyond, but microclimate and mulching are everything. Gardeners in central London or right on the South Coast can get away with a great deal. Some flower rather late, and early frosts can lose you the flowers, even if the plant survives. This is where a cool conservatory really helps, as well as providing a place to overwinter the dormant plants. Plants supplied have been growing in 2 litre pots since division in spring.

Starting with the hardiest, earliest flowering ones, *Hedychium densiflorum* (£5) is a toughie, but atypical. The flowers are many and small, packed into narrow 15cm spikes. They are a lovely intense burnt orange colour, but don't have any real fragrance. Free flowering, and one of the first to flower. Came to us as 'Assam

Orange', but that has rather looser inflorescences and flowers a more watery shade. *Hedychium densiflorum* 'Stephen' (£6), collected by Tony Schilling in Nepal, has larger flowers than the previous, cream with orange, and lightly fragrant. Very nice, quite hardy, but slow to propagate. We've been given another clone under a collector's number, *Hedychium densiflorum* Schilling 582 (£7): it's large flowered like 'Stephen' and a nice soft peachy orange. *Hedychium x moorei* 'Tara' AGM (£6) is pretty hardy, and usually early too. It has more typical spidery flowers in orange red. It's showy and popular. Schilling's yet again. *Hedychium yunnanense* (£5), notable for being just as chunky as the others, but much shorter: palest yellow flower with red stamen. The first to flower. *Hedychium forrestii* (£6) is white flowered, September in the south and can be extremely tall when established.

After a run of bad winters we've cut right back on those needing more protection, but here's just one good 'un. *Hedychium* 'Goldflame' (£5) is around 1.5m tall: fragrant white flowers with a bold yellow splash. It's a Tom Wood variety, from Florida, and is best in the conservatory, overwintered green.

Helenium 'Sahin's Early Flowerer' AGM £5

The great thing about this 1m tall cultivar is the extraordinarily rich and changing colours of the flowers. The rays open a light orangey yellow. As they expand they become increasingly streaked with bright red, ending up a rich burnt orange. Flowers at all stages mixed over the plant are unfailingly interesting. The more I see others, the more I like this.

Helianthella quinquenervis £5

A 2m, clump former for the back of the border, studded with perfectly sized pale moonlit yellow daisies in late summer and autumn. Elegance is a scarce commodity in the sunflower world, but this and the next have it in spades.

Helianthus salicifolius £5

Exceeding 2m, this fine leaved spreading plant makes a lovely lacy, constantly moving backdrop to other perennials. The bright yellow, rather small daisies are pleasant while they last, but it's the foliage you grow it for. William Robinson long ago recommended it for the 'picturesque garden'.

Helleborus atrorubens £4

Slow growing smaller flowered species with red-green flowers. Carefully hand pollinated seedlings from bagged parents derived from Elizabeth Strangman's wild collections. Several years old now, and wanting to get out in the garden to build for a while longer.

Helleborus niger 'Blackthorn Hybrid' £4.50

What an excellent form, with usually 3 flowers per red stem. By division.

Helleborus niger Japanese semi-double £4.50

Reliably semi-double Christmas Rose, once it settles down. By division.

Helleborus x ericsmithii £4.50

A very fine hybrid caulescent hellebore (*niger* x (*argutifolius* x *lividus*)). The leaves have a metallic grey tint, with 40cm stems of pink tinged white flowers from late winter. Sun, reasonable drainage.

Heloniopsis acutifolia £3.75

Rosettes of narrow leaves with inflorescences of white, pink tinged flowers. 15cm. Woodsy conditions.

Heloniopsis kawanoi £3.75

An uncommon dwarf species: umbels of white flowers over clean green rosettes.

Heloniopsis tubiflora 'Temple Blue' £4

We steered clear of this robust species for years, since it seemed to look as if it was dying most of the time. This collection, however, is a healthy green all year round, clumps up beautifully, and has flowers of a very attractive soft lavender blue. Previously listed as *H. orientalis* Korean form

Herbertia lahue £3.50

A cheery little iridaceous corm from Argentina, with bright violet flowers. Grown in pots with minimal protection, so far. Bulks up well.

Hesperantha (Schizostylis) coccinea palest pink £4.50

In the search for a really excellent white, we've acquired all sorts of things which don't quite make it. This one (a Kevin Marsh special) is excellent, absolutely not white, but a well formed delicate pastel pink, with plenty of substantial flowers.

Heuchera americana 'Harry Hay' £5

A gigantic plant, forming a dome of purple foliage more than 50cm high and topping 1m in flower. Impressive. Selected by the man himself.

X Hippeastrelia £5

This is the name for *Hippeastrum* x *Sprekelia*. There are several clones about, never that common. We self-pollinated 'Durgha Pradhan' and got excellent seed; the seedlings survived remarkable levels of cold, water at the wrong times of year, and general neglect. The first flowered this year and looked much like the parent, rich dark red, large flowered, with more than a hint of zygomorphy. A few spares for you to try.

Hosta sp. AGSJ302 £4.50

Really tall (to 1.4m) stems of many (30-40 per stem) good sized flowers in a shade of violet which, by *Hosta* standards, is really deep. Planted in a moist fertile bed, in flower with candelabra primulas and *Anemone rivularis*, a well established clump is a real treat for us. Undistinguished yellowy green foliage, but who cares - something this tall needs planting well back in the bed. Perhaps an undescribed species, and there is a proposal to call it 'Brian Halliwell', who was on the expedition.

summer. Not hardy but easy in a pot with dryish winter dormancy. Be good and keep the slugs off it, won't you.

Impatiens arguta £4

A 30cm tall species with good-sized lilac-blue flowers over a long season. No evidence of dangerous seeding tendencies. Mild position, or replaced annually from summer cuttings (easy).

Impatiens kilmanjari x *pseudoviola* £3.50

This natural hybrid makes a low, densely branched clump, fast growing and useful in a pot or as a 'filler' in summer. It will take quite a lot of shade. The flowers are small and intensely pink. Not hardy, but root a few cuttings and overwinter them in the greenhouse where they will take a few degrees of frost.

Impatiens namchabarwensis £4

Quite recently described Tibetan, with wonderful blue flowers. A bushy plant, reaching 40cm or so, it is essentially an annual unless well protected, but comes back readily from self sown seed, appearing as late as May. Light shade. Don't let it escape. AUTUMN ONLY – and protect the plant.

Impatiens omeiana clone 1 £5

Hardy, densely clumping by rhizomes. The original form in British gardens, with silver veined green leaves and peachy flowers in late summer..

Impatiens omeiana clone 2 £5

Pale uniformly silvered leaves and yellow flowers.

Impatiens rothii £4.50

A rather imposing perennial species, 1m in height, with pink flowers. It dies down to deeply buried tubers in winter. Despite being native to central Ethiopia, it is hardy in a sunny border at Colesbourne. It does not set seed for us, a good feature in a balsam.

Impatiens puberula HWJK 2063 £4

A Hinkley / Wynn-Jones collection from E. Nepal whose good sized purple flowers have white spurs. Makes a dense branchy clump, 20cm high. Really rather tough.

Impatiens stenantha £4

Bushy little thing with mustard yellow flowers in late spring and summer, over dark green leaves and red stems. Hardy at chilly Rosemoor (not sure I would be).

Ipheion 'Alberto Castillo' £4

Very large, pure white flowered form of this well known clumping bulb for a sunny site. Found in an old garden in Buenos Aires by its namesake. The species of *Ipheion* and *Tristagma* (which arguably should be a single genus) are poorly known and deserve more attention from gardeners and botanists.

Ipheion hirtellum £4

An exciting winter grower which increases very slowly. Solitary goblet shaped buttercup yellow flowers on 10-15cm stems in winter, narrow green leaves from almost spherical small bulbs. We grow it in pots with a little winter protection. Previously listed as an unidentified species.

Ipheion 'Jessie' £4

As prolific and hardy as *uniflorum*, but with as good a blue flower as the more tender 'Rolf Fiedler'.

Ipheion sellowianum £3.50

Yellow with a brown streak on the backs, in spring. Much shorter than *hirtellum*. Protect from slugs, and all will be well.

Ipheion sessile £3.50

Stemless white flowers, dark veined on the backs, over a long winter / early spring season. Probably best in a pot. Winter growing. Thanks to Ian Hunt, National Collection holder.

Ipheion uniflorum 'Charlotte Bishop' £4

The classic species, but with dusky pink, quite large flowers, from early spring.

Ipheion uniflorum ssp. *tandiliense* £4

Basically white, with a lilac tinge and vein, it's hard to say why this form is so very good. It has poise, something about the way it holds the flowers well above the tidy leaves.

Iris blue Louisiana hybrid £5

Large flowers of a marvellous intense blue - some people might call it violet-blue but I definitely don't. Flowers freely every year for us. Needs plenty of summer moisture. Thanks to Prof. Dick, who obtained it years ago in Iris Society circles.

Iris chrysographes black form £4

Beautifully shaped flowers on delicate 50cm stems over dense tufts of leaves in early summer; sun lovers. So dark a purple it looks black.

Iris confusa 'Martyn Rix' £5

Bamboo like stems to 1m topped by fans of pale green leaves, with branched inflorescences of many flat faced clear blue flowers. Grow it in a shady spot in moist soil; cut out the flowered stems after the flowers finish in early summer. Forms a biggish clump, so give it space somewhere it will blend into the scenery until flowering time.

Iris ensata 'Iso-no-nami' £5

Unlike some of the Japanese water irises, the light purple, neatly yellow-marked flowers, have exquisite form. The falls hang just so, and are not crumpled at all. Easy and floriferous in moister or wet soil, in sun. 1m.

Iris ensata 'Pin Stripe' £5

Broad, pale lilac falls lightly veined purple all over, with a small yellow flash. This is one of the varieties carrying a mutation which makes the standards develop as a second whorl of falls, making six in all. The mid-purple style branches make a nice contrast in the middle of the flower. One you grow for colour, not form. Wet, 1m again.

Iris histriodes 'Major' £3.50

One of the early spring (winter, really) flowering bulbous sorts, with flowers of a very deep blue, marked white. A lovely thing which cheers us up when we come upon it on a miserable winter day.

Iris laevigata 'Monstrosa' £5

One of those big wet-growing irises in which the standards develop as 3 extra falls, heavily violet freckled, merging to make a solid patch near the tip, on a white ground.

