



Gardening Month by Month

with

MICHAEL KING

Foreword

At the end of 2023 it was my plan to start writing about gardening; each month a new chapter with the impressions, expectations and opportunities that each month in its turn offers. I planned to look forward and discuss my successes and failures over many years and then go on to describing what needs to be done, or could be done, to realise ones dreams, season by season, month by month.

Plants are at the heart of my garden making and I planned to highlight the most important players each month and explain why I grow them or not, as the case may be.

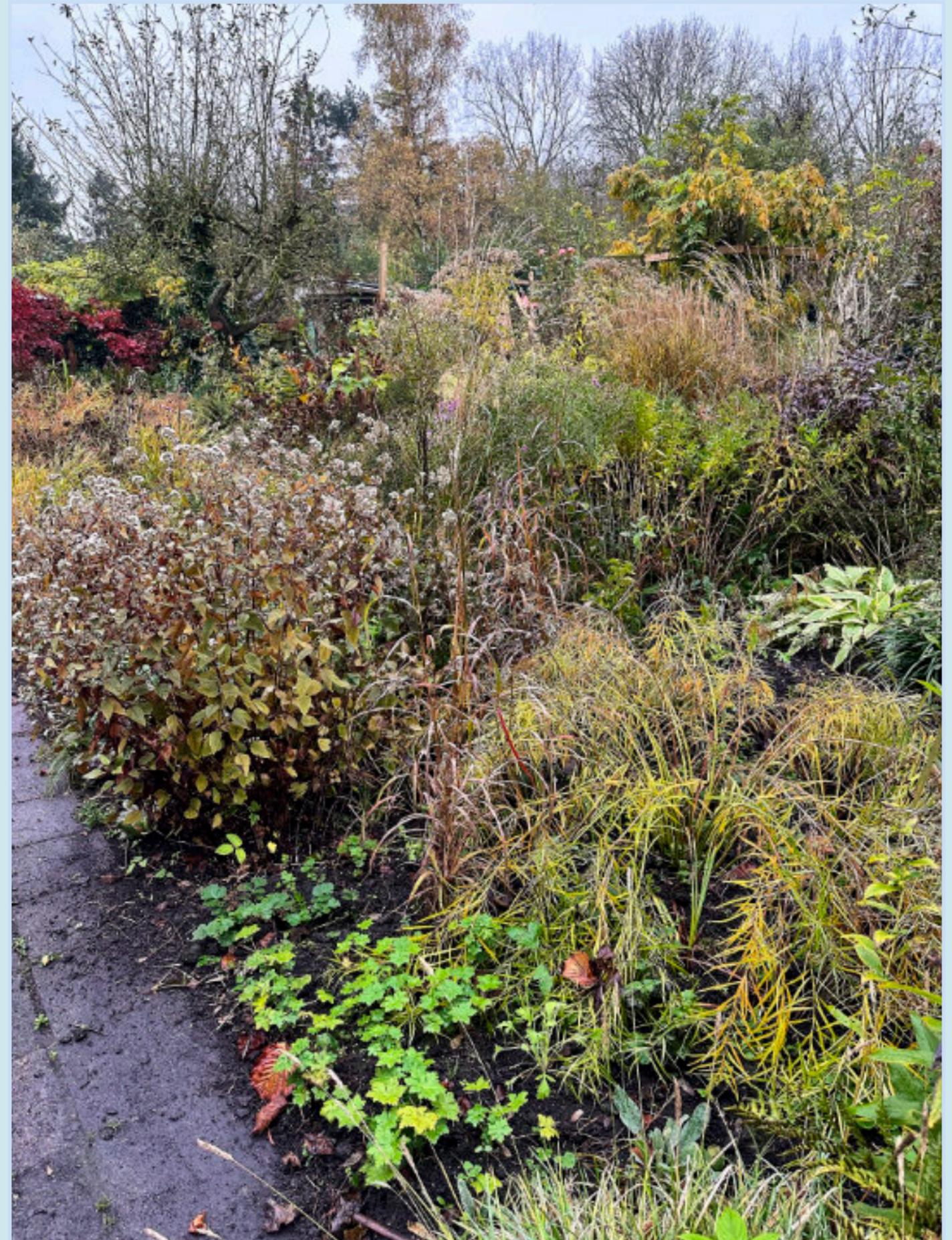
Do not expect an exhaustive list of the plants performing every month, these are just my own preferences and favourites. Hopefully, the photographs will be more than enough to inspire and inform.

The discipline of writing this new book at the rate of just one chapter per month, spread out over a whole year, did not seem too onerous at that time; let's see what I managed to come up with shall we?

Michael King

Amsterdam

November 2024



Introduction

I was twelve years old when my family moved into a new house with a large garden containing a commercial scale greenhouse. My father, a marine engineer, was inspired to take up gardening and I during his absences became his garden boy. Every year dozens of trays of annuals were grown and plants set out in ridged lines and patterns. It was the 1970's and bold colours clashed shamelessly with one another: red salvias, blue lobelias, pink petunias, golden marigolds and lots of multicoloured Antirrhinum snapdragons.

For more than thirty years now I have been living in the Netherlands spending my time photographing and writing about plants and designing some gardens.

I have trialled thousands of plants, in particular perennials, over many years in two allotment gardens in the centre of Amsterdam. Planting combinations and their integration into the garden landscape has formed the basis of the various books I have written. Ornamental grasses, bulbs, perennials and annuals are a speciality.



I went on to study botany and microbiology at university, but decided after to go on and train to be a chartered accountant in London. The last five years of my “business” career was spent at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, responsible for finance, commerce and administration; an enjoyable time, in a world I loved, but my need to work more closely with plants beckoned.

As might be expected, my own garden is a jumble of ideas, experiments and apparent chaos. It is so different from the clean, ordered advice I offer others. In the following pages I show images taken both there and in the many other gardens I have visited over all these years. My style and ideas should quickly become apparent and I hope that this collection of images will inspire you to try new things and evolve your own version of a paradise garden.

December might seem a strange place to start looking at the gardening year, but a great deal of my thinking and doing is aimed at making sure that the garden looks good throughout the year and this includes the winter. December is the month I take stock, make plans and start thinking about any plants I might need to order in the new year.

There is actually not an awful lot to do in December, it is more a time for reflection and review of successes and failures. Looking around the garden at this time its layout and physical structure determine what you can see. Ephemeral plants such as annuals and bulbs might have been the stars of the show earlier in the year, but unless planting plans have also included species with winter interest, the garden could appear open, barren and uninteresting.

The best thing that you can do is to leave the garden to its own devices in December. The less you do in the garden in December is probably the better. Walking on wet soil is likely to cause more damage than good. Let the plants stand, study their subtle colours and textures in shades of brown, gold and honey and allow wildlife to enjoy their seed heads and the protection of their stems..

I don't really plan to work in the garden in December; I hate cold weather. However, there are some things you might find yourself doing. We have just had weeks and weeks of heavy rain and this has held up bulb planting. Finally, there were a few dry days, long enough to let the soil drain somewhat, that enabled me to plant the last of the tulips. Some bulbs like Narcissus are best planted much earlier, but tulips don't start into growth until soil temperatures drop below 6° C, so delaying till December is not a problem. In fact, it has the advantage of reducing the time they are sitting in the soil waiting for a hungry rat or water vole to come along and take a bite — a problem I have too much experience of here.

I also planted a Paulownia tree last month that is something that I could also have been doing in December. Autumn and late winter is the ideal time to plant shrubs and trees, especially bare rooted plants so long as the soil conditions allow.

Another job that could be carried out towards the end of the year is pulling aggressively-spreading perennials. In my case there is a semi-wild border with a year round ground covering mixture of *Symphytum*, dwarfed by the ambient dry soil there, and *Pachyphragma macrophyllum*, that creates a carpet of white flowers in early spring. Emerging through this ground layer are various bulbs in spring, some ferns, a bold patch of *Persicaria amplexicaulis* together with a wild



aster and *Lysimachia punctata* that arrived as spontaneous seedlings/weeds.

These last two contribute summer and autumn colour but are both aggressively spreading perennials. My approach is to ruthlessly pull them out together with a significant amount of attached root once they finish flowering. This year both ended up being pulled up in early December. The result is that this simple method leaves some of their roots behind in the soil to grow next year, but checks their spread. This simple border has been managed in the same way for more than 10 years now and is both attractive year round and the least labour intensive area in the whole garden.

Key Plants in December

Evergreen plants retain their impact year round and might become the most significant features in the winter garden. These, together with the stems of deciduous shrubs and trees and the dead remains of perennials, should hopefully, have been brought together in a garden's planting plan to create an interesting and effective picture for the winter months..

There are not many evergreen perennials that might contribute significantly to the winter garden apart from some species of *Euphorbia*, low-growing ornamental grasses such as *Sesleria*, *Carex* sedges and *Luzula* woodrushes. However, deciduous perennials, with what we call winter silhouettes, such as bold clumps of grasses can play an important part and it is these that are my key winter plants. *Miscanthus sinensis* cultivars turn shades of brown and gold in the winter but remain standing as sturdy columns and mounds, topped with fluffy seed heads for months on end. Similarly, other grasses including *Panicum*, *Calamagrostis* and Pampas grass, *Cortaderia selloana*, can be included in the planting pallet.

Other perennials such as *Monarda*, *Rudbeckia*, *Agastache* and so many more also retain their skeletons, topped with distinctive seed heads through into winter. These stand out amidst the stems and textures of the winter garden as well as offering wildlife shelter and food. I grow all of these plants and let everything stand throughout the winter. If anything becomes untidy I cut it back, but otherwise everything remains standing until the moment in late winter that it is appropriate to cut it all down and make room for next year's spurt of new growth.

Evergreen shrubs including yew hedges, sentinel conifers and rounded bushes bring permanent structure to the garden. They are important, but need placing with care and should not dominate the garden as a whole. I grow a number of different forms of holly, *Ilex*, both plain green and variegated as well as *Viburnum* species such as *V. davidii* and *V. x pragense* all placed as bold specimen plants at

strategic points throughout the garden.

Shrubs chosen for their winter flowering need careful selection. There is only one I am going to whole heartedly recommend as so many of those suggested in gardening books would hardly ever have been heard of if it wasn't for their time of flowering. The delicate flowers of shrubs such as *Abeliophyllum*, *Chimonanthus* and *Lonicera* are delightful close too and many are deliciously scented. Their problem is that they are not dramatic plants albeit pleasing when encountered. Too often, once out of flower they are dull and contribute little to the garden's textures or structure. Probably the best way to enjoy these shrubs is by cutting branches and bringing these inside in season. This also has the advantage of constraining their size, which can be significant, and suggests that you should only plant them in an out of the way spot in the garden.

The witch hazels, *Hamamelis*, are a possible exception to this, for although they are large, coarse shrubs all summer, in winter their branches do carry many delicate flowers that have a strong impact in the garden landscape lasting for many weeks. Most gardens will probably only need one plant and here again cut branches brought inside will be found to be both beautiful and often scented.

There are only two winter flowering shrubs I can highly recommend, one for its flowers, the other for its scent. *Mahonia x media* 'Winter Sun' makes an upright evergreen shrub with long-fingered, rich green foliage. The long spikes of clear yellow flowers burst from the top of every stem like fountains. It starts flowering in November and goes on having a bold effect in the garden well into January whereafter it forms spikes of green fruits that are less effective but still attractive.