Iris x robusta 'Gerald Darby' £5

A stout clumper with striking purple bases to the leaves and nicely formed violet flowers on 1m+ stems. For moister (or downright wet) soils, in sun.

Iris (Hermodactylus) tuberosa £4

The tuberous Mediterranean classic, dormant in summer, with 'chocolate lime' flowers in spring. Sun, drainage. Back with its relatives after a spell in monotypic purdah.

Iris versicolor 'Mysterious Monique' £5

Useful species this, making lusty evergreen clumps in moister places, but variable, so pick your variety well. This one is great, with purple standards and style crests; falls darkest purple, yellow and white at base with heavy purple veining.

Iris Dwarf Bearded Varieties (all £4)

We've little time for tall or intermediate bearded iris (sorry, no offence, they're just not to our taste) but find that the dwarfs somehow do it for us. Even those with horizontal falls, to which I'd give a very old-fashioned look if taller, do their stuff when viewed from above. I long believed that Graham Stuart Thomas once wrote of them as 'garden toys', but after extensive searching came to the conclusion that this was just wishful thinking. None take up as much space as a climbing frame.

'Blue Line' AGM Tissuey grey-white with a light blue beard.

'Cherry Garden' Intense red-purple self.

'Frosty Crown' Yellow falls, white standards.

'Little Blackfoot' Deep purple falls with blue beard, lighter standards.

'Picadee' White with violet-blue edging and veining, slight on falls, heavy on standards.

Ixia viridiflora £4.50

This is the *Ixia* you want... Good sized turquoise flowers with a maroon basal blotch in May, on upright (not top-heavy) spikes. Plenty of them too, not 2 or 3 on top of a long wispy stem. Winter growing, ideal for a pot in the

unheated or greenhouse or alpine house, needing a dry summer dormancy. An absolute classic, but too rarely seen.

Kalimeris mongolica £5

A real beauty in a weedy, often thuggish genus, this has big neat astery heads in a clear lilac, facing the sky on top of erect, self supporting stems to 1.2 m or so. Makes a decent clump of interesting, pinnately lobed leaves in a sunny spot, flowering in late summer.

Kirengeshoma palmata AGM £4

Stout clumps reach 1m in flower. The palmate leaves are pleasant enough, but you grow it for the extraordinary fleshy, soft yellow flowers in September. Ideal in light shade on a soil which does not dry out – some say it should not be limy.

Kniphofia

The Pokers, red hot or otherwise, suit a sunny position in soil which stays moist in summer (although excessive winter wet can be a problem for some).

Species:

Kniphofia thomsonii var. *thomsonii* ‘Stern’s Trip’ AGM £5.50

The classic form of this elegant, rather variable species from the mountains of East Africa. 1m or more in height, it has tall inflorescences of widely spaced, downcurving soft orange flowers (see this year’s front cover), and spreads by stolons. In cold or wet gardens, or in pots, hardiness may be an issue, but I saw a lovely clump a few weeks ago, on an open loamy soil, which sailed through –15°C last winter. If you have the species already, it’s probably this vigorous sterile clone. If you have something labelled ‘*snowdenii*’ it’s also probably this. If gardening books tell you that you should have *snowdenii* they definitely mean this, even if they don’t know it... The name alludes to its being a triploid, rather than to psychedelic experiences at Highdown.

Cultivars: assume these are around 1m in height, unless we say otherwise.

Kniphofia ‘Bees’ Sunset’ AGM £5

‘Large heads of rich golden yellow, streaked deep apricot’ reads Bees’ original description; and it has really dark stems. Totally excellent. Introduced over 50 years ago, yet kept its AGM in the recent trial, despite all those upstart competitors.

Kniphofia ‘Christmas Cheer’ £5

An exotic winter flowering hybrid, quite tall with long, nicely shaped pokers. The colour is a rather drab pale orange, but in November or December (yes, some years it’s coming out on Christmas Day) you can forgive it that. Hardy? Certainly shrugged off the last two beastly winters, left outside in pots, with ‘tough’ varieties suffering all around, although the flowers weren’t much those years.

Kniphofia ‘Jane Henry’ £5

Long, upright, rather slender, parallel sided pokers. Red buds open pink and fade to cream. Lovely. Jane Henry chose this from a batch of unnamed hybrid seedlings at Bressingham many years ago; we named it for her.

Kniphofia ‘Sunningdale Yellow’ AGM £5

Slender, pale yellow pokers. One of the most reliable repeat flowerers, and one of the earliest on the first flush.

Kniphofia ‘Tawny King’ £5

Brownish apricot buds, opening cream, on bronzed stems. Very nice; a John May selection.

Kniphofia ‘Toffee Nosed’ £5

Tan buds open cream. 1m. A good flowerer.

Lachenalia aloides var. *quadricolor* AGM £4

Spikes of yellow flowers, tipped red and marked green, from orange buds (I had to count to convince myself that really is four colours) in winter. It’s water, not cold, that is the real enemy of these dry-climate Western Cape bulbs. They are easy in a cool greenhouse or airy conservatory, given full light and a very gritty compost, watered modestly in winter and given a very dry summer bake. We grow quite a few species, just for enjoyment, and bring them into the house at the peak of flowering for winter interest, although they etiolate and go over too fast if kept indoors for long.

Lachenalia orchioides var. *glaucina* £3.75

Flowers in a lovely, if hard to describe, shade, somewhere between turquoise and light purple, in winter.

Lachenalia orthopetala £4

White, and one of the last to flower, in April. Narrow leaves and tough as they come - we left the pots outdoors all winter one year and they did just fine.

Lachenalia rubida £4

By complete contrast, broad leaved and one of the first to flower, in October to November. Soft pinkish red flowers.

Lamprothyrus hieronymi RCB RA K2-2 £4.50

Reports of novel grasses picked up as seed in South America fill me with foreboding. Too many end up tenderish and dull, not a great combination. This one, found by Bob Brown at high altitude in Argentina, has confounded expectations. It's a stout clumper with open but fluffy, rather silvery inflorescences to 1m, lasting quite well and sometimes repeating. It seems drought tolerant, and at least as hardy as we can discover in South Devon. A smart plant, to which Bob's botanically correct 'dwarf pampas grass' really does not do justice. And you wouldn't want that Simon Armitage hacking at it with his CBE while your back was turned...

Lathyrus cirrhosus £5

Narrow, blue grey foliage forms a dense, bushy mound to 50cm or more, sort of half climbing by tendrils if given the chance. Pink flowers over a long season. Easy in sun, given reasonable drainage.

Lathyrus laxiflorus £5

A pretty mat-former, rooted at the centre, with violet-blue flowers in summer. Can be trimmed back to tidy up and encourage repeat flowering. Sun. Evergreenish. Thanks to Miss Sylvia Norton, National Collection holder.

Leucanthemum x superbum 'Eisstern' £4.50

An interesting double Shasta daisy, with a single ring of full length icy white rays, then a big step down in length to the neat 'anemone' centre. Can reach 1m, usually less.

Libertia 'Amazing Grace' £5

A hybrid with much of the refined character of *L. elegans*. Arching stems with many small cream flowers in summer. 75cm. Sun and drainage.

Libertia 'Ballyrogan Blue' £4.50

A hybrid of *caerulescens* with more branched and substantial inflorescence. Hardy here.

Libertia breunioides £4.50

A dubious name for an interesting and different plant. Short (30cm) with large upward facing white flowers and fat orangey fruits. Rather broad green leaves tend to age orange. Thanks to Janice Greening.

Libertia procera £5

Yet another dodgy name. Essentially, this is the biggest, butchest *formosa* you'll see, reaching 1.5m. Good white flowers.

Lilium 'Ariadne' £5

Everyone wants North Lilies these days, bred in Scotland by the late Dr. North. I don't blame them. This is one of his earlier ones, reaching 1m with fragrant dusky pink Turk's Caps. Woodsy conditions.

Lilium 'Rosemary North' £5

Dark purple spots on a peachy ground. One of Dr North's later selections.

Lilium xanthellum var. *luteum* £5

From China: yellow, spotted flowers with recurved tepals on a stout plant. Rather recently described, and rare.

Liriope muscari gold variegated £5

Unusually, the variegation becomes more striking as the leaves age in summer. Spikes of purple flowers provide a nice contrast in late summer. 30cm. For sun (yes, it really does look best in full sun!)

Lunaria annua 'Corfu Blue' £4 FROM SPRING 2012

OK, it's an honesty, but the flowers are unusually blue and it's generally perennial, despite being a form of *annua*, not *rediviva*. Really positive feedback this year – one customer has raved about it three times to date. (Hi Ben!)

Lupinus 'Thundercloud' £5

A clean old (pre-Russell) hybrid in a rather threatening purple. Scarce and in demand.

Lychnis coronaria Gardeners' World £5

The double flowered prick-nose, (which doesn't, being sterile) has flowers of a rather deep, purplish pink. Good for it's different colour. The sterility is good if you want it to stay put, bad if you like rampant self-seeding (increase by spring division, incidentally).

Lychnis 'Hill Grounds' £5

A chance find in a Midland garden, this appears to be a hybrid between the two flannel leaved species *coronaria* and *flos-jovis*. The deep, loud magenta flowers continue for a very long season (it's sterile, also meaning that it doesn't seed around), and the plants have a good branching mutistemmed habit. A sound perennial which may well become one of the classics.

Lysionotus pauciflorus £4.50

This is a woody based, bushy, somewhat suckering evergreen gesneriad for a sunny, well drained spot, covered in beautiful lavender flowers in autumn. It is hardy with us in Devon, and slow-growing. Epiphytic in nature, it's fine in soil, but someone bought one to try in a tree fern trunk.

Maianthemum bicolor £4

A rather hairy North Korean, about 40cm, with greeny-cream flowers. Rare in gardens.

Maianthemum bifolium £4

A favourite woodland groundcover, related to lily-of-the-valley. A forest of little bright green leaves spiking up from the dense rhizomes early in the year epitomizes spring. Small white flowers on 10cm stems in May. Ideal on heavy ground.

Maianthemum racemosum 'Emily Moody' £5

Fluffy heads (bigger in this cultivar) of tiny, sweetly scented white flowers on slightly arching stems to 1m in early summer. Makes lovely solid clumps in moister soils.

Mandragora autumnalis £4.50

Although it flowers in early spring, this seems to be a form of the less well known of the the two European mandrakes. It makes a compact rosette of plain green leaves from autumn to late spring, with plenty of pale violet flowers at ground level. I think it's attractive, more so than *M. officinarum* which somebody described as looking like a 'demented swiss chard'. Toxic, of course, but I've never bothered with the ear defenders.

Marshallia grandiflora £4.50

Having grown this little-known North American composite for a couple of years, we're quite impressed by its purple-pink, rather scabious-like heads, over apple green leaves. Mound to 40cm; sun.

Matteucia orientalis £6

A very substantial deciduous fern with a creeping rhizome. When well established, the fronds approach 1m long, broad and arching. The fertile fronds are reduced, and stick up stiff and twisted, rather *Blechnum*-style, from late summer and stay in shape, though brown and rigid, right through the winter when the vegetative fronds are gone. The reputation for being a bit tender refers, I feel, to young fronds being susceptible to late frosts.

Matteuccia struthiopteris AGM £5

The Ostrich Plume fern is unmistakable as the unfurling fronds make narrow, vertical plumes. Clumps up, then runs freely in moister soil.

Matthiola fruticulosa 'Alba' £4.50

White stock flowers with a heavenly scent, and rosettes of grey leaves. Perennial, given full sun and very good drainage.

Meehania cordata £4

The North American representative of this small genus of creeping woodland labiates has clusters of little lavender flowers in spring, and is perhaps even tastier for slugs than it is attractive to us.

Miscanthus oligostachyus 'Afrika' £5

At about 1.2m, shorter and more restrained than the varieties of *M. sinensis*, and going red nicely in autumn.

Moraea aristata £3.75

Unlike the more familiar *spathulata* and *huttonii* from the summer rainfall area, this is a winter growing corm from the Cape Town area. The spring flowers are large and white with very conspicuous blue eyes.

Mukdenia acanthifolia £4

Does the same thing as the familiar *rossii*, but with different leaves. To me, it's the best.

Mukdenia rossii dwarf £4

Significantly smaller (as you might have expected) than this normally small species, with rather maplish leaves and heads of white flowers soon after the plant emerges in spring. Good - rather maplish again - autumn colour.

Muscari armeniacum 'Gul' £3.75

Pink flowered version of an easy grape hyacinth. Still uncommon. Thanks to Rannveig Wallace.

Muscari pseudomuscari BSBE 842 AGM £3.75

A scandalously little-known, easy and beautiful grape hyacinth, with short heads of mid-blue flowers contrasting with the pale blue buds. Neither invasive nor a sulky brat. A gift from Bowles-enthusiast Ruth Boundy.

Narcissus 'Cedric Morris' £4.50

Imagine a bog-standard yellow daffodil. Now shrink the whole plant to about 1/3 its previous size, and bring it into flower really early - sometimes well before Christmas. Rather charming.

Narcissus cyclamineus AGM £3.50

A lovely little species. The corolla segments ('petals') are swept right back 'like the laid back ears of a kicking horse'

as Mr. Bowles put it.

Narcissus romieuxii AGM £3.50

North African hoop-petticoat type, very short with big upfacing creamy white flowers, strongly fragrant, early in the New Year. Hardy, but best in a pot where you can keep it looking pristine and sniff it several times a day. The flower that makes January worthwhile.

Nerine bowdenii 'Alba' £6

A genuinely white flowered form of the classic, widely hardy, summer growing species. Usually you get something whitish, or pale pink ageing to white, or not white at all under this name. This is properly white throughout the life of the flower. A special thing: as with so many of our best nerines we have Marion Wood to thank.

Nerine bowdenii 'Mark Fenwick' £4

An intense magenta-pink, deciduous variety. Just like the familiar Nerines of the trade, but with the volume turned up high.

Nerine bowdenii 'Pink Surprise' £5

Large flowers, very pale pink with a darker median stripe. A very good plant, and as hardy as any other *bowdenii*. Clean looking and distinctive - they're sold within minutes of opening time at any autumn plant fair.

Nerine 'Fucine' £5

A tall, strong, deep pink evergreen variety, hardy here in South Devon. A *bowdenii* / *sarniensis* hybrid. It clamours for attention, quite irresistible. I honestly don't need the more celebrated 'Zeal Giant' if I have this.

Nerine 'Jenny Wren' £5

A nice prolific hybrid with flowers more red than pink. No particular hardiness credentials.

Nerine 'Kashmir' £5

A pale pink hybrid, pretty but needing winter protection.

Nerine 'Kinn McIntosh' £5

Hardy, and flowering around Christmas, this pink flowered plant is rather out of the ordinary. An outlandish hybrid, we suppose.

Nerine 'Kola' £5

Looking quite unlike most others in flower, this late flowering *sarniensis* / *undulata* hybrid is frilly and intensely pink, with a darker midvein. The tepals are not arranged evenly, leaving a distinctive gap at the bottom of the flower. Needs winter protection.

Nerine 'Lucinda' £5

Despite its hybrid origin, the flowers are close to *sarniensis*, both short, broad tepals, white with a pretty pink stripe and pink filaments to the stamens. Quite an early one, but needs winter protection. Few.

Nerine 'Oberon' £5

A strong purplish pink *sarniensis* – type.

Nerine sarniensis very late dull red £5

Flowering reliably in early November, I rate this anonymous clone highly.

Nerine Smee 275 £5

Purple-pink, usually flowering in October. Winter protection.

Nerine 'Susan Norris' £5

Very hard to describe the colour – it's one of those that can be 'smoky', a feature which divides opinion. Few.

Nerine 'Zeal Grilse' £5

One of the late Terry Jones' backcrosses of *bowdenii* x *sarniensis* back to *bowdenii*. The strategy was to combine the hardiness of *bowdenii* with the colour range of *sarniensis*. This one is salmon pink, and is proving a rather satisfactory plant all round.

Nerine 'Zeal Salmon' £6

From the same stable, with good garden credentials, and salmon pink again. Few.

Nerine 'Zeal Silver Stripe' £6

Flowers of good substance, a cheerful reddish pink with a conspicuous pale silvery pink midline to each tepal. Not quite as hardy as *bowdenii*, but getting close. Few. Rarely if ever offered before.

Nipponanthemum nipponicum £4

Large, crystalline white, single chrysanthemums at the tips of 50cm stems. Glossy green leaves on stems which become woody and bush out from axillary buds along their length next spring. This Japanese seaside is one of the year's last flowers. The name is commoner than the plant in Britain.

Nothoscordum ostenii £3.75

Don't overlook this stunning little bulb just because some other members of the genus (*N. gracile* for example) are

ineradicable weeds. It's a winter growing South American *Allium* relative (so think small *Ipheion*) with copious numbers of small, bright yellow, fragrant flowers at the end of spring, before it dies down. We give it the same treatment as our Western Cape bulbs, in pots with unheated winter protection. Rarely seen, but even John Bryan, after roundly damning the genus, describes it as 'the only desirable species' and 'cherished by collectors'.

Oenothera organensis £5

Large, butter yellow flowers over a long summer season. A compact bushy plant, to 75cm but often much less. Day flowering, and quite out of the ordinary.

Omphalodes cappadocica 'Starry Eyes' £4

A white edge to the blue flower makes it stand out well in a shady place.

Omphalodes verna 'Elfenaug' £4

A recent pale sky blue selection of the classic woodland groundcover – the usual is deep blue.

O. planiscapus 'Little Tabby' £4

Like the black thing, but heavily striped lengthwise in dark green and cream. Easy, and much in demand.

Oxalis flava £3.50

It's not easy for *Oxalis* to shake off its hard-earned 'Weeds R Us' reputation. There are plenty of species which deserve it, but many others which really don't. Here are three which fit our 'desirable and safe' criteria. We immediately reject any one which sets seed here. All are short South African winter growers, hardy in a pot of gritty compost in our unheated polytunnel even through harsh winters, dried off completely as they die down to tubers in early summer. This one has really large lemon yellow flowers over narrow-lobed palmate leaves.

Oxalis massoniana £3.75

The warm terracotta, yellow-eyed flowers are not individually large, but on an established clump almost cover the plant for several weeks in early autumn. It's a colour that works perfectly in the less harsh quality of sunlight at that time of year. The narrow linear leaves are spirally arranged. Just superb.

Oxalis obtusa brick orange £3.50

More typical three-lobed *Oxalis* leaves, flowers less intensely coloured than the last, fewer but larger.

Paederota lutea £4

A small, properly alpine *Veronica* relative with yellow flowers. From the Julian Alps: rare, both in the wild and in cultivation.

Papaver orientale 'Raspberry Queen' £4

Large, full, crumpled, outrageously pink – 'Barbara Cartland with running mascara' as Mr. Brown once put it.

Papaver Super Poppy series £5

American hybrids of, supposedly, complex parentage. In horticultural terms I'd sum them up as oriental poppies with thicker, tougher, glossy petals which means the flowers last longer, much longer in some varieties – we've had a 'Jacinth' flower last 10 days in a polytunnel in hot weather! This is a very good feature. This year we can offer 'Jacinth' (long lasting glossy strong pink), 'Medallion' (deep dull reddish purple, rather Patty's Plum-ish), Shasta (long lasting, grading from light pink at the petal edge to white at the base), 'Bright Star' (long lasting very bright reddish pink), 'Tequila Sunrise' (rather frilly pinky orange.)

Paradisea lusitanica £5

Fine upstanding spikes of good sized, pure white, flared trumpet shaped flowers in early summer. Good fertile garden soil in sun or part shade. Height approaches 1m with us.

Pelargonium rodneyanum £4

Tuberous pelargoniums have a tricky reputation, but this Aussie is perfectly easy, and hardy with us. Low and a bit spready, with lots of bright purple-pink flowers over a long summer season. Strangely uncommon.

Pelargonium sidoides £4

Small maroon flowers over silvery foliage – very pretty actually. Romped through last winter with unheated protection only.

Peltoboykinia watanabei £4

Deeply lobed, shining green peltate leaves up to 30cm across; creamy flower spikes; height around 40cm. A handsome foliage plant for a cool, moist position – if you have a depressingly high rainfall you can even grow it in sun, as they do to good effect at the Garden House.