If you venture into the garden at all in winter, in the right weather on a calm sunny day, you may be enveloped in the scent of *Sarcococca* if you have taken the opportunity to plant a group of this small, low-growing shrub near to a path. When I worked at Kew Gardens it took me a long time to realise where the scent came from when I walked around the side of the old Wood Museum. *Sarcococca confusa* is an evergreen sub-shrub. Use it to edge paths just like box; with its glossy foliage it is a less formal alternative. The flowers are tiny and invisible at first glance but their scent is to die for, even though illusive. In truth I had to ask one of the Kew gardeners where the scent was coming from on my first encounter.

Shrubs often seen in winter gardens with coloured stems such as *Cornus sanguinea* and various sorts of willow, *Salix*, are all worthwhile but are often large and dull in summer, I would use these as neutral backgrounds to summer flower borders if there was the room. Yet, as landscape plants they can be spectacular.



Perennials and grasses bring rich warm colour during their winter dormancy. A pergola, paths and water together with clipped box hedging create a setting for them in this large private garden. The bold yellow flowers of Mahonia x media 'Winter Sun' attract all attention in early winter. The clipped mound of box seen below anchors this garden scene, without it the surrounding grasses would simply look untidy. The red stems of shrubs such as Cornus and Salix can create powerful landscape features as seen in this Dutch park; it is a pity that in summer they are such uninteresting, large shrubs.



January is generally colder and wetter than December in my part of the world. Frost and snow sometimes bring fleeting pleasure as does early morning mist. The mood of the garden sometimes changing from minute to minute.

I revisit my collection of gardening books and inevitably add more plants to the list of things to try when finally I can get out into the garden.

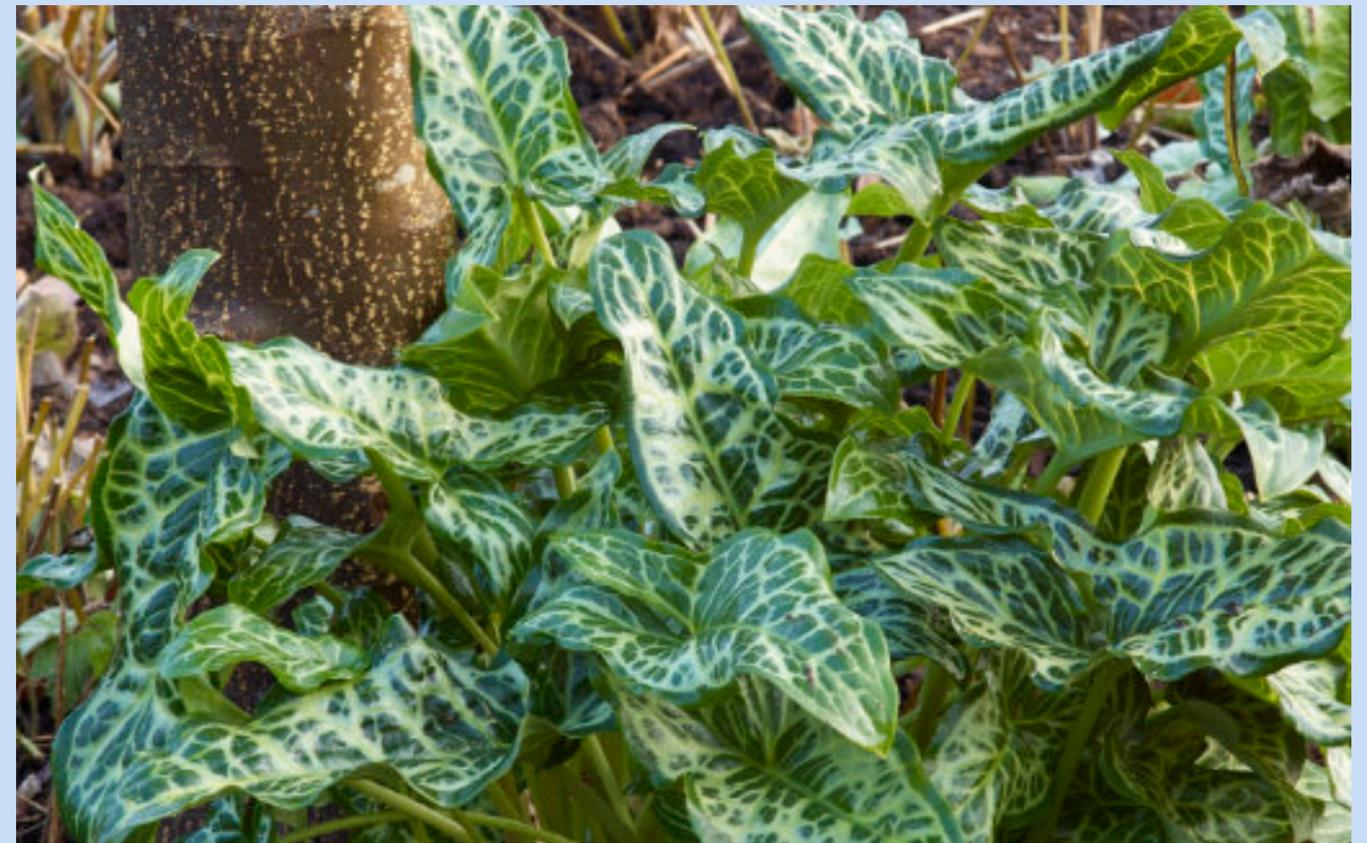
Apart from a bit of winter pruning the most important thing I aim to do this month is order seeds. Annuals and biennials are always worth the effort of growing them and every year is the chance to try something new. I also grow many perennials from seed; either because they are difficult to purchase as plants or because I need them in large numbers. I will also be ordering summer flowering bulbs soon, but that can wait until next month when the new catalogues appear.

Key Plants

As in December it will be the seed heads of grasses and perennials amidst the structure formed by hedges, trees, shrubs and above all else evergreens that will define the garden this month. Some early flowering bulbs might lift our hopes this month especially if the weather is kind. There are many early flowering snowdrop cultivars such as 'Atkinsii' and 'Colossus' that appear long before the main show in February. Crocus and Iris reticulata may also make an appearance this month, but these are unlikely to make a dramatic impact in the wider garden landscape. Daffodils are far more effective and for a number of years now I find that Narcissus 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation' can start opening some of its flowers in late December and that by mid January the grassy sloped surrounding my home are a sheet of bright colour. In such cool conditions these same flowers seem to last for weeks on end, well into February.

The longer I garden the more I appreciate ferns and in winter they always draw attention to themselves. Many ferns are deciduous and collapse in autumn until they reappear in spring, but there are many that remain fresh and green in winter. In particular Dryopteris, Polystichum and Polypodium being the most important here. I have different species of these dotted around the garden where in summer they form an interesting part of a mixture of different ground-covering perennials. However, in winter they assume a far more important role when everything else around them has died back or has become a bleached silhouette of its former self.





Witch Hazel are in full flower now starting in late December. *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Robert' underplanted with *Epimedium rubrum*. Also *Arum italicum* 'Pictum' creates fresh green ground cover in winter. Many grasses and perennials such as the *Pennisetum alopecuroides* and the aster shown below hold onto their bleached beauty for a long time, but eventually they will need cutting back. Likewise, the *Molinia caerulea* grasses are already collapsing before the end of January and allium bulbs are shooting up amongst them. To the rear, precocious *Narcissus* 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation' are in full flower.





Many ferns are effective in winter often renewing their foliage with a burst of new fronds in early spring; in winter these are indispensable. *Polystichum setiferum* 'Plumosum Bevis' makes a bold specimen once established. *P. munitum* with its glossy foliage stands out amidst evergreen heather and *Liriope* ground covers. *Athyrium felix-femina* 'Lady in Red' is deciduous but holds onto its faded fronds for many winter months. *Polypodium vulgare* 'Cornubiense' (*P. mantoniae* 'Cornubiense') is fresh and bright green all winter thriving in the driest most inhospitable parts of my garden.



February is probably the most frustrating month of the year for a gardener. The winter pictures we so carefully planned are now beginning to fall apart. Those upright stems, seed heads, our so-called winter silhouettes, have finally started to collapse following rain, snow or storms. We need to get out into the garden and start cutting the grasses and perennials back, but the weather needs to offer us a window of opportunity before we can begin this essential annual tidy up. Dry, sunny weather is needed when the stems of perennials will be brittle and can be easily broken off or cut down and removed. At the same time precocious bulbs, especially alliums, snowdrops and daffodils, will be growing up strongly which is why we need to clear the dead tops of adjacent perennials as soon as we can in order to be able to see and appreciate them. Eventually such days do arrive, but when?

The removal of the dead tops of perennials is the priority in February. I try to break or cut these into short lengths and drop them onto the soil around the crowns of the parent plants. They decompose slowly and help to nourish the soil in a natural manner and avoiding me having to make a trip to the compost heap.

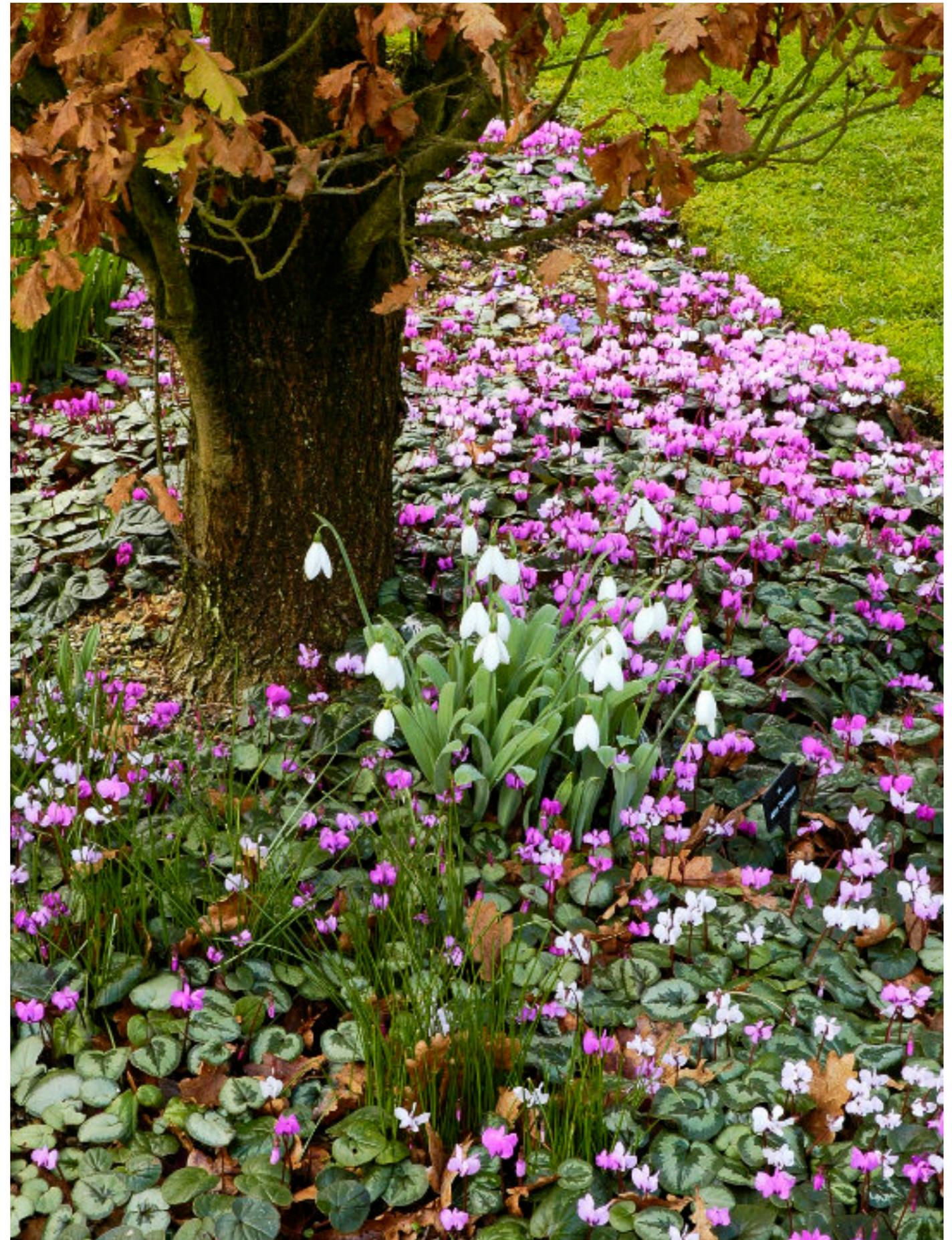
Hellebores will probably be in flower by now, but if you haven't already done it, cut back their old foliage. It will probably be damaged by fungal infection and by removing it the flowers will be shown to their full advantage.