Penstemon digitalis 'Ruby Tuesday' £4

Herbaceous species with nothingy lilac flowers but impressive beetroot-stained foliage. It's much like 'Husker Red', but doesn't suffer from the risk of getting an inferior seed raised plant.

Penstemon hidalgensis £4

Thanks to the splendid Portland Pitmans, champions of all things *Penstemon*, for seed of this huge rare species from

high altitudes in Mexico. In the wild it tops 1.8m, rather less in the garden. The stem leaves clasp the stem in opposite pairs, the flowers are purple and quite big. It remains to be seen how much protection it will need as a perennial. Keep plants received in autumn in the greenhouse or coldframe overwinter. In colder parts of the USA it can be grown as an annual, which may be the way forward here.

Persicaria amplexicaulis 'Rosea' £5

Up to 1m tall in good ground, making a very dense clump with slender spikes of pink flowers. Very attractive - used in quantity in the long borders at Rosemoor.

Persicaria bistorta 'Hohe Tatra' £4

A smart, very bright pink, relatively short form of another variable species; again, it does not seem as thuggish as many.

Persicaria polymorpha £5

The best of the tall white species, we reckon. Big panicles of white flowers, ageing pinkish. Can reach 2m when established. It does not run (honest, guv!), and is not picky about soil. Few.

Petasites paradoxus £4

As a rule, never trust a butterbur if you've less than half an acre to plant it in. This is a true exception, and beautiful to boot. Dense clumps of silvery foliage to 40cm. Small heads of gently fragrant flowers in late winter, before the new leaves.

Phegopteris decursive-pinnata £4

The Japanese Beech Fern. Gently spreading clumps of soft, pale green fronds, curled in at the tips and edges during spring, to excellent effect. A delicate-looking but easy little fern for a woodsy spot.

Peucedanum ostruthium 'Daphnis' £4

If you fancy that variegated ground elder but fear for the safety of your garden, this is a much more restrained look-alike, with excellent sunproof yellow variegation. The flowers are hogweedy, but harmless enough. Paul 'Edulis' Barney (the clue's in the name) persuaded me to try one of the so-called edible leaves the other day - it tastes like celery leaf with added poison.

Petrocosmea kerrii £4

A rosette-forming gesneriad with pure white flowers over apple green leaves in summer. For humusy shade, and not tremendously hardy; probably best in a pot, overwintered fairly dry in the not-quite-frost-free greenhouse. Very lovely. I remember a conversation with Rachel 'Aberconwy' Lever about our respective successes and failures with asiatic gesneriads. They grow lots of alpine petrocosemas superbly - they die for us - but on *kerrii* she thought it was 'a bit cabbagy for us - more your sort of thing'! But it's impossible to take offence - nice people, great nursery. (And she's right...)

Phlox glaberrima 'Morris Berd' £4

A nice bushy herbaceous thing, with big pink flowers all over, rather than on top of the clump. Horticulturally, it's 'Bill Baker' with bigger flowers.

Phlox paniculata cultivars

'Mary Christine' (£4) is perhaps the scarcest of the variegated cultivars, tricky to propagate and rarely seen. It has a clean white variegation with good sized pink flowers, much like the colour of the old indestructable passed on from one cottage garden to the next. The variegation varies a little from shoot to shoot, although is far from random; reversions are occasionally seen and should be removed. We gave our original plant to Sarah's Mum quite a few years ago, and she has come to think very highly of it. Thanks to Beeches Nursery and Kevin's turbocharged plantsmanship. 'Monica Lynden-Bell' (£4.50) is very pale pink from dark buds, and is shorter than some, around 60cm. 'Utopia' (£4.50) is really tall - 1.5m and self-supporting in Sarah's mum's garden, with very large dense heads of pale pink flowers again; not often seen and a great favourite of mine. All have the classic summer evening fragrance.

Phyteuma spicatum £4

Cylindrical white flower spikes make the Spiked Rampion look very different to the more familiar blue, round-headed ones.

Pimpinella major 'Rosea' £4

Here, however, it's the clean pink flowers which are memorable. 1m or so in flower, but delicate. Easy.

Pinellia cordata £3.50

A small tuberous aroid with lovely silver veined leaves, somewhere between a cyclamen and *Arum italicum*. You'd think the rather dingy flowers might smell of a dead animal, but actually smell quite pleasantly of a dead pineapple.

Pinellia pedatisecta £4

Another pretty summer growing species. Slender soft greeny yellow spathes to 30cm in early summer. Not a

dangerous bulbil maker! Shade.

Plectranthus excisus £5

Forget the look of the tender species, and think of this as a hardy *Coleus*. The leaves are interesting - some gremlin has bitten the tip off each and replaced it with one that's too small. Dies down completely in winter.

Polemonium foliosissimum 'Cottage Cream' £5

Tall, self-supporting creamy white variety. *Very* tall says Sarah. Entirely self-supporting say I, being suspicious of sticks. We're both right.

Polemonium 'Hannah Billcliffe' £5

Notably large flowers, starting lilac and ageing to a pale pinkish, giving a bicolored effect.

Polemonium 'Lambrook Mauve' AGM £5

Mauve flowers over an exceptionally long season in spring and summer. Tough, compact, slightly spreading, up to 50cm tall and not prone to mildew. This is a plant which is common for all the right reasons.

Polemonium 'Northern Lights' £4.50

Short (30cm), with nice clear blue flowers, sweetly fragrant and later than most.

Polemonium 'Sonia's Bluebell' £5

One of the most distinctive and sought after of the many hybrid polemoniums. Elegant, rather nodding, cup shaped flowers in clear blue. It's the colour of the Scottish bluebell (harebell to us southerners) rather than the English *Hyacinthoides*. Less prone to mildew than many.

Polygonatum cirrhifolium £4

Whorls of delicate leaves and nodding little lilac bells on slender stems to 45cm. Shoots erupt from creeping rhizomes so late in the spring you feared something was wrong, and flower within a fortnight. For a humusy soil in some shade.

Polygonatum cyrtonema £6

Long arching stems, more slender and graceful than many, yet reaching 1m long even in pots and divided annually (we are, after all, a nursery.) Clusters of pale green flowers hang from the axils. The leaves are light green, not at all glaucous. One of the loveliest species we grow, and rarely seen. The name is much confused in horticulture – here's a summary! The Plant Finder implies that the short, slug ravaged *Disporopsis pernyi* goes about under this name; and we had a Crûg collection of the excellent Korean *Polygonatum arisanensis* labelled as *cyrtonema*, although they did correct it some years later – full marks to them. On the other hand, our plant came to us from Heronswood ten years ago as *P. zanlanscianense*, a very different beast.

Polygonatum humile £4.50

A very short, densely spreading plant with rounded leaves crowded on the 5-10cm stems. White flowers in spring. Some rather taller things are often seen under this name.

Polygonatum x hybridum AGM £4.50

Another example of a plant which is common for the best reasons. This hybrid is the usual Solomon's Seal of gardens, in this clone quickly making a dense, almost weed-proof patch of elegantly arching flowering stems with all the grace of the species. About 60cm tall. No berries, unfortunately. For a rich, moist soil, best in light shade.

Polygonatum maximowiczii £4.50

Something like a broad leaved *P. odoratum*, which comes into flower very soon after emerging, before the stems are fully extended. The leaves are inclined upwards, showing their rather glaucous backs. About 30cm tall, and setting blue-black berries quite freely.

Polygonatum odoratum 'Flore Pleno' AGM £4.50

Classic Solomon's Seal, with interesting double flowers. 30cm here. It bulks up beautifully in a rich moist soil.

Polygonatum aff. *sibiricum* DJHC 600 £5

Dan Hinckley collected seed from a plant in Sichuan, which had blue fruits, narrow leaves up to 12cm long, and which reached 3.9m in height through the lower branches of a larch. With us, the flowers are brown. These are divisions of one of the seedlings he raised. Quite how to make it grow this tall remains to be seen – I think a shrub for it to scramble through (the ends of the leaves twist round as if they want to help it cling to other plants), adequate summer moisture and TIME are probably what's needed.

Polygonatum tonkinense HWJ861

A delightful oddity! Fairly low growing, with stems that seem to grow around obstacles, so taking on a windy shape, and lengthening through the season. The stems are densely, beautifully covered in red-purple dots. The urn shaped flowers are extremely small, green lightly speckled red, and are self fertile, giving rise to attractive red fruits. The tough ovate leaves taper gradually to a point and are red-veined on the backs. Vietnamese, yet pretty hardy, from high altitude on Fan Si Pan. Nick Macer tells me it's unmissable there, growing in big clumps under bamboos.

There's botanical debate over whether it should be a *Heteropolygonatum*. I remain to be convinced.

Polygonatum verticillatum 'Rubrum' £4

Narrow leaves in whorls on vertical stems, with little pinky red flowers in the axils. There are impressive tall forms of the species around – a huge clump of a white flowered form at Rosemoor is taller than me. This is a division of a really big form grown in Germany. Pot grown pieces are never going to be huge. You need to get them into the ground and let them settle.

Polygonatum sp. aff. *pratii* £4.50

A rarely seen miniature, with wiry 10cm stems and small leaves. The flowers are pinkish and nodding; the translucent red berries are a joy. Previously listed as aff. *roseum* – Aaron Floden says it's closer to *pratii*, but not actually that species.

Polygonatum sp. Og 94047 £5

A Chinese plant, collected by Ogisu as a *Disporum*, but everything about the flower and the rhizome, as well as its general look, say it's a small, freely running *Polygonatum*. Greeny yellow tubular flowers, flared at the mouth, hang in pairs under the arching 20cm stems. Most loveable, and spreads pleasingly. Very popular with all who see it.

Polypodium cambricum 'Pulcherrimum Addison' £4.50

One of the nicest mutant polypodies (there are hundreds, and we only want the nicest ones). The fronds are bipinnate, i.e. divided once more than normal, have quite a neat, substantial look and tend to be held quite upright. The young fronds are curved in at the edges. Very distinctive. Found on Whitbarrow, a massive lump of limestone above Morecambe Bay, in 1861.

Polypodium cambricum 'Richard Kayse' £5

Bipinnate, but much less so, and flat as anything, giving a lovely lacy effect. First found near Cardiff in the 17th Century and recollected in the late 20th century from the type locality, and is presumed to be the original clone. One of the first we grew, having picked it out, quite naively, from Martin Rickard's erstwhile National Collection of the genus, without knowing its rarity and the great price it normally attracts (we learned that the hard way before we left).