Biennials such as *Lunaria annua* and *Salvia sclarea* self seed once established in a garden and by February will be starting into growth ready to flower in the coming spring or summer. Direct sowing is the easiest method, but sometimes I find it useful to grow these plants in pots and plant them out in late February in exactly the spots where I need them.

Whilst it might be difficult to get out and do some real gardening this month, there is no harm in dreaming. I finalise my seed ordering and make ready to sow some of the few annuals and perennials that benefit from an early sowing under protection. It is also a good time to start thinking about dividing any perennials in the borders as by now asters, phlox and even crocosmias will be thrusting into fresh new growth and the earlier you do this the longer they have to get going.

If roses and clematis have not been pruned last month, now is still a good time to do so.

Galanthus elwesii 'John Tomlinson' amidst a carpet of *Cyclamen coum*.



Key Plants

February is the time for snowdrop lunches in England where different species of *Galanthus* and their hundreds of cultivars are exchanged at exorbitant prices. In the garden their differences are hard to appreciate from a standing position. In my opinion, there is nothing wrong with the common *Galanthus nivalis* for forming wide flower carpets across any woodland floor. The larger growing species *G. elwesii* is bolder with coarser foliage and as a garden plant I actually prefer it. I use *S. Arnott*, a cultivar that is nowadays widely available and reasonably priced. Even after flowering its foliage makes effective ground cover before adjacent perennials rise up to take over the space.

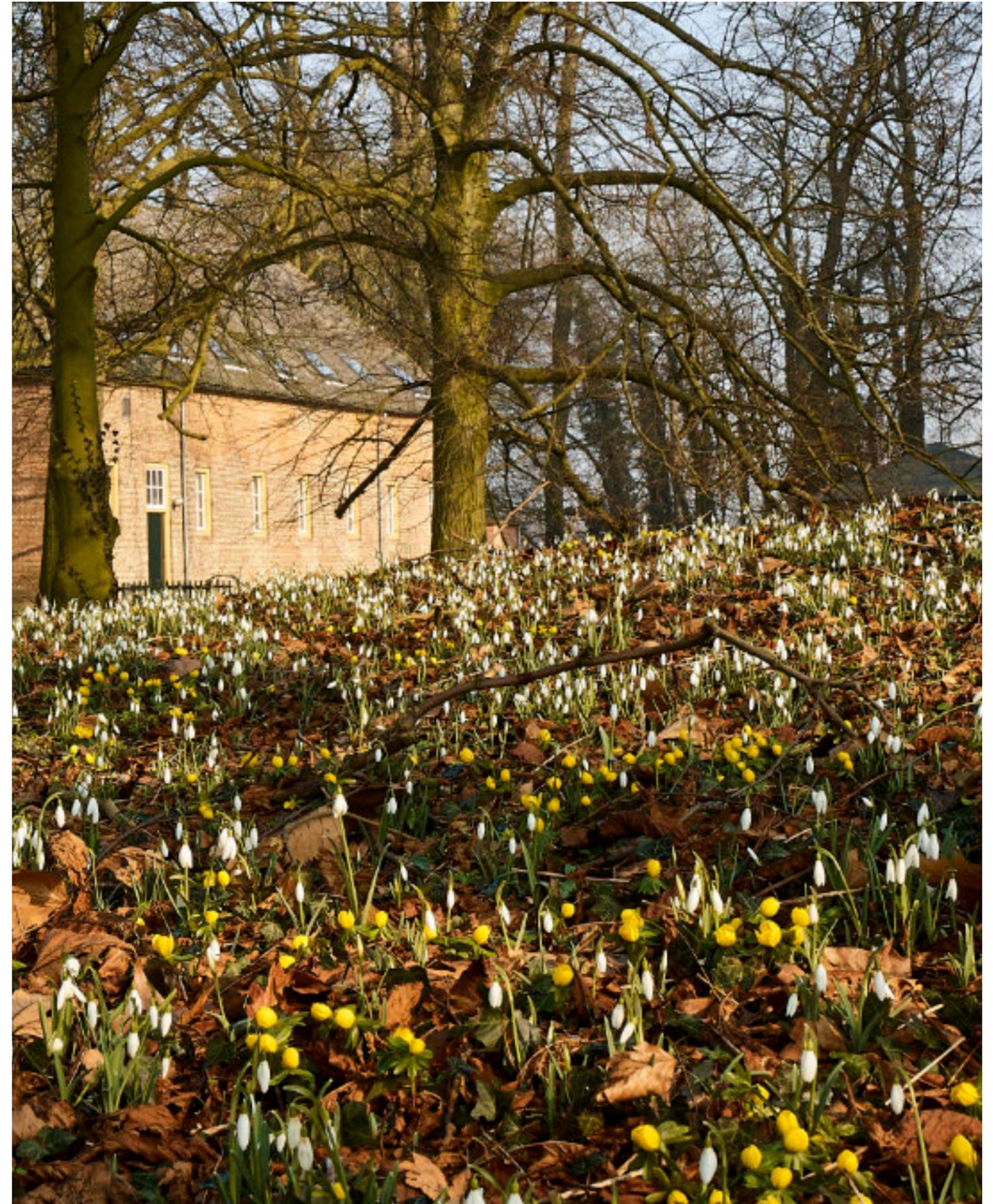
Winter aconites, *Eranthis hyemalis*, are yellow and make the perfect accompaniment to snowdrops as do the winter-flowering, purple flowered *Cyclamen coum*. Beautiful carpet tapestries of these can be created with the odd clump of *Helleborus* rising up above them as discrete specimens.

It is still early for the majority of spring flowering bulbs, but there are early flowering forms and species of both *Crocus* and *Narcissus* to be aware of. Mice eat every crocus bulb I plant in my garden which is why I so delight in seeing such early's as *Crocus tommasinianus*, *C. flavus*, *C. sieberi* and *C. chrysanthus* in other people's gardens.

Early daffodils are very welcome additions to the garden and as well as 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation' that I have already mentioned, there is *Narcissus cyclamineus* 'February Gold' that will often be in flower in early January. How times change, years ago I used to complain that 'February Gold' never flowered until March!

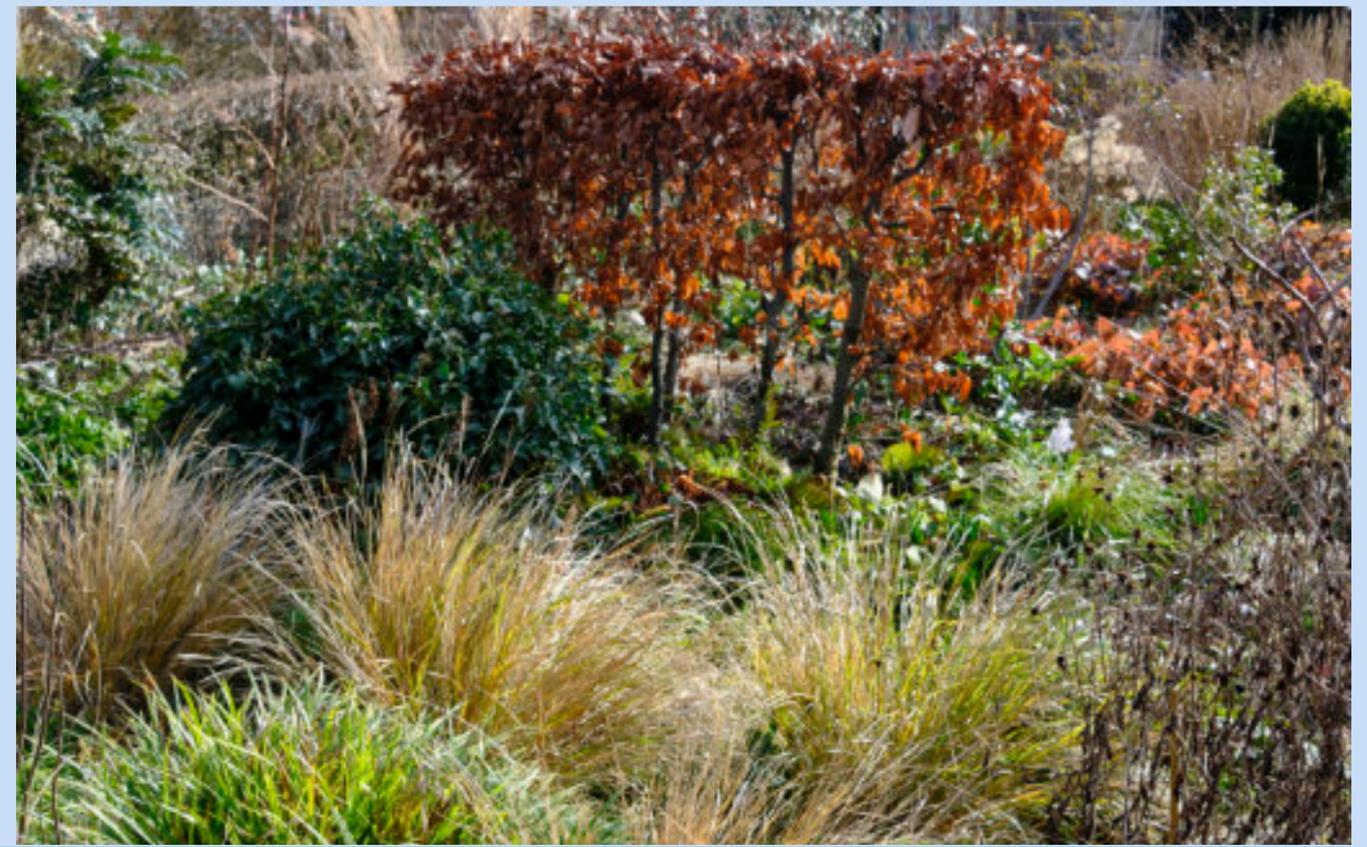
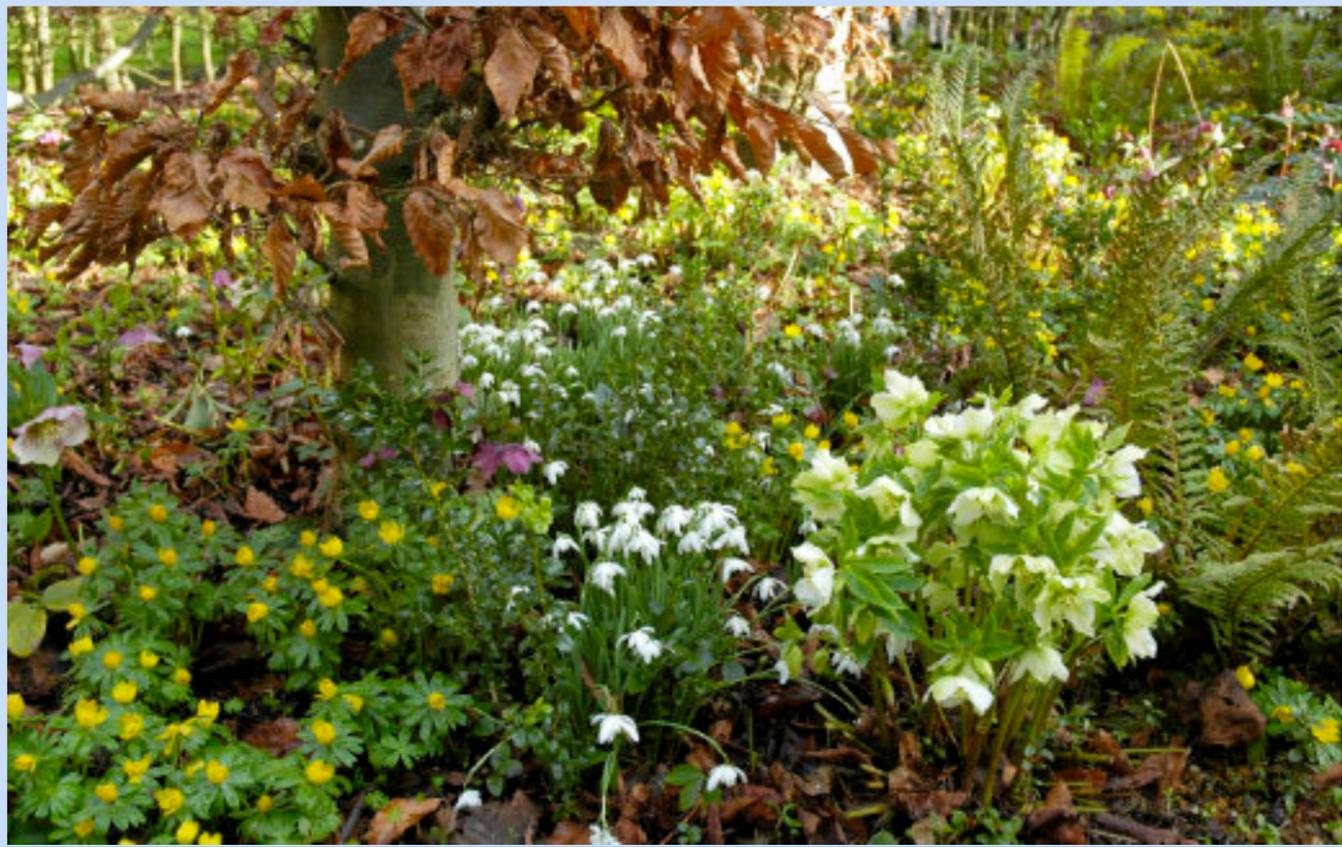
More delicate indeed are the different forms of *Narcissus bulbocodium*, the so-called petticoat daffodils - charming miniatures, that are ideal for naturalising in grass. Also, I grow *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* var. *lobularis* that peaks throughout next month, but is always in flower towards the end of February. It is a perfect miniature with bold yellow and white flowers that increases easily by self-sown seed and eventually develop into bold pools of fresh colour in the garden landscape.

Galanthus with *Eranthis hyemalis* carpeting this woodland floor, early February.





There comes a point when the winter garden just looks messy and needs a major tidy up. In dry weather the debris is easily broken off or cut back creating an empty canvas ready for the emerging perennials and bulbs to take over. In the semi shade of woodland hellebores and evergreen ferns bring structure to the drifts of white flowered snowdrops and yellow winter aconites that might be growing there. Evergreen grasses - *Anemanthele lessoniana* - shrubs such as ivy, *Hedera helix*, and *Pittosporum* together with beech hedges can bring much needed structure to the garden this early in the year.





Helleborus reign supreme in February, but last year's leaves are best removed before they come into flower. Narcissus 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation' lives up to its name flowering from the last week of December through to the first week of March without fail. Narcissus pseudonarcissus var. lobularis is a smaller, more refined wild species that, as seen here, develops localised patches of early colour through seeding itself around. Equally delicate, but slightly larger growing is Narcissus cyclamineus 'February Gold' with this species' characteristic of swept back outer petals.



March sees rapid changes in the garden, but timing is clearly dependant upon the weather. This year winter was wet and mild resulting in the early flowering of many different plants.

If February is the month for snowdrops then March is the domain of the daffodils: small and large, pale and bold in so many different forms each year it is worthwhile planting a few new types to try.

March is a great time to move things around in the garden, both perennials and shrubs. Some parts of my garden have remained, unchanged for more than ten years. Over time the planting resolves itself into a simpler mix of those plants that have thrived at the expense of others that have not. There eventually comes a point where this lack of diversity results in a less than interesting area that needs revitalising. This is the case of a central area in my own garden where a celebration of bold, fast-growing and tall perennials was a feature. Now plants such as *Persicaria polymorpha*, *Chelone*, *Miscanthus* and *Rudbeckia* dominate and create a less than satisfying whole. I will be busy this month and next removing these big perennials to more peripheral parts of the garden to create a new, more open, mixed planting of low to medium height plants.

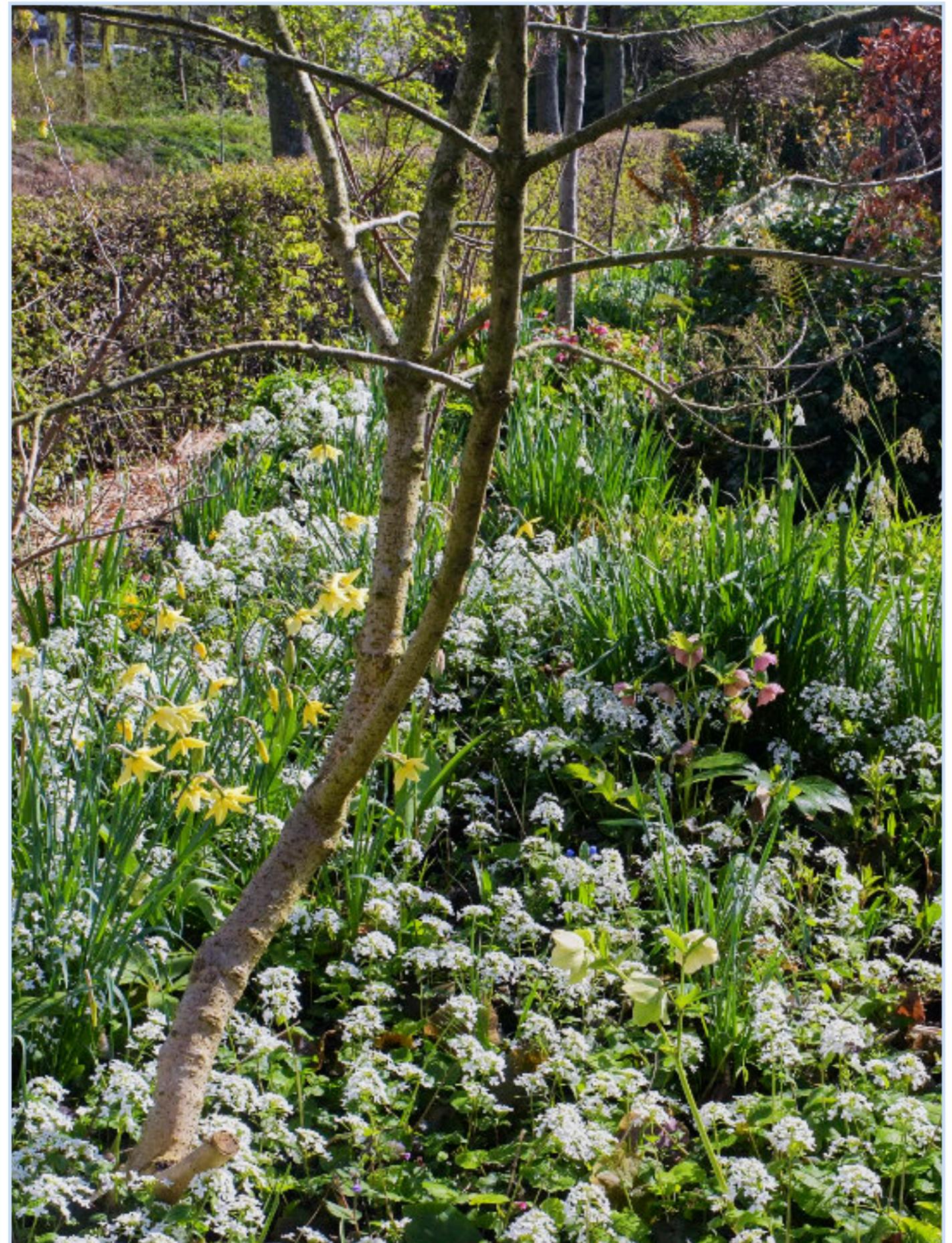
Towards the end of the month I will be planting out any new summer flowering bulbs such as *Crocsmia*, *Chasmanthium*, *Liatris* and *Gladiolus*. Any more-tender plants such as cannas and dahlias will be started off as pot plants in the cold greenhouse for planing out a few weeks later when all danger of frost is past.