Polypodium cambricum 'Prestonii' £8

This time the pinnae are lacerated, but not very deeply, are rather broad and overlap quite a bit. It's beautiful and very distinct from all the others we list. Came into cultivation by way of a nasty little bit of eco-vandalism by one of the old-time fern collectors, but all we can do now is cherish both the plant and the remaining limestone pavements of north-west England.

Polypodium glycyrrhiza 'Malahatense' £4.50

Bipinnatifid, sterile form of a North American species, found in British Columbia. They say the rhizomes taste sweet - I'm yet to be convinced.

Primula 'Barbara Midwinter' £4

On the scale of a primrose, with deep carmine flowers with well separated petals, through the winter. Distinctive leaves. Really special. *juliae* x (*megaseifolia* x *juliae*).

Primula 'Blue Riband' £3.50

A compact primrose with large violet blue flowers in spring.

Primula Cowichan polyanthus (all £3.75)

We're not plant snobs, honest guv. A good polyanthus is a lovely thing, especially when used for its colour and form rather than in a jazzy bedding scheme. Barnhaven's Cowichan seed strains with their prolific, normal sized (i.e. not blowsy giant) flowers with only small yellow eyes are great, but almost uniquely in the nursery trade we go on to select elite clones and propagate them vegetatively, taking care not to transmit virus in the process. This year we offer Amethyst (deep plummy violet-blue), Garnet (selected for good deep red-brown with tiny eye, a thrum form), Yellow (yellow with red tinted stem and calyx).

Primula 'Blue Sapphire' £3.75

A neat, fairly dark blue double primrose with a will to live. Wish they all did...

Primula japonica 'Merve's Red' £4

The finest crimson flowered form we know of this classic candelabra species. Set against the pale green leaves, the effect of the flowers is truly sumptuous. Moist soil.

Primula 'Ingram's Blue' £4.50

A distinctive old poly. The deep violet blue, yellow eyed flowers hang slightly on long pedicels. Choice.

Primula 'Pink Cabbage' £4

It's a polyanthus, but with short stems and modestly sized flowers on slender pedicels, giving you the first impression of a little primrose. It's a deep, soft, dull purplish pink, sombre and elegant – a 1930s colour, I feel

without quite being able to say why. The leaves are fairly small and a good fresh green with none of that dark 'Guinevere' tint which lots of people love but I detest in combination with a pink flower. Rarely have I seen a plant less deserving of the title 'Cabbage'...

Primula x pubescens 'Christine' £4

A robust hybrid auricula with red-purple flowers, growable in the open garden. I'm not a huge auricula fan, but this is lovely.

Primula sieboldii AGM from Rosemoor £4

Really large flowers, quite an intense purplish pink at the unfringed edges grading gently into a white central star. An anonymous old clone grown for years at Rosemoor, very effective in big clumps below shrubs. My enthusiasm for it was rewarded by a present of a piece. Thanks!

Primula sieboldii 'Blue Lagoon' £4

Flowers open blue-pink, ageing a more conventional deepish pink. An unusual colour.

Primula sieboldii 'Duane's Choice' £4

A brash American dude. It's the one of the best clones of the sort which has dark backs and pale fronts to the divided petals, in this case a strong purple pink back giving excellent contrast. The flowers are large, and the edges of the petals tend to curl forwards, showing the backs. All our sieboldiis are propagated vegetatively. They go down to underground crowns in winter. Drought is their enemy.

Primula sieboldii 'Dart Rapids' £4.50

We've taken pains to select an equally good, but far more refined and English counterpart. Again it has a pale face and strongly coloured reverse, this time in very pale / really deep lavender, and with entire petals.

Primula sieboldii 'Pago Pago' £4

This name refers to a seed strain, of which this is a selected clone. Moderately sized flowers of an intense magenta-pink, not at all frilly.

Primula sieboldii 'Snowflake' £4

Pure white and very feathery.

Primula 'Sir Bedivere' £3.50

Little primrose, dark purplish red flowers with starry yellow eye, red petioles.

Primula 'Tomato Red' £4

Depending on the weather, the colour is of sliced or whole tomatoes, at varying stages of nearly-ripeness. A floriferous primrose, which is unambiguously attractive, despite any other impression my attempts at accuracy might convey.

Primula vulgaris var. *pulchella* £3.75

Start with a conventional English primrose. Turn the intensity of the flower colour down to almost nothing, then add a faint pink flush from the edges, varying a bit as the season goes on, and give the tips of the petals a deeper, broader notch. Make the leaves a bit more deeply toothed, and there you have it. From Joe Sharman - 'you ought to have this...' - and he was right.

Primula vulgaris 'Viridis' £4

The weird old green primrose, centuries old and hence carrying a bit of virus; OK once established and left alone. Sometimes the flowers look normal except for the petals being pale green; sometimes the petals have a leafy texture and colour. Curious and attractive. Only a few.

Prosartes maculata (*Disporum maculatum*) £4

A branchy little woodland plant with rough, rounded leaves and spotted cream flowers. The North American *Disporum* species have been returned to the genus in which they were first described, *Prosartes*. I occasionally contribute articles to the 'blogs' section of the Plant Heritage Devon website, and you can see a full explanation of why this name change is important there.

Pulmonaria 'Benediction' £5

We've broken our 'no Pulmonarias cos nobody buys them' rule. 'Benediction' is not only so very good - a rich true blue with nice round spots, it also remains quite hard to obtain.

Pulmonaria 'Open Skies' £5.50

A unique variegated lungwort, found by the eagle-eyed Kevin 'Beeches' Marsh as a sport on 'Blue Buttons'. The flowers, of course, are blue, the variegation quite impressive and (touch wood) stable: the leaf has a broad white outer zone; the inner green zone is rather irregularly shaped and generally two-tone, with the upper epidermis lifting away from the underlying green tissue in places to give a lighter shade. Moreover, the young leaves have a distinct pink flush in spring, visible in the white region. It's not the most vigorous plant, as you'd expect, although considerably keener to live and multiply than, say, 'Chintz'. As a result Kevin finds it almost ungrowable in the

semi-desert to the south-east of Cambridge; a plant for the wetter north and west. He couldn't think of a name for it, so I'm to blame for this one, commemorating its birthplace among the wide horizons of East Anglia (and under the Stanstead flightpath...)

Ranunculus ficaria cultivars (all £3.75)

These are Lesser Celandines, which can be a bit invasive. (Just making sure you knew.)

var. *aurantiacus* Rich orangey flowers, leaves marked silver and black.

'Aglow in the Dark'

'Elan' Pale yellow petals, regular double.

'Ken Aslet double' White, grey backed petals, regular.

'Modern Art' Unusual wavy outline to the leaves - they look almost lobed. Rarely seen. Thanks to Ruth Boundy.

'Ragamuffin' A seriously weird mutant, a full double in which the 'petals' are thick and leafy in texture, yellow and dark green. Strangely attractive.

'Witchampton' Silver mottled leaves, ordinary yellow flowers.

Ranunculus ficaria ssp. *chrysocephalus* £4

So different we've separated it. A gigantic, yellow flowered celandine, giving the impression of a (not very) small *Caltha*, but flowering in early spring. Thanks to Olive Mason, who gives it garden room among the very choicest snowdrops and aconites, where it seeds around benignly. 'Pulls up easily if it gets in the way' she reassured me.

Rodgersia 'Buckland Beauty' £5

Big bold leaves, flowers a strong clear pink, going over to dark red. One of the very best.

Rodgersia pinnata 'Jade Dragon Mountain' £6

Spinners' selected clone from Roy Lancaster's collection L1670. The flowers are in a dense head on really dark stems, and age from cream as the buds open through pink to red. A first rate plant.

Rodgersia pinnata 'Superba' AGM £5

Bold foliage, bronzy pink when young, red tinted later, and bright reddish pink flowers on red stems. Very lovely, for moist soil in sun or part shade. Take note, ye who care, these are divisions, not the variable seedlings so commonly offered.

Rohdea japonica 'Talbot Manor' £5

Thick, upstanding evergreen leaves in *Aspidistra* fashion, rather variably white striped. For humusy shade.

Reputedly capable of producing boring flowers and nice berries. Some plants, as Sarah says, are rare for all the right reasons. I reckon it's a man's plant...

Romanzoffia tracyi £3.75

Tidy cushions of dark, shiny round green leaves all through winter and spring. Lots of pure white flowers in spring. Summer dormant. Easily spread by lifting its small tubers when dormant. It comes from moist cliff habitats on the Western seaboard of the USA, and appreciates a moist, well drained soil in at least partial shade. Easy, and like nothing else.

Romulea bulbocodium var. *leichtliniana* £3.50

Shamefully neglected little Mediterranean irid, flowering in spring and increasing at the corm. This form has yellow centred white flowers, dark veined on the backs (important since the flowers open only in the sun). Summer dormant of course.

Roscoea

Splendid, fully herbaceous members of the ginger family, from the Sino-Himalayan region. Grow them in a humus rich acidic soil in part shade, and don't let them dry out when in growth. They spend an extended winter underground. All ours are propagated by division. They may not come into growth until May, so do not panic!

Roscoea auriculata 'Floriade' £5

Rich purple flowers in July, with a sharply contrasting white bit in the middle (there's technical for you). In a species which varies a great deal in colour intensity and impact of the flowers, this cultivar stands right out.

Roscoea x beesiana Cream Group £5

Strong growing, to 40cm. Lots of big creamy flowers over an extended season. To my mind, the best of the creamy yellows because it flowers for so long.

Roscoea x beesiana 'Monique' £5

White, not cream flowers on a vigorous plant. Variable purple veining on the lip. Long season.

Roscoea cautleoides 'Early Purple' £5

The first to flower here, short and stout, a nice soft purple.

Roscoea cautleoides 'Kew Beauty' AGM £5

Particularly fine pale yellow flowers, taller and more slender.

Roscoea 'Long Acre Sunrise' £5

Another pale yellow, not the earliest. The look of the plant owes a lot to *humeana*; Nigel Rowland, who selected it, tells me it's a hybrid involving that species and *cautleoides*.