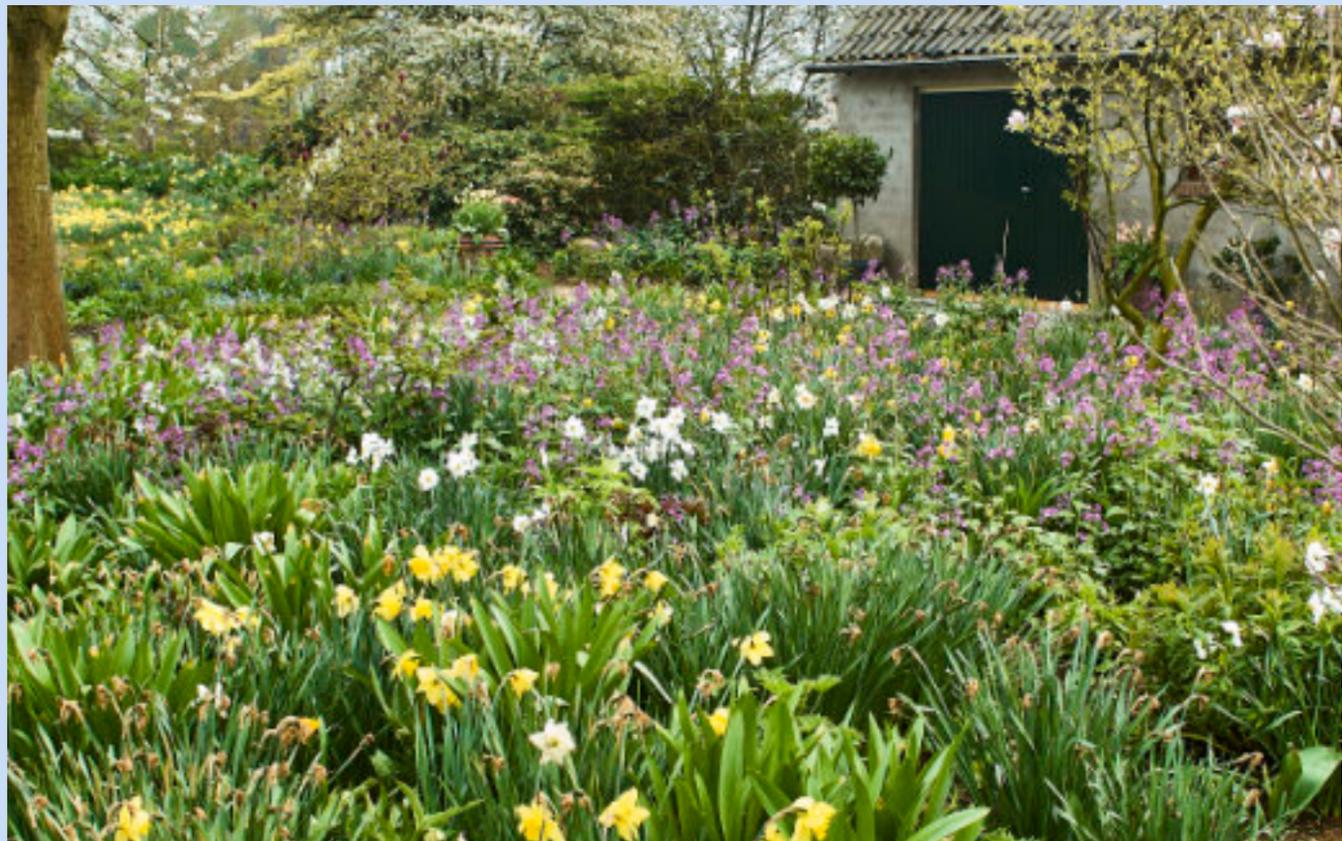
Key Plants

Daffodils are popping up everywhere throughout the garden as spring arrives with different varieties playing their part now and on into April. Anfield is a new discovery. It is a mid-season flowerer following on nicely from the display of *Narcissus 'Jetfire'* in the centre of my garden. Unfortunately, I cannot grow tulips any more in the ground in my garden as they are conscientiously eaten by rats and voles; daffodils having had to take over their role in mid to late spring for the last few years. Experiments are underway with growing tulips in pots using course gravels as a detergent to the vermin; so far it seems to be working.

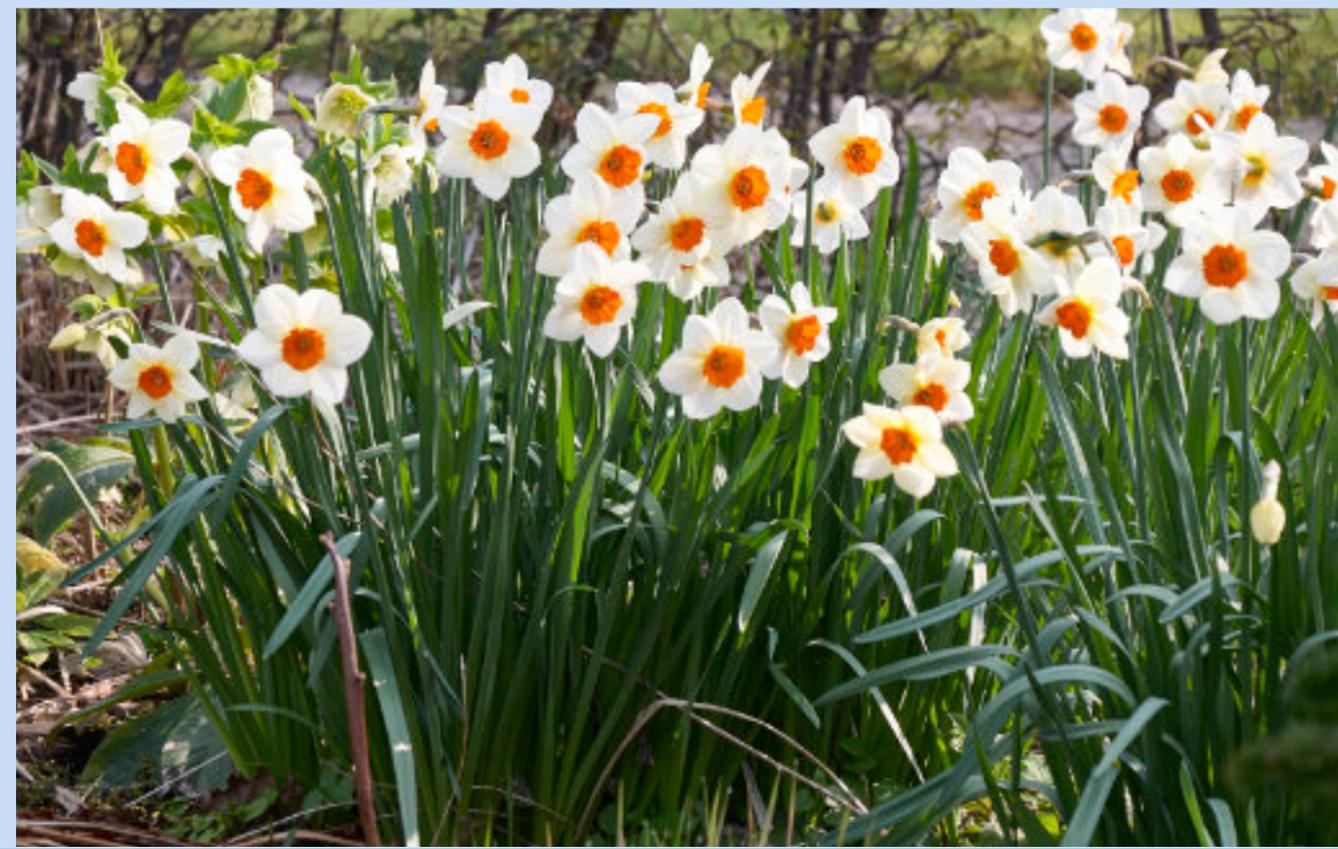
Ground cover amongst the bulbs of spring makes a big difference and one of the most successful for me has been *Pachyphragma macrophyllum*. The white flowers are effective throughout March and well into April and its saucer shaped leaves remain neat and unobtrusive through summer and on into winter.

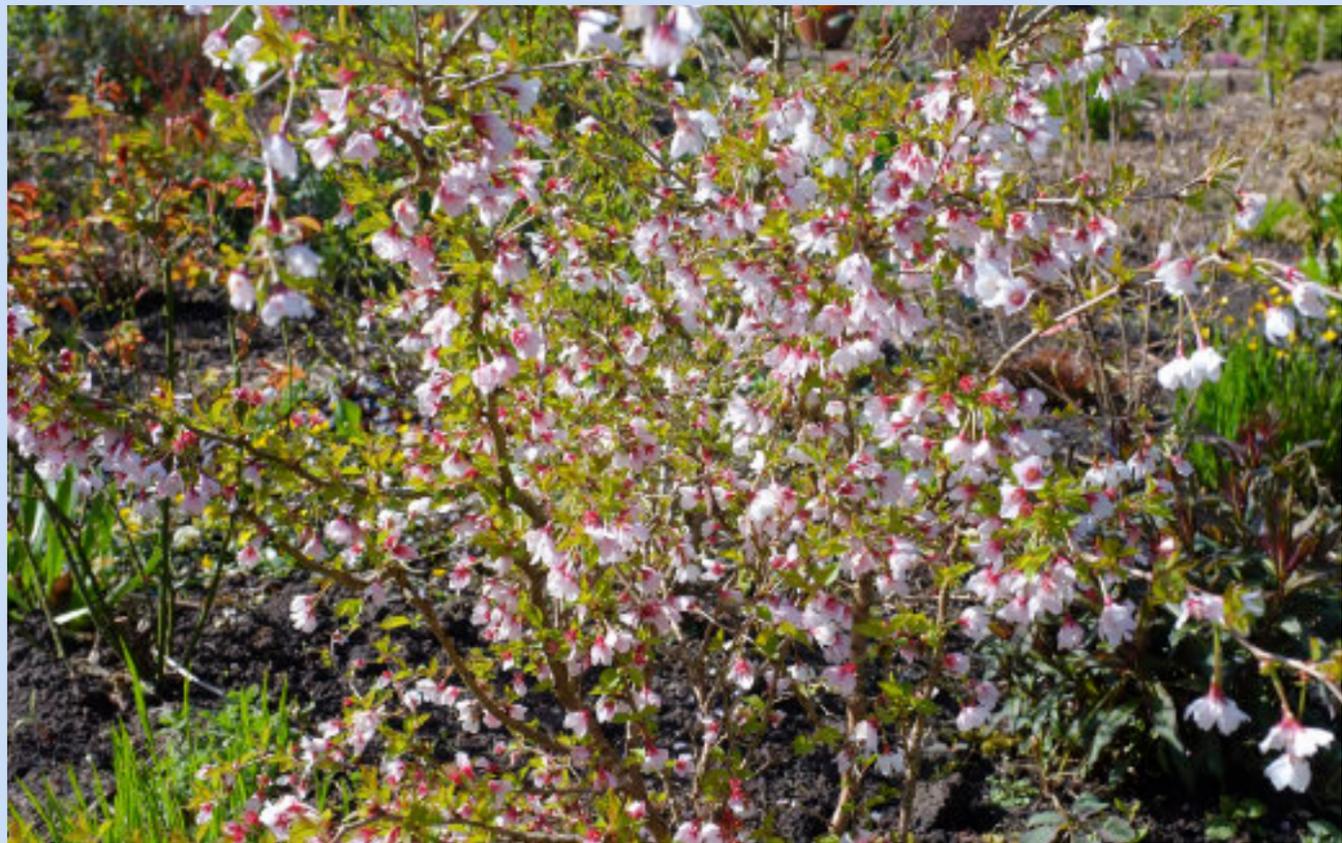
Pachyphragma macrophyllum with the heirloom daffodil *Narcissus 'Bart's Flame'*.





Before any tulips arrive in April the Narcissus have full reign of the garden and are best planted amongst perennials that will soon rise up and help disguise dying bulb foliage later in the spring. Narcissus 'Jetfire' makes the perfect companion for earlier flowering *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* subsp. *obvallaris*. *Leucojum aestivum* 'Gravetye Giant' is a bold bulb flowering at the same time, best in damper parts of the garden. The bold flowers of Narcissus 'Barrett Browning' appear usefully in mid-March and are then quickly followed by many many more daffodils and eventually the tulips.





Four shrubs that bring early colour to my garden. *Prunus incisa* 'Kojou-no-mai' is compact, slow-growing and additionally develops attractive autumnal foliage tints before dropping its leaves. This form of *Spiraea thunbergii* 'Ogon' has pale yellow leaves, appearing along with the flowers in March, the leaves remaining on the shrub until the very end of the year. *Kerria japonica* 'Golden Guinea' offers open yellow flowers on its fresh green stems before any foliage appears. Evergreen *Osmanthus delavayi* may be clipped into formal shapes, but only after flowering and the release of its rich sweet perfume.



April is the most dynamic month of the year with so many trees and shrubs coming into leaf, hardy perennials rising out of the soil and spreading their expanding foliage beneath drifts of multicoloured spring flowering bulbs.

The daffodil season continues on well into April and is joined by the bulk of the mid-season and late flowering tulips. A few early flowering perennials can also be in flower this early such as the yellow *Euphorbia epithymoides* (syn, *E. polychroma*) seen here. Later other euphorbias will start to contribute including my favourite *E. palustris* growing tall and wide in just a matter of weeks.