Roscoea purpurea 'Brown Peacock' £6

Purple flowers, in later summer as usual for this species; brown-tinted leaves and dark pseudostems.

Roscoea purpurea 'Purple Streaker' £5

A splendid short stocky plant with big flowers shockingly bicolored purple and white. Probably the same as 'Wisley Amethyst', or at least a seedling from it: while that name is an upstart, it is a Wisley plant.

Roscoea purpurea 'Red Gurkha' £8

The one everyone's been asking for. The flowers really are red, large too, on a short stout plant with dark red pseudostems. It's very late into growth (mid-June, so mark the place and be very patient!) and late flowering too (mid-August - September). If delivered in spring, keep in its pot until well into growth. Not quite as hardy as the others it seems. Never leave it outside in a pot overwinter; in cold areas some people lost theirs planted out, over winter 2010-11.

Roscoea scillifolia f. *atropurpurea* £4

From south west China, this is a typical *Roscoea* in every way apart from size: it's slender and only about 10cm tall. This form has very dark purple, effectively black flowers...

Roscoea scillifolia f. *scillifolia* £4

...while this is the soft pink form.

Rudbeckia triloba AGM £4.50

Our favourite *Rudbeckia* by a long way, and quite unlike the familiar *fulgida* types. A much branched plant to 1m, covered in small yellow, brown centred daisies in late summer to early autumn. Generally a good perennial, but easy from seed if you do lose it after flowering.

Salvia castanea £5

A properly hardy herbaceous species from China and the Himalayas: I think the cultivated plants originated in Nepal. Dark green basal leaves; good sized flowers of an excellent dark maroon in autumn. We'd never even heard of it: thanks to Grace Officer again for a strong recommendation and seed (an irresistible combination!)

Salvia clinopodioides? ('Michoacán Blue') £4

Rather dense cylindrical heads of smallish, rich blue flowers in whorls, from September. Cut back by frost, but can sprout from a tuberous rootstock underground. Best in a pot with winter protection, but survived last winter without heat. Imagine our surprise... This Mexican plant first went around in *Salvia* circles as 'Michoacán Blue': the identification as *clinopodioides* is, I think, still tentative.

Salvia confertiflora £5

Red-brown, hairy inflorescence of crowded orange flowers, to excellent effect, from late summer until the frosts. It's a tenderish plant from Brazil, best planted out for the summer and overwintered in the greenhouse from cuttings taken in early summer. 1m.

Salvia corrugata £5

Dark green, tough, very deeply veined leaves, rusty beneath. Luscious dark blue flowers, best and earlier on plants overwintered, but needing protection in most areas. From Ecuador.

Salvia greggii, *microphylla* and *x jamensis* (their hybrid) forms - all £5

These share the familiar wiry bush form, eventually topping 1m, quite hardy (certainly up to bad winters in the Cotswolds - that makes Sunderland look subtropical, you Northern cynics) given sun and perfect drainage. Tidy them up in spring, once you know what's what. A few cuttings as an insurance are always wise.

Derry Watkin's *greggii* 'Stormy Pink' has dusky pink flowers from dark calyces. *microphylla* 'Newby Hall' has scarlet flowers, combining brilliantly with the pale green leaves, and has a good hardiness record - it's the old stalwart that used to be labelled 'grahamii' in British gardens. *x jamensis* 'Hot Lips' is white with red tips to the lower petal, but is temperature sensitive, sometimes veering off into all white or all red for a few weeks. *x jamensis* 'Sierra San Antonio' is floriferous; large rich cream lower lip, pink tube and red upper lip and throat - the colour scheme is sliced strawberries with clotted cream. Very pretty indeed.

Salvia involucrata 'Hadspen' £5

Proves hardy in a sheltered position in southern English gardens. Makes a big clump of stems to 1m or more, topped in autumn by spikes of deep red-pink flowers, larger and darker than in 'Bethellii', with a tuft of pink bracts at the tip.

Salvia leucantha 'Santa Barbara' £5

A bushy plant with white wooly stems; flowers with furry purple calyces. In this form the corolla is purple too. Overwinter inside.

Salvia 'Mulberry Jam' £5

A red-pink flowered *involuta* hybrid reaching 1.2m when suited, and fairly hardy, although late to regrow when cut back by hard frosts. Brittle-stemmed, in the way of its parent, and best grown in a sunny, sheltered spot.

Salvia nemorosa 'Carradonna' £4

Superlative form of the classic smaller herbaceous species. Good purple flowers on very dark stems. 60cm.

Salvia pratensis forms

A tough, hardy, floriferous, entirely herbaceous species; both these forms are by division.

'Indigo' AGM (dark violet blue, £5), 'Albiflora' (white, very rarely seen, £4).

microphylla or *jamensis*.

Salvia 'Silke's Dream' £5

First-rate recent hybrid (*darcyi* x *microphylla*) with long spikes of orange-red flowers, summer to autumn. Reasonably hardy given sun and good drainage.

Sanguisorba

Stout perennials for the border, all with smart pinnate leaves and bottle-brush flower heads late in the summer.

Generally best in full sun and a moist, fertile soil. See Julian's comprehensive article in *The Plantsman* for June 07 (brag, brag).

Sanguisorba albiflora £5

A shorter plant, of the *obtusata* persuasion, at 60cm or so. White flowers in chunky bottle brushes.

Sanguisorba canadensis £5

Tall and stately, approaching 2m in flower with long slender white inflorescences on red stems.

Sanguisorba dodecandra £5

Rarely grown but attractive species from a small region of the Italian Alps. Droopy white catkins, smart rather blueish leaves. 1m.

Sanguisorba menziesii £5

Very distinctive blue-green foliage with reddish petioles. Maroon, drooping inflorescences. 60cm or so.

Sanguisorba obtusata white flowered £4

A white flowered form of this stout, splendidly glaucous leaved species. Not typical *albiflora*.

Sanguisorba officinalis early form £5

June flowering, about 1.6m tall with ovoid maroon inflorescences and well textured pinnate leaves. Passed around in the UK as *stipulata* which, bluntly, it is not. I rate it highly. Thanks to Paul 'Abbey' Bygrave.

Sanguisorba officinalis 'Martin's Mulberry' £6

Simply the best tall *officinalis*, self supporting and tidy, unlike that floppy old 'Arnhem'. Midseason dark red globby heads. Introduced by those good people at West Acre.

Sanguisorba officinalis 'Red Thunder' £5

Another tall red one, flowering in late summer.

Sanguisorba 'Pink Tanna' £4.50

Taller than 'Tanna', around 60cm, but wiry and with the same running habit. Clear pink, upright, slender flower spikes in early summer. A hybrid from Coen Jansen.

Sanguisorba tenuifolia var. *parviflora* £5

Very like the previous plant, but the leaflets are even narrower and held more or less horizontal even when the plane of the leaf is inclined steeply upwards. This all sounds rather technical but the effect is very beautiful.

Sanguisorba tenuifolia var. *purpurea* £5

A nice plant, but to optimists the name implies really dark purple flowers. They are purple, but at the red-pink end of that difficult colour. 1m-ish. Late flowering with us.

Saruma henryi £4

Very hairy light green leaves and a long succession of soft yellow *Asarum*-like flowers (spot the anagram.) Ideal for a reasonably well drained soil in light shade. One of those irritating plants that will seed around a bit but doesn't germinate when sown in a pot.

Sauromatum gaoligongense £5

Bold, arisaema-like aroid, very late into growth and horticulturally similar to the better known *S. venosum*. Bold pedate leaves, with attractive pale, almost glaucous green petioles heavily blotched purple. Long, horizontal, spotty spathes before the leaves in spring: stinky.

Saxifraga fortunei 'Black Ruby' £4

Dark, almost black foliage; red-pink flowers in autumn. Height 20cm, for moist soil in shade.

Saxifraga fortunei 'Conwy Snow' £3.50

White flowered mini-*fortunei* selected by Keith 'Aberconwy' Lever.

Saxifraga fortunei 'Mount Nachi' £4

Another nice (and normal-sized) form, with bronzed foliage, brown even, and good sized inflorescences of contrasting white flowers.

Saxifraga fortunei 'Wada' £4

Larger copper tinted leaves, and taller in flower, reaching 50cm.

Saxifraga epiphylla 'Little Piggy' £4

Small dense rosettes of peculiarly thick, stiff, dark green, kidney shaped leaves which are spectacularly red veined underneath, requiring some effort to admire them since they are very close to the ground. Tiny plantlets are produced where the leaf lamina meets the petiole. The white flowers have ridiculously elongated lower petals. For a cool safe place in a humusy soil. Decidedly odd, but very attractive to those of us who are prepared to look closely.

Saxifraga nipponica 'Pink Pagoda' £4

Evergreen hairy leaves in low mounds. Lots of pink flowers in 30cm inflorescences. For moister shade.

Schizostylis (see *Hesperantha*)

Scilla autumnalis £3.50

Our native, violet flowered Autumn Squill. From cultivated stock originating on the South Devon coast. Flowers in high summer here. For rock garden etc where it seeds around benignly.

Scilla hohenackeri BSBE 811 £3.50

30cm winter grower with impressive puplish blue flowers with reflexed tepals, in early spring, like *greilhuberi* but better. Makes a good clump. Hardy, from Kurdistan.

Scilla hyacinthoides £6

Quite a large bulb, with a basal rosettes over winter and a slender spike of light blue flowers on top of a very tall stem, in spring. Dryish summer dormancy. From an old Archibald collection in Turkey.

Scilla lingulata S&F253 £3.50

The 10cm spikes of light blue flowers emerge with, not before the rosette of tongue shaped leaves, in September. A tightly clumping bulb. Leave in one pot for several years - a good dense colony looks a treat.

Scilla persica £3.50

Lots of small soft blue flowers in a big airy spike to 30cm tall. More delicate than the imposing heads of *peruviana*, but still one of the large species.

Scilla peruviana

At long last we have several clones to offer from our large (too large Sarah tells me) collection of this variable Iberian / North African species. This is a large, winter growing, more-or-less summer dormant bulb, hardy in a sunny place which dries out in summer. Flowers are many, in large, pyramidal inflorescences in spring. The larger the bulb, the bigger the inflorescence. I'd like to emphasize that these are divisions (a slow process) not open-pollinated seedlings which would be easy to raise in quantity, but very dubiously true to type.