The weather in April is unpredictable and affects when certain plants actually flower and when buds break on woody plants. Sooner or later deciduous shrubs and trees will show their fresh foliage along their stems and this can prove to be just as exciting and effective as any display of tulips.

Weeding is a major task this month as the perennials have not fully covered the soil surface. This is also a good time to continue with any replanting, dividing and potting up as plants are rushing into active growth and will re-establish easily.

Seed sowing is in full swing this month. I sow perennials that will be grown on through the summer in pots and planted out in early autumn. I tend to delay planting annuals until late in the month as these are most useful to me in my borders later in the summer. Some that are really fast growing I leave even longer before sowing; especially *Zinnia* and *Cosmos*, as these will be in flower so quickly and then remain effective long into the autumn.

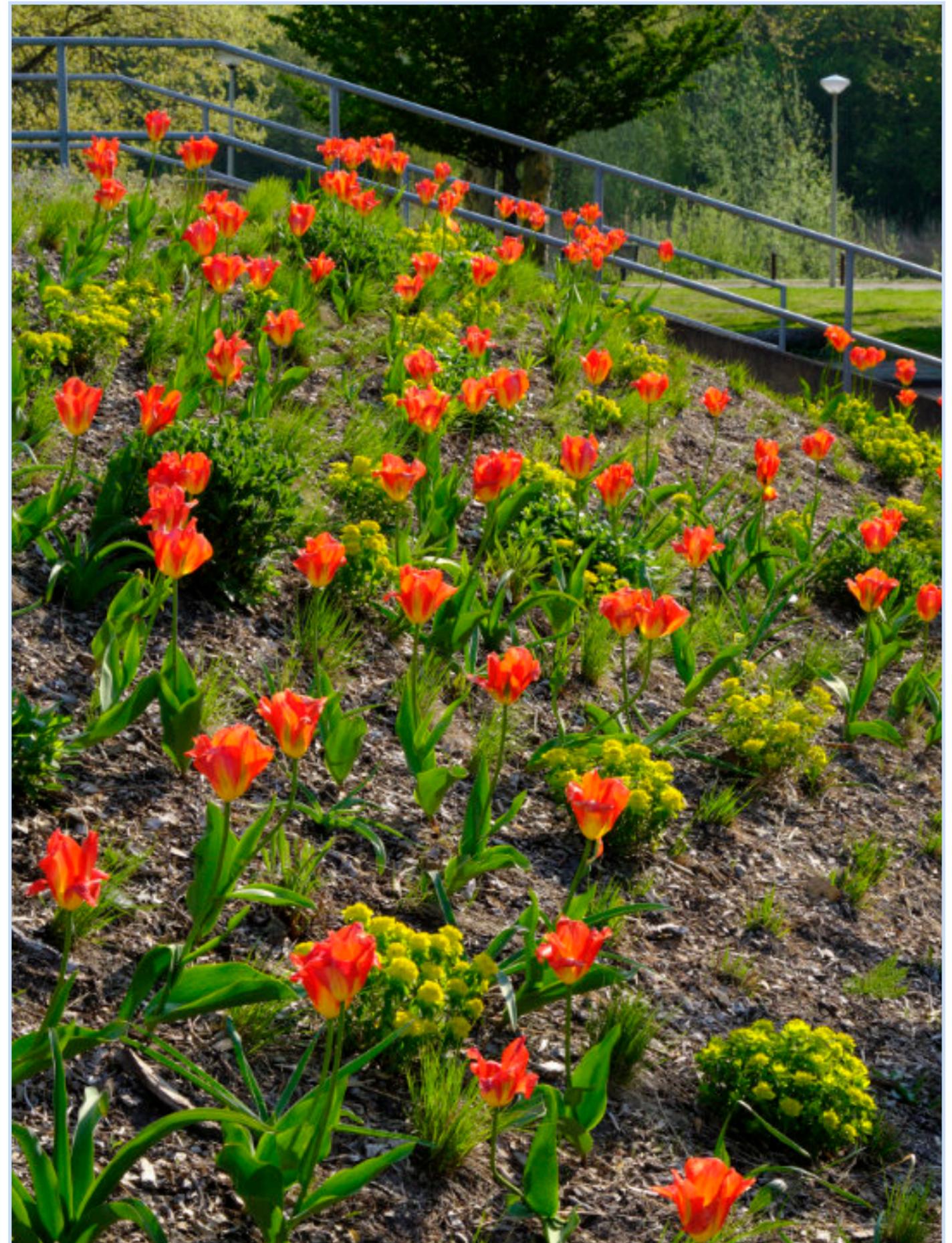
By the end of the month the very early flowering shrubs will have finished and their role taken over by others that flower predominantly on last year's new growth. This includes familiar favourites like *Forsythia*, *Deutzia* and *Viburnums*, but their peak comes next month.

Anticipation is very much the mood created as April draws to a close.

Key Plants

Tulips can be the star attraction in April. The trick is to choose early, mid-season and late-flowering varieties. It can be hard work planting them individually between the perennials in your borders, but this is the most interesting way to use them in the garden. Pots and mass plantings have their role to play, but randomly rising out of a mix of perennial foliage that is predominantly green is by far the best way to use them.

Darwin hybrid tulips and *Euphorbia epithymoides*.



Smyrniium perfoliatum is a spectacular biennial that I found very difficult to establish in the garden. If you broadcast the seed it seems to take three years of ineffective weeding to enable it to grow into a flowering plant. Once you have it, it will reappear every year squeezing into other plantings as these grow up and take over the space. It is the same yellow hue as *Euphorbia palustris* and *Carex elata* 'Aurea' and these together will form the perfect setting of any display of purple flowered alliums you might have planned to enjoy next month.

Lunaria annua is my other indispensable biennial. Self-sown seedlings pop up in unexpected spots in the garden. The common species has magenta pink flowers, but I prefer 'Alba', the white flowered form. There is also a variegated leaved form that might appeal. Additionally, *Lunaria rediviva* is a perennial species that offers pale lilac flowers that develop into flattened seed capsules, moon shaped unlike the more familiar oval shape of the better known annual honesty.

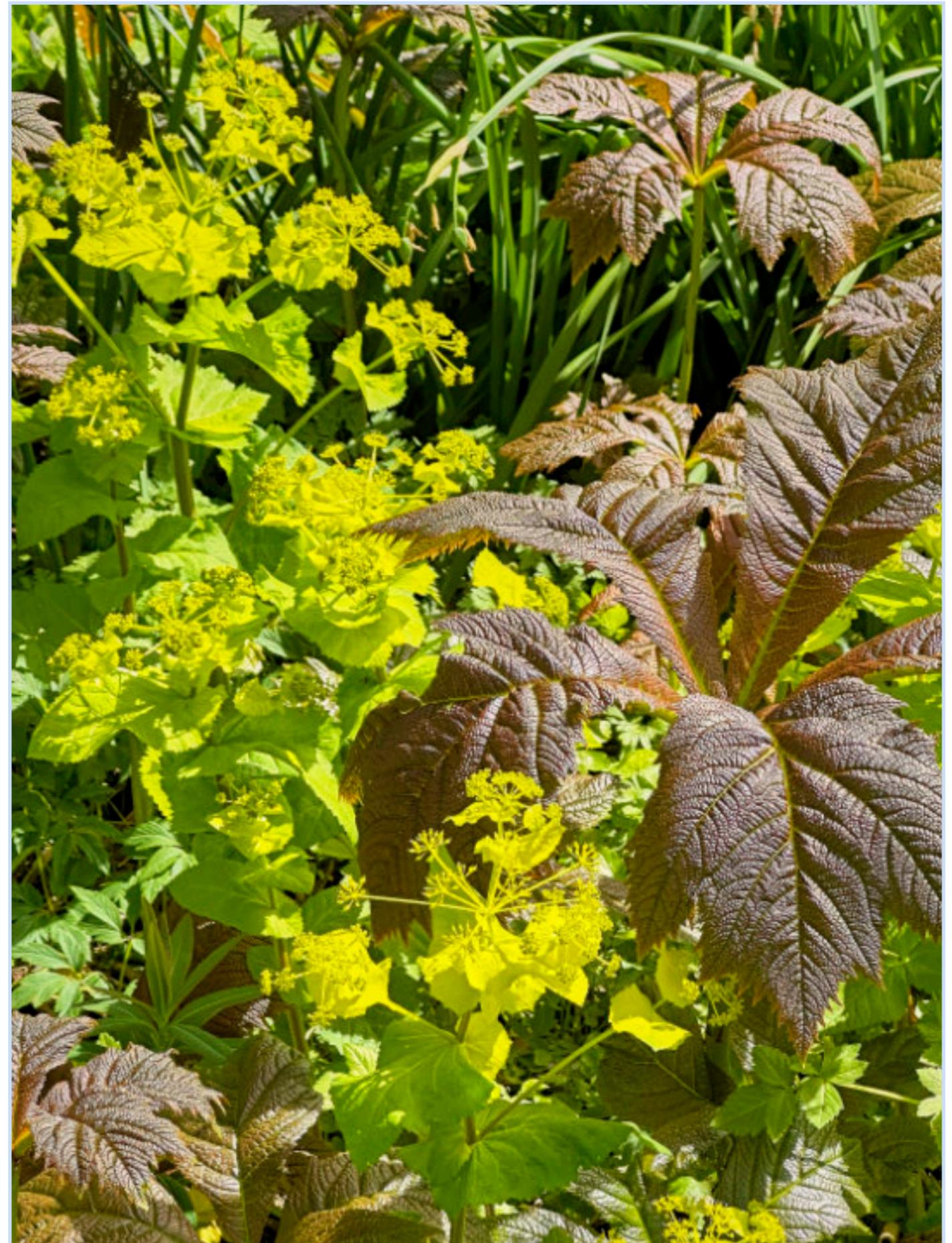
Planting Design

Visual impact may be created by a single bold specimen plant or the repetition of smaller plants across a plant border or indeed a combination of both of these.

I aim to develop clear themes in the garden for different times throughout the year. Theme plants such as Geums, Phlox, Rudbeckia, Helenium and Aster each in their turn come into flower across the garden's different borders and together signal the changing seasons. To achieve such repetition in a small garden I need to limit the planting pallet to just a few different species. However, a handful of theme plants are not enough alone to make a satisfying garden and to overcome this I also introduce a group of additional plants that I consider complementary to the main themes. For example, tulips in spring and alliums in early summer bring colour when perhaps the theme plants are not fully effective. Complementary plants can also add contrast and points of interest within an area dominated by a theme plant. This avoids any repetitions becoming boring and serves as a way of guiding the eye and any visitors around the garden space. For example, a bold clump of iris or poppies rising out of an area planted with lower-growing ground covering plants such as sedums or geraniums may stand out as points of interest.

Theme plants need to be tough, reliable and effective over a long season such as many ornamental grasses, but complementary plants can be ephemeral and disposable. Short-lived Echinacea and Scabious, or short-flowering Peony and Iris, as well as annuals, biennials and bulbs can all play this role in a planting scheme.

New foliage of *Rodgersia podophylla* 'Donard Form' with biennial *Smyrniium perfoliatum*.



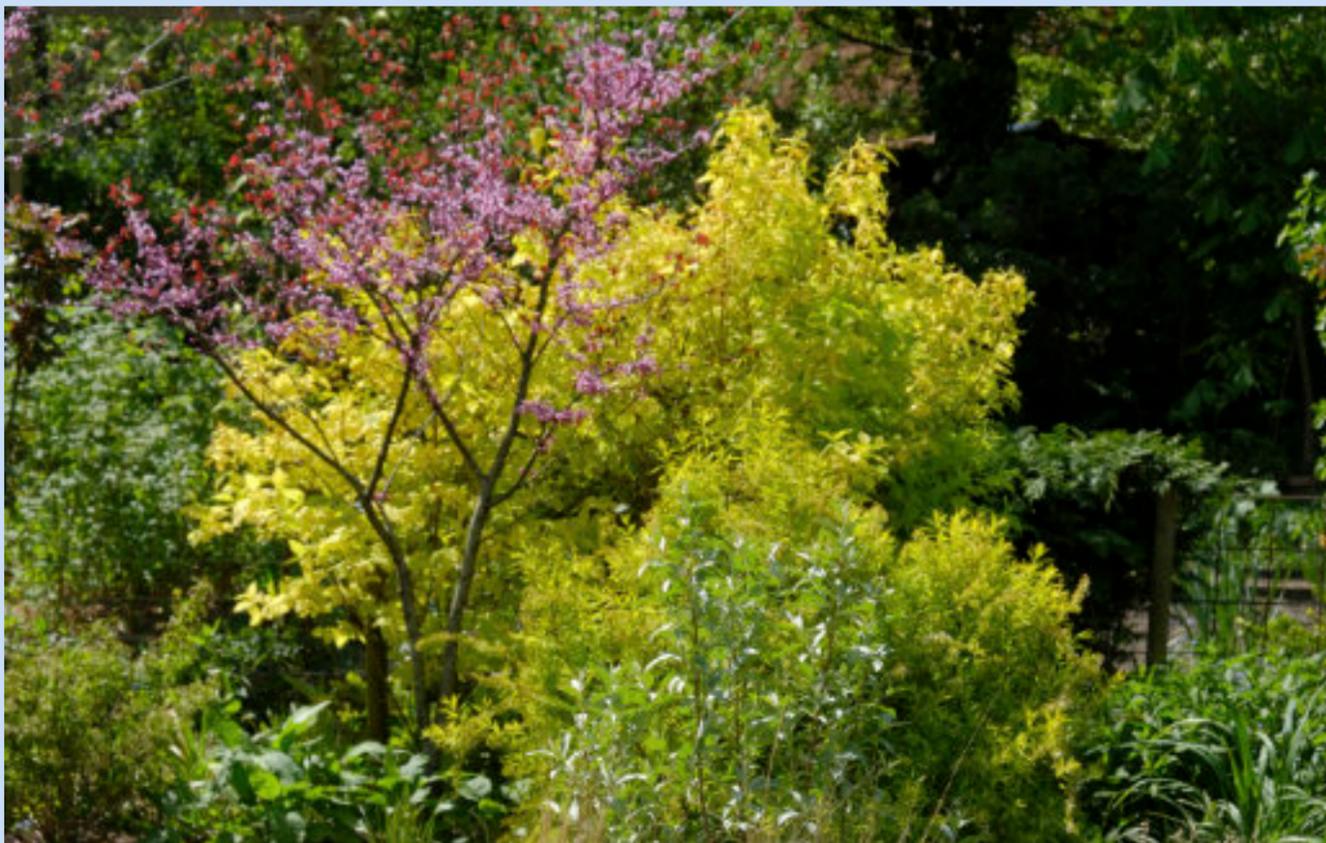


The tulip season is long, but its peak is in April. Red tulips are my top choice since they contrast so strongly with their predominantly green background in the open garden. Different colour themes can also be created for separate areas of the garden. Ferns such as *Dryopteris affinis* 'Crispa' rise spectacularly in just a matter of a few days this month adding lush, fresh green textures and form to border plantings. Another dynamic feature in the garden sees *Euphorbia griffithii* 'Fern Cottage' rising up through the freshly emerging foliage of *Epimedium pinnatum* 'Black Sea'.





Fresh foliage colour is just as important in April as are any flowers. As the month progresses the daffodils play less of a role than tulips. Acer palmatum 'Trompenberg' is my favourite red Acer with an open, characterful form. Cercis siliquastrum flowers on its bare stems just as its purple foliage begins to emerge; here it is set against the background of Philadelphus coronarius 'Aurea' to dramatic effect. Berberis 'Sky Rocket' is another dramatic purple/red foliage shrub different in tone from of the Acer palmatum 'Yasamin' as here underplanted with Hostas and the grass Hakenochloa macra 'All Gold'.



May sees the garden filled with foliage and flowers, but after the spectacle of spring flowering bulbs the colour green can dominate. However, in gardens with the right soil and climate this could be the time to enjoy rhododendrons, magnolias and camellias, but my choice instead goes to deciduous shrubs especially deutzias and viburnums.

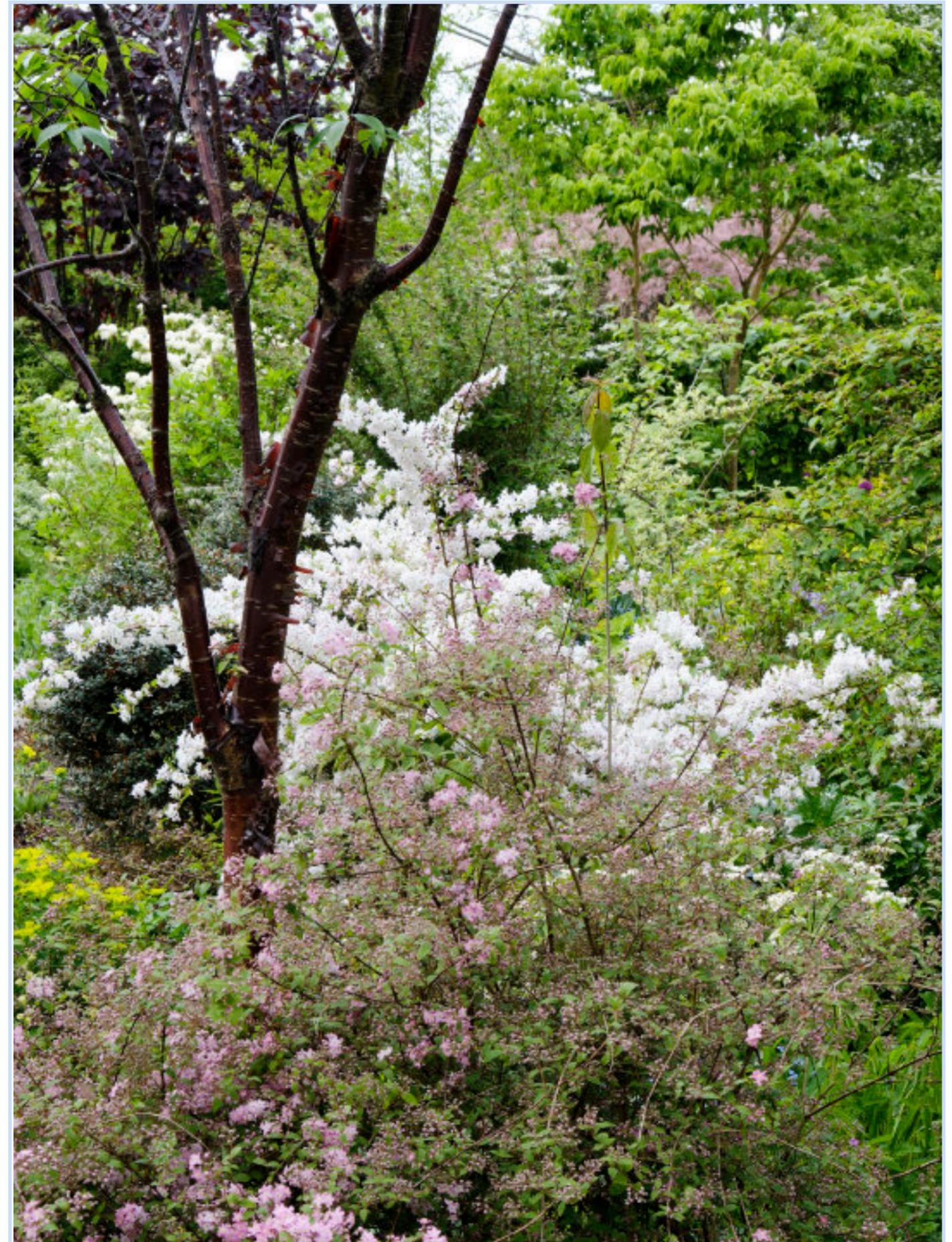
Deutzias are spectacular in flower. They flower along arching stems thrown up in the previous summer; afterwards they are dull green shrubs but they are easily managed by cutting hard back these old stems immediately after flowering. I have some six shrubs dotted around the garden of different species and cultivars that flower in an overlapping sequence covering some six weeks; this is just at the moment when the garden needs a strong theme.

Viburnums are far more worthy shrubs. There are many species and cultivars, mostly deciduous, with good form, elegant flowers and foliage and some even offer autumn foliage colour. Many are too large for smaller gardens, but others are not and these shrubs can play an important role in building the structure of the garden.

The atmosphere of a cottage garden can develop strongly this month with the flowering of many charming, often self-sown, perennials such as aquilegias, honesty, meadow sweet umbellifers and primulas. Also any hardy annuals sown in the previous autumn will come into flower this early and together with self-sown foxgloves and poppies randomly appearing, the sense of free informality pervades.

Weather dictates when certain plants actually come into flower. Important for me are the various ornamental onions that will create a strong colour theme next month, but often these will be making a contribution in the second half of May and then hardly make it into June; nature once again keeping us guessing and alert.

Other so-called summer flowering bulbs such as blue Camassia and white Ornithogalum will happily join them bringing their bold flower spikes to an otherwise low, green carpet of yet-to-flower perennials.



Deutzia rosea 'Campanulata' behind D. x elegantissima 'Roselind' below a Prunus serrula.



Bold clumps of *Euphorbia palustris* and *Carex elata* 'Aurea' create the setting for the round flower heads of ornamental *Allium* onions that appear in the second half of the month. *Viburnum plicatum* 'Newport' and *V. p.* 'Summer Snowflake' with *Deutzia purpurascens* 'Kalmiiiflora' as background. Cottage garden favourites create an informal mood such as self seeded *Aquilegias* with *Deutzia rosea* 'Campanulata'. Spikes of blue *Camassia*, white *Ornithogalum magnum* and pink *Persicaria bistorta* mix with yellow flowered *Thermopsis chinensis* mimicking lupins that may flower later in the month.



June is high season for roses in most gardens. Some years they will have started in May and certainly if we had planted my favourite, early flowering Canary Bird, but for June the rose could be a major theme. I use more climbing roses than bushes. I find a rose-clad arch still has a bold design impact even in winter whereas most rose bushes are simply bare and awkward out of flower.

As the month progresses more and more comes into flower. Various species and cultivars of Allium, the ornamental onions, are a major theme. The low-growing Allium christophii with its large open flower heads resembling fireworks are scattered through many of my borders. Slightly later, the bolder pom pom sorts of which my current top choice is 'Purple Rain' and finally, the so-called drumstick allium, A. Sphaerocephalon, with its compact purple flower heads at the end of long thin stems.

Purple and blue flowered salvias send up their flower spikes this month and make an exciting contrast with the flat topped flower heads of yellow-flowered Achillea cultivars such as 'Moonshine'.