S.p. 'Alba' £4 - white flowers.

S.p. var. *elegans* £5 - dark violet flowers.

S.p. 'Hughii' £5- purple buds open lilac-blue.

S.p. 'Paul Voelcker' £12 Biscuit-coloured flowers with electric blue filaments; the inflorescences are broad but compact, on short stems. The leaves have a notable hyaline margin which I associate with North African forms of the species, although it is not at all certain that this is African. Probably a bit less hardy than the usual Iberian ones, but certainly OK under unheated glass. Totally outrageous! as our daughter would say in a dreadful American accent. Thanks to John Newbold and, in turn, to the Voelcker family. Few.

S.p. var. *venusta* £5 - attractive long, hanging bracts; many small light blue flowers.

Scutellaria baicalensis £3.50

Dense spikes of violet blue flowers on a short bushy plant.

Scutellaria pontica £3.50

Lovely rich purple-pink flowers on a low-growing plant.

Scutellaria scordiifolia 'Seoul Sapphire' £4

Heads of rich violet flowers, bushy and reaching 15cm.

Sedum telephium 'Xenox' AGM £4

One of the most satisfactory of the big dark leaved varieties. 30cm. Reddish flowers.

Selinum wallichianum £4

Very finely cut and beautifully held leaves, white-as-white flower heads, 1m+, for sun – Mr. Bowles reckoned it 'the queen of the umbellifers' – he wasn't wrong.

Semiaquilegia ecalcarata £4

Little spurless violet aquilegia flowers on a well branched 50cm plant. An old favourite returns.

Semiaquilegia ecalcarata Australian form £4

Unusual pale pink (and rather shorter) strain of the spurless mini-columbine, introduced from Aussie cultivation by Rosy and Rob Hardy. Grows and flowers as easily as the normal sort, unlike that infuriating *bicolor* which I swear has been genetically engineered to fail on any nursery more than 5 miles from Caernarvon...

Sempervivum 'Bronco' £3.75

Just to keep you on your toes, a house leek. A good 'un, though, with nice red tinted rosettes, pink flowers and a hearty constitution.

Sempervivum 'Othello' £4

Huge dark red (in sun) pseudo-echeveria rosettes. Some people are amazed that it's a sempervivum at all.

Sempervivum 'Red Delta' £3.50

Smaller, cobwebby rosettes, still a good red.

Serapias lingua £6

Mediterranean climate orchid with brown-purple flowers which stick their tongues out at you in early spring. Not hard to grow with a dry summer dormancy, and increasing quite quickly.

Sidalcea reptans £5

A creeping, pink flowered wetland species from the American West. Rarely seen in cultivation, where it forms a spreading patch with 30cm flower spikes in summer. Serious herbaceous groundcover.

Sidalcea 'Wensleydale' £5

An old border variety, rarely seen nowadays. The flowers aren't huge, but they are a lovely warm colour, right at the red end of pink (or *vice versa*, I suppose) and there are plenty of secondary inflorescences branching off below the main spike. Thanks to Kevin Marsh for material which goes back to old plants in the garden at Bressingham, a good provenance for a plant which Alan Bloom wrote about in the 50s. I believe it's a Canadian, not Yorkshire variety, so why the name? Must be cheese, Gromit.

Silene dioica 'Inane' £4.50

Purple leaved male (so doesn't seed about) red campion. Very effective.

Siphocranium macranthum £4.50

A clump of branching stems, to 20cm, have hairy leaves which become purple as the season goes on, looking really velvety. Bright, rich purple flowers like a narrowly tubular snapdragon, in autumn. Very distinct. For a moist-but-well-drained soil away from bright sunlight.

Sisyrinchium palmifolium £4.50

The combination of bright yellow flowers and large, bold fans of leaves is unusual in a *Sisyrinchium*. Height to 50cm, not invasive.

Smilacina see *Maianthemum* (at least for now... I don't think the fat taxonomist has sung yet)

Speirantha convallarioides £4

Dark green leaves and fragrant flowers, white as white, in late spring. Less spready than Lily of the Valley, but similar in scale, and quite closely related. For humusy shade.

Spigelia marilandica £6

Upright 30cm stems with a succession of brilliant red-and green (classic hummingbird pollinated) flowers in summer. Dies down completely in winter. Prefers a fairly open well drained position. Typically found in woodland margins and so on, but Graham Birkin tells me he once saw a fine clump in very wet ground in a Pennsylvania spring - probably not something to emulate in the garden unless you have a few spares.

Stachys balcanica £4

Very hairy grey-green leaves; white flowers with a hint of pink. 30cm tall. Sun, good drainage.

Stachys macrantha 'Violacea' £4

A violet-pink colour form of the big, tough, attractive herbaceous border species.

Stachys ossetica £4.50

Large, pale creamy yellow flowers; dark green textured leaves. 30cm. Very different, very beautiful. Sun and good drainage.

Stachys thunbergii £4

A useful and highly attractive plant - the name seems to have settled now (previously listed tentatively as *ciliata*). Low and spreading without rooting, rather in the manner of *Diascia rigescens*, it has dark green, shiny leaves and deep maroon flowers over a long season from early summer to autumn.

Stemmacantha centaureoides £4

Once settled, makes stout clumps of cornflower-like foliage, with big pink heads surrounded by brown papery bracts. For dry places in sun. The plant long known to gardeners as *Centaurea* 'Pulchra Major'. Just a few.

Stipa gigantea 'Gold Fontaene' £5

Ordinary *S. gigantea* is a grand grass, with its airy, oaty flower heads lasting well into winter. This is just the same, but even taller and with slightly broader inflorescences. Has reached 2.5m with us. Sun and... space.

Symphytum 'Angela Whinfield' NEW CULTIVAR NAME £4.50

A low-growing, light red flowered hybrid which spreads well but not manically. Really beautiful in bud, and pretty good the rest of the time too. From the lady herself, bashful about the name but those around her insist.

Symphytum 'Rubrum' £4

A neat clump former, around 30cm in height, with nodding, wine red flowers in early summer. A sweetie.

Symphytum x *uplandicum* 'Moorland Heather' £5

The classic monolithic hybrid in a fabulous rich deep purple, the same colour throughout the life of the flower so there's no fussy two-tone effect. Not a runner, but an incredible clumper.

Syneilesis aconitifolia £4.50

White-furry umbrellas pop out of the ground in spring and open up. Runs pleasantly in a shady place, even quite dry. The flowers are utterly unremarkable, but that's not why you grow it. It's the *Syneilesis* which wants to grow!

Syneilesis palmata BSWJ1003 £4.50

Less runny than the previous, with slightly different pattern of leaf division. Still with a better constitution than the old clone which we could get nowhere with.

Thalictrum actaeifolium var. *brevistylum* BSWJ8819 £4.50

A pink flowered job which is said to reach 1.5m (not for us). It's the shape of the leaflets which give a distinct and very attractive look.

Thalictrum aquilegifolium 'Thundercloud' AGM £5

Quite tall, early to mid-summer flowering, with flowers of a nice dusky purple.

Thalictrum cultratum £4.50

One of those *minus* types which you grow for the lovely, stiff, very finely divided foliage which is held with great poise. The flowers are a pleasant brown. 50cm.

Thalictrum delavayi 'Album' £5

Pure white flowered form of the classic large flowered, fine leaved border variety. It's anthocyanin-free, so the leaves are a pure light green. Lovely.

Thalictrum 'Elin' £5

A spectacularly tall, and self-supporting Swedish hybrid which gets its purple tinted stems and violet flowers from *rochebrunianum*, and its glaucous leaves and height (3m+) from *flavum* var. *glaucum*. By division, from stock we've had for many years, from before it was tissue cultured, if such things matter to you.

Thalictrum kiusianum £3.50

The midget we first met as stunning panfuls on the AGS showbench. Lilac flowers on a 15cm plant. As the old Jaffa orange posters used to say 'small ones are the juiciest'.

Thalictrum lucidum £4

Strongly upright, yet with nicely held leaves, the flowers are pale yellow-green on stems well over 1m tall, but it's the foliage which is most attractive, dark green and with noticeably indented veins despite being so finely divided. Few, for no good reason.

Thalictrum omeiense ex DJHC 762 £4.50

Clouds of little white flowers in spring over unusually brown-tinted (Sarah says chocolate) foliage. 30cm. From wet limestone cliffs, but suits woodsy conditions. I do not understand why this is so rarely grown.

Thalictrum uchiyamae £4.50

For us, a splendid tall (1.8m) upright thing with good sized lilac flowers and pretty green leaves with rounded leaflets.

Tricyrtis formosana 'Dark Beauty' £4.50

The Toad Lilies are autumn flowering plants for moist soil in some shade. This about as dark and as blue as they get.

Tricyrtis hirta £4.50

Our form, which goes back to Washfield again, is notably pale, so the spots stand out particularly well.

Trifolium repens 'Dragon's Blood' £4.50

Well yes, it's a white clover, but: the leaflets are silvery, with a sharply defined dark green base, plus a maroon ink-devil stain on each. So beautiful, and rightly popular. Great as a dense sprawly patch or hanging over the edges of a container – great in a tall chimney pot. Flowers white and perfectly harmless.

Tritonia

Relatives of *Crocoshmia* from South Africa, well proven as garden plants. A burgeoning collection here...

***Tritonia crocata* group varieties** £4

Lots of tubby flowers crowded on 30cm stems in late spring. Winter green. For a sunny, well drained spot. Bulks up quickly to make a striking clump. Good in a pot, potted on or split annually at the end of summer, and put in the greenhouse during cold snaps. *T. deusta* and *T. squalida* may be involved here too. I'd like to call this group by its South African name, the Mossel Bay kalkoentjies, but I can't pronounce it.

'**Pink Sensation**' - clear pink, probably a form of *squalida*; '**Princess Beatrix**' - intense orange with dark basal blotches; '**Prince of Orange**' (handwritten nursery labels say POO) - vivid orange; '**Serendipity**' - a delicate light orange, '**Tangerine**', ditto, but the first to flower, and '**Plymouth Pastel**' - very delicately blended pastel shades of orangey yellowy pink.

Tritonia deusta £4

Vivid orange. Somebody pointed out to me that the dark blotches are little brown purple hearts. Ahhh.

Tritonia disticha ssp. *rubroglucens* tall pink form £5

Classic tall species, 1m high in flower. Like a delicate *Crocoshmia*, carrying lovely clear pink flowers on wiry, branched stems in late summer. Easy in good soil in sun. Winter dormant. The form we've offered for years, originally from South African seed.

Tritonia disticha ssp. *rubroglucens* shorter redder form £4

More like 60cm tall at the end of flowering, a little earlier, and a redder pink - perhaps carmine describes it best. The Cornish consider this the usual form.

Tritonia lineata winter growing form £4

This species is variable, and while it mainly lives in the Eastern Cape, does extend into the winter rainfall area. Rather a tall plant - up to 40cm - with cream flowers, veined brown outside. May flowering, before dying down.

Tritonia lineata summer growing form £4

As above, but biscuit flowers in late summer, 20cm high, winter dormant.

Tritonia laxifolia £3.50

Orange, out-facing flowers on a 25cm plant in May. A winter grower for us, despite being the E. Cape counterpart to the next species.

Tritonia securigera £3.75

Orangey brown flowers in May. Prolific winter grower. The name means 'wielding an axe' - look VERY closely inside the flower with a x10 hand lens to see why. *T. laxifolia*, in contrast wields an ice-pick.

Trollius x cultorum 'Superbus' AGM £4.50

Clear lemon yellow globe flowers whose petals never open flat but stay curled over the flower: in effect a more robust *T. europaeus*. Common as anything, but who cares, it's so beautiful.

Trollius stenopetalus £5

Big, bold, upward facing about fully open buttercup yellow flowers. 60cm.

Tulbaghia alliacea £4

Small purple-green flowers in loose heads on 25cm stems in spring.

Tulbaghia 'Bob Brown' £4

A putative *violacea* / *cernua* hybrid which usefully combines the vigorous evergreen (usually) clumps and tall flower stems of *violacea*, with the subtle merging green/purple/yellow colours in the flowers normally found only in winter dormant species. Pretty hardy and easy, flowering in early summer.

Tulbaghia capensis £4

One of the few winter-green, summer dormant species, with clove-scented brown flowers in winter or spring, depending on the weather.

Tulbaghia aff. *cernua* CDR 199 £4

Broad leaved, winter dormant plant with stout crowns. Small green flowers with yellow coronas in summer. 50cm. Sun, ideal for a pot.

Tulbaghia 'Cosmic' £4

An evergreen *violacea* hybrid, with a decent head of pink-purple, not uniformly coloured flowers, with a chunky yellow corona. Thanks to Liz Powney, a lady who takes her National Collection seriously. All power to her and her informative website tulbaghia.com.

Tulbaghia 'Fairy Star' £4

Short (25cm) with fine leaves and starry pink flowers. Very floriferous and distinctive. Evergreen too.

Tulbaghia 'Hazel' £4

Yet another evergreen hybrid, this time with flowers of a strange but attractive brownish pink. The corona is yellow, tipped with brown. Night scented – cool! I really rate this plant – thanks again, Liz.

Tulbaghia leucantha H&B 11996 £3.50

Little orange and brown flowers on thin 20cm stems. Fast bulking and free flowering. The form once known as *dieterlinii*.

Tulbaghia leucantha larger form £4

Creamy-green with orange corona - height 25cm.

Tulbaghia natalensis B&V421 clone2 £3.50

Clusters of soft pink flowers on 15cm stems in late spring. Winter dormant. Floriferous and beautifully scented.

Tulbaghia violacea 'John May's Special' £4

A splendid large *violacea*, around 80cm in height with 2cm diameter mauve flowers in summer and autumn. As hardy as tulbaghias get, in a well drained soil in sun. Evergreen, like all the *violaceas*.

Tulbaghia violacea pallida £4

Pretty white flowers from pale pink buds; 50cm. Equally tough.

Tulbaghia violacea 'Peppermint Garlic' £4

An American selection, almost as tall as John May's, but with larger, paler flowers. Very nice.

Tulbaghia violacea 'Silver Lace' £4

Beautiful silver variegation contrasts well with pink-purple flowers on 30cm stems. Bulks up to form an attractive clump, but best given some protection in colder parts of the UK. Often flowers more freely in pots.

Uvularia grandiflora 'Lynda Windsor' £5

Butter-yellow leaved version of the classic woody species. The yellow cast isn't transient, but lasts right into the summer. I know you may not like yellow leaved things. If you do, I reckon this is a good 'un.

Veratrum formosanum £5

Quite unlike the familiar stout, large leaved, slow-bulking curse-of-the-cows species, this narrow leaved Taiwanese plant has spikes of really dark blackish red flowers in late summer. Slugs love it as much as *nigrum*, I'm afraid. Always in great demand.

Vernonia crinita 'Mammuth' £5

The effect is somewhere between *Aster* and *Eupatorium* - rich violet-purple (the trouble we have naming colours in that red-blue area...) composite flowers on tall stems, 2m+ under the right conditions. An excellent plant for the border in autumn. Slow to propagate.

Veronica dabneyi £4

One of the very few pink veronicas, and certainly the most unusual. Upright spikes of clear pink flowers to 10cm tall; spreading stems with tiny, glossy leaves. A useful and long flowering cover for a sunny bank, as at Glasgow Botanics.

Veronicastrum latifolium £4

Different again, this is a traily / climby species, which can root to form fair sized clumps or ramble through shrubs. Small blue flowers in axillary clusters. Interesting and pleasant, but not for tidier parts of the garden.

Veronicastrum virginicum 'Lavendelturm' £4

The usual 2m stems with whorled leaves, with branched spikes of lavender flowers in this case. Self supporting. I picked it out in the garden at Beth Chatto's as being somehow more graceful in habit than other varieties, but I still can't put a finger on why.

Wachendorfia thyrsiflora £5

What an interesting plant! From dense clumps of dark green, corrugated leaves in fans, emerge furry 1.5m stems bearing yellow flowers in summer. South African, and hardiest on well drained soils in mild gardens, but still only borderline. Easy and drought tolerant in a large pot: this also allows you to break the ice at parties by showing your friends its vivid orange roots. Or maybe not...

Watsonia

One of the great genera of the Iridaceae from southern Africa, with *Gladiolus*-like corms and leaves, and spikes of showy flowers in spring or summer. Hardiness varies: all these should be hardy in mild coastal gardens experiencing just a few degrees of frost at night. Most can take much more and are good doers across the south and west of Britain. Grow them in full sun, avoiding poor, dry soils. All make good pot subjects, and can be overwintered under glass in cold districts. Well grown clumps become congested after 3-5 years, and flower better if lifted and split up. Always handle them in late summer, after flowering and before root growth has got under way. All these priced £5 for largest sizes, but of course smaller ones will be cheaper.

Watsonia 'Dart Sea Trout' NEW CULTIVAR NAME

Our own seedling from the splendid 'Tresco Dwarf Pink' is one of the pretty, floriferous, long tubed types in a soft salmony pink, unlike anything else here. Height 1m.

W. aletroides has unique tubular flowers in a 2-sided spike, a delicate soft red in colour. Ours reaches around 40cm, though it can be taller.

W. angusta is an evergreen from wetter habitats with light orange flowers, reaching about 1m. Tough.

W. borbonica pink form is a lovely clear pink, and seems quite tolerant of heavy, wet ground. Early season. It's great favourite of ours.

W. knysnana (silent k, y as in 'eye' - named for the town) is a large flowered mid-season pink in our form.

W. laccata Pink Form: related to *aletroides*. Pink open faced flowers from smart 'varnished nails' bracts on slender 60cm stems: really lovely.

W. laccata Orange Form is just the same but a soft peachy orange. Thanks to Dick 'Agapanthus' Fulcher.

W. brick red hybrid is a long tubed type, 1.5m, a deeper, softer colour than 'Stanford Scarlet'.

W. 'Peachy Pink Orphan' Tall, semievergreen and hardy, with short, curved light peachy pink flowers. *pillansii* influence.

W. pink hybrid is a fantastic colour, despite the prosaic name. Very long, branched inflorescences of big, screeching pink flowers make it a real traffic stopper. Cold, wet winters may be fatal, so look after it! Later season.

W. 'Stanford Scarlet' (another tough *pillansii* hybrid) reaches 1.5m high in our heavy soil, with loud orange-scarlet flowers. Close inspection is rewarded by the beautifully contrasting indigo anthers.

W. 'Tresco Dwarf Pink' is a charming, very floriferous and hardy shell pink variety, more compact at around 60cm.

Wulfenia x *schwarzii* £4

Related to *Veronica*, with 30cm spikes of deep blue flowers in spring, over clumps of rounded glossy green leaves. Sun, ordinary soil. I've no idea why this fine, easy plant is so rarely seen.

Ypsilandra *thibetica* £4

Belonging to the Melanthiaceae, and close to *Heloniopsis*, this is a distinctive woodland perennial forming clumps of leafy rosettes. The flowers, in spring, are in tight bunches, white in bud and when first open, ageing pink in fruit. Eminently growable, it will probably become more widely planted than any *Heloniopsis* in time.

Zephyranthes *flavissima* £4

Small, quickly clumping, fine leaved summer growing bulb with yellow flowers in spring.

Talks

Julian gives interesting talks to Hardy Plant Society, Plant Heritage, AGS and other 'planty' groups.

Current titles:

'Adventures with Strange Perennials'

'Further Adventures with Strange Perennials'

'Whatever Happened to the Liliaceae?'

'Lilies and more...' – same plants, but aimed more at general garden clubs.

'Herbaceous Berberidaceae'

'Underground, Overground, Wandering Free' (a practical demonstration of diversity of the parts of herbaceous plants just above and below the soil surface, and its implications for propagation)

'Making Sense of the Iridaceae' - my 'botanist turned nurseryman' view of the family, for AGS groups etc.

'Iris and Beyond' – same plants, but aimed more at general garden clubs.

'Adventures with Fancy Foliage'

'I Believe in the Western Cape' – an introduction to winter-rainfall South African plants, their wild habitats and cultivation

More planned, and if you have ideas of things you'd like me to talk about, ask. I've been round several West Devon garden clubs with a Hellebore talk as a result of someone asking.

If you might be interested, do ring to discuss topics and (not excessive) fees. We bring plants for sale and can deliver members' orders, waiving the delivery charge.