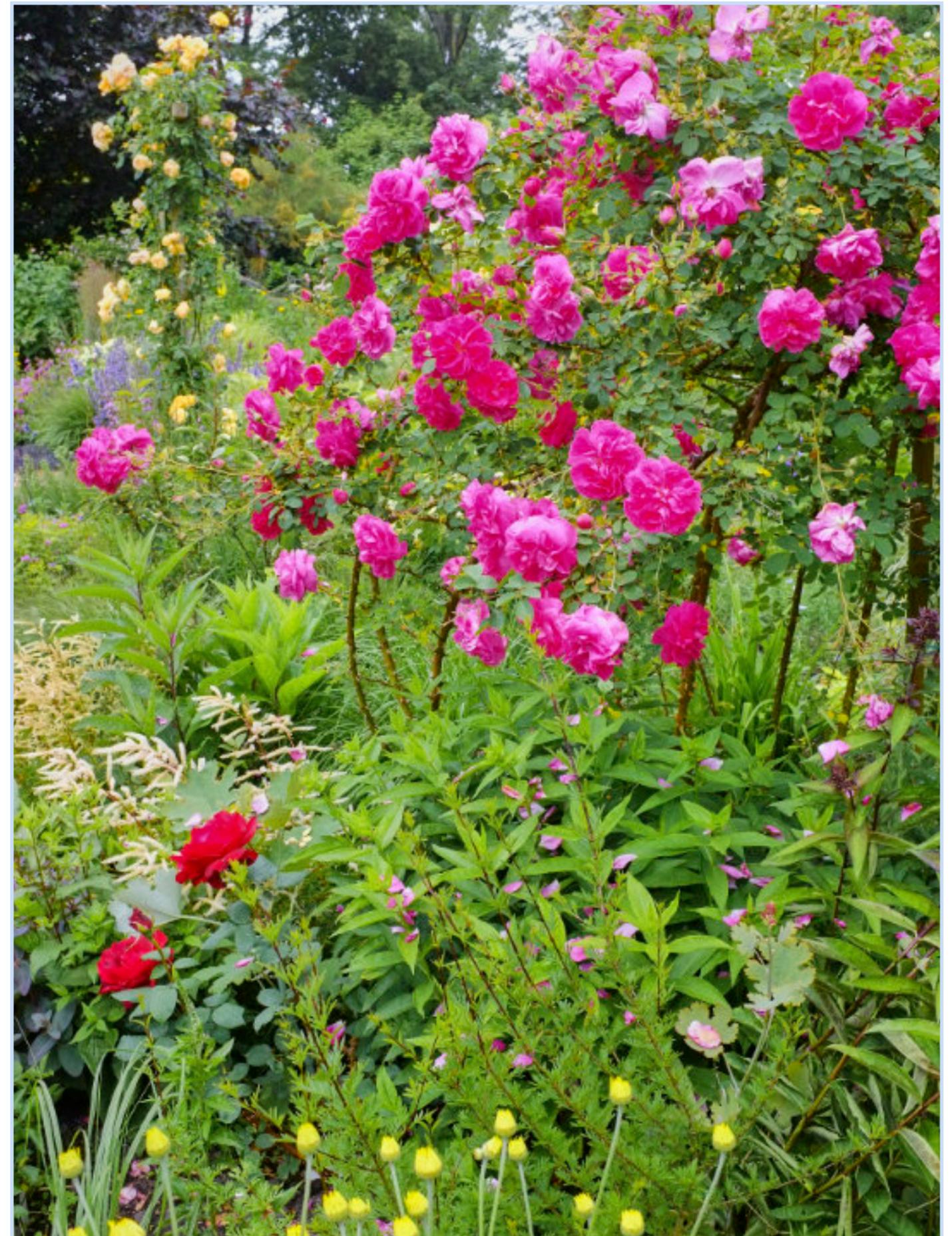
Softer in form and gentler in colour are many perennials found growing in the woodland edge such as Astrantia major, Trifolium rubens, geraniums and for sunnier spots, catmints like Nepeta 'Walker's Low' and N. subsessilis.

Not everything is low-growing this early in the year. Perhaps the most remarkable is Persicaria polymorpha that will be in full flower this month and easily two metres tall, steadily forming neat clumps just as wide over several years. It flowers clean-white over a long season and these fade to warm tones that remain effective throughout summer. Aruncus dioicus, goatsbeard, makes similarly large clumps with dramatic plumes of off-white flowers, but these do not last so long and are best removed once they fade to brown. Better are a number of its cultivars, especially 'Horatio' that are smaller, finer in foliage with persisting seed heads.

Astilbes are far more colourful option for the damper areas of the garden. They like my clay soil and the low-growing 'Fanal' and taller Astilbe chinensis var. taquetii 'Purpurlanze' are the two that I grow. The best whites are A. chinensis 'Vision in White' and the later flowering A. thunbergii 'Professor van der Wielen'.

The one job I have to do in June is sow biennials for flowering next year:

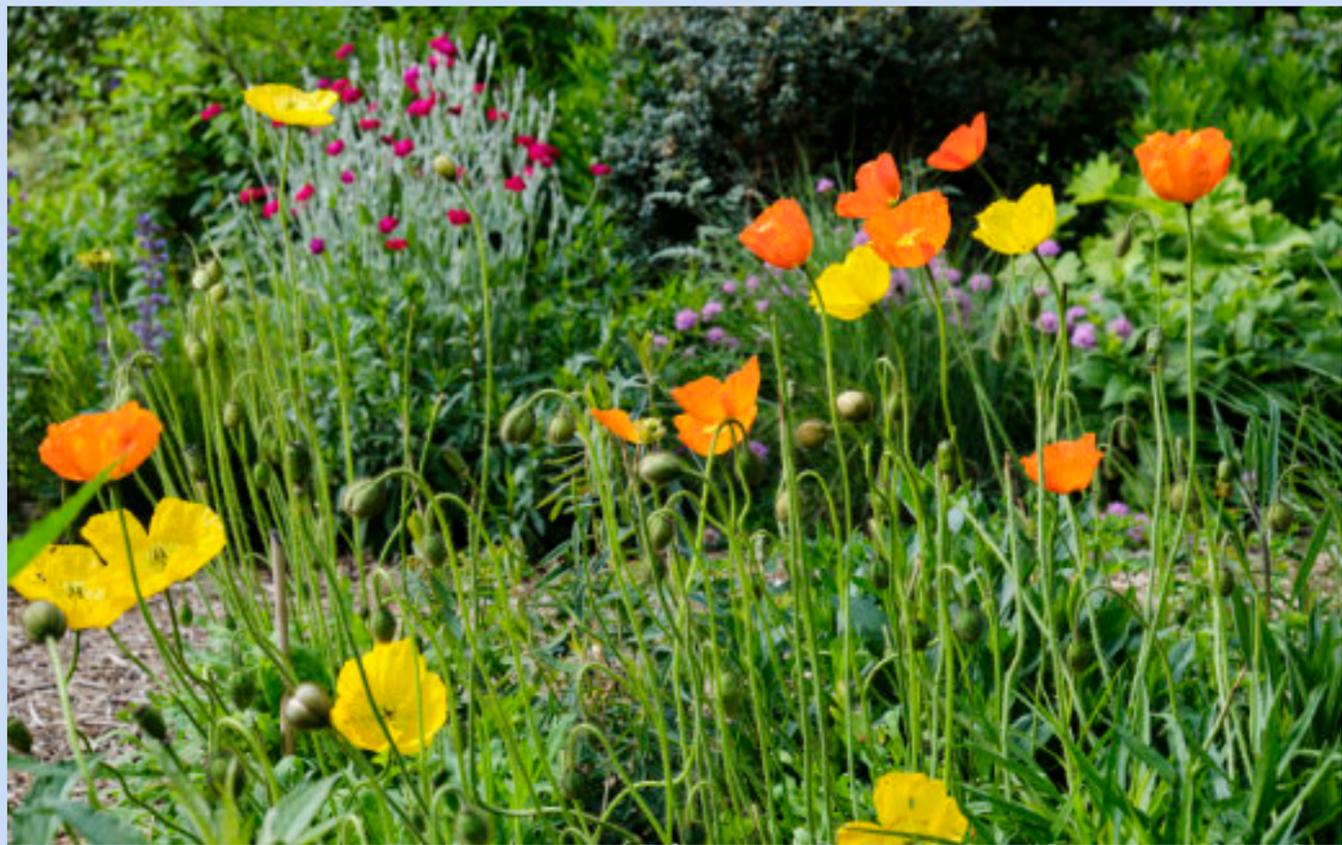
Lunaria annua, Salvia sclarea and Papaver nudicaule.



Roses and low-growing cultivars of Aruncus.



Plants that seed themselves around the garden bring spontaneity and surprise in unexpected spots. *Lychnis coronaria* is one that I might move the seedlings around to have their bold pink flowers towards the front of borders. Foxgloves spring up vigorously and compete easily amidst the rough and tumble of a mixed border. All poppies are welcome, but the Iceland Poppy, *Papaver nudicaule*, with its glowing orange and yellow flowers must be my favourite. With bold fury basal foliage, clary, *Salvia sclarea* var. *turkestanica* makes a strong statement in sunny sites; normally lilac flowered but *Alba* is preferable.





Salvia 'Caradonna' with pom pom ornamental onions are distinct from the lower-growing *Allium christophii* with its more open flower heads, shown right. Lupins are short-lived perennials that I tend to treat as biennials since after flowering they are not very effective in the border and take up a lot of room. However, they never go unnoticed; seen here with *Salvia nemorosa* 'Ostfriesland' and a single *Allium atropurpureum*. Mid June sees a lot in flower with here dark pink *Lychnis coronaria*, blue *Nepeta* and the fluffy flower heads of pink *Trifolium rubrum* and its white counterpart *T. ochroleucon*.





Astilbes thrive in damp soils, but *Astilbe chinensis* var. *taquetii* cultivars are more drought tolerant. Aruncus are less demanding and the most effective over a long season is *Aruncus* 'Horatio' that is relatively low growing. The only true grass to make a bold statement in the early summer garden is *Stipa gigantea*, many other tall-growing ornamental grasses flower much later. Perhaps the boldest perennial in early summer is *Koenigia x fennica* 'Johanniswolke' (Syn. *Persicaria polymorpha*) seen here behind a clump of *Miscanthus sinensis* that will rise high to flower much later in the summer.



July is potentially hot and dry. The exuberance and lushness of spring and early summer is now awash with an abundance of flowers. Astilbes and salvias may have begun to flower last month but continue to play their part amidst an array of daylilies, geraniums, Phlox and spring sown annuals.

On soils that do not dry out too quickly, as my garden's clay, bold foliage plants such as *Darmera peltata*, *Ligularia dentata* and *Hostas* will be looking at their best. Likewise, *Filipendulas*, *Thalictrums* and *Sanguisorbas* will bring colour and height amidst borders now filled to bursting.

Echinaceas are deservedly popular as seen here with the early flowering grass, *Stipa gigantea*. Unfortunately, many of the cone flower cultivars are short lived in garden borders. Instead I usually plant the true species: pink *Echinacea pallida* and yellow *E. paradoxa*.

Shrubs of one sort or another are in flower throughout the summer, but the major theme in my garden this month are the hydrangeas. Of the classic mop-head sorts I grow compact cultivars such as *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Pia', 'PeeWee' is a small-growing *H. quercifolia* cultivar, but the ones I value the most are cultivars of *H. serrata* including 'Miranda', 'Preziosa' and 'Tiara'. These delicate lace-cap forms of this Japanese species remaining attractive for months with their intact faded flower heads above foliage that gradually develops interesting autumnal tints.

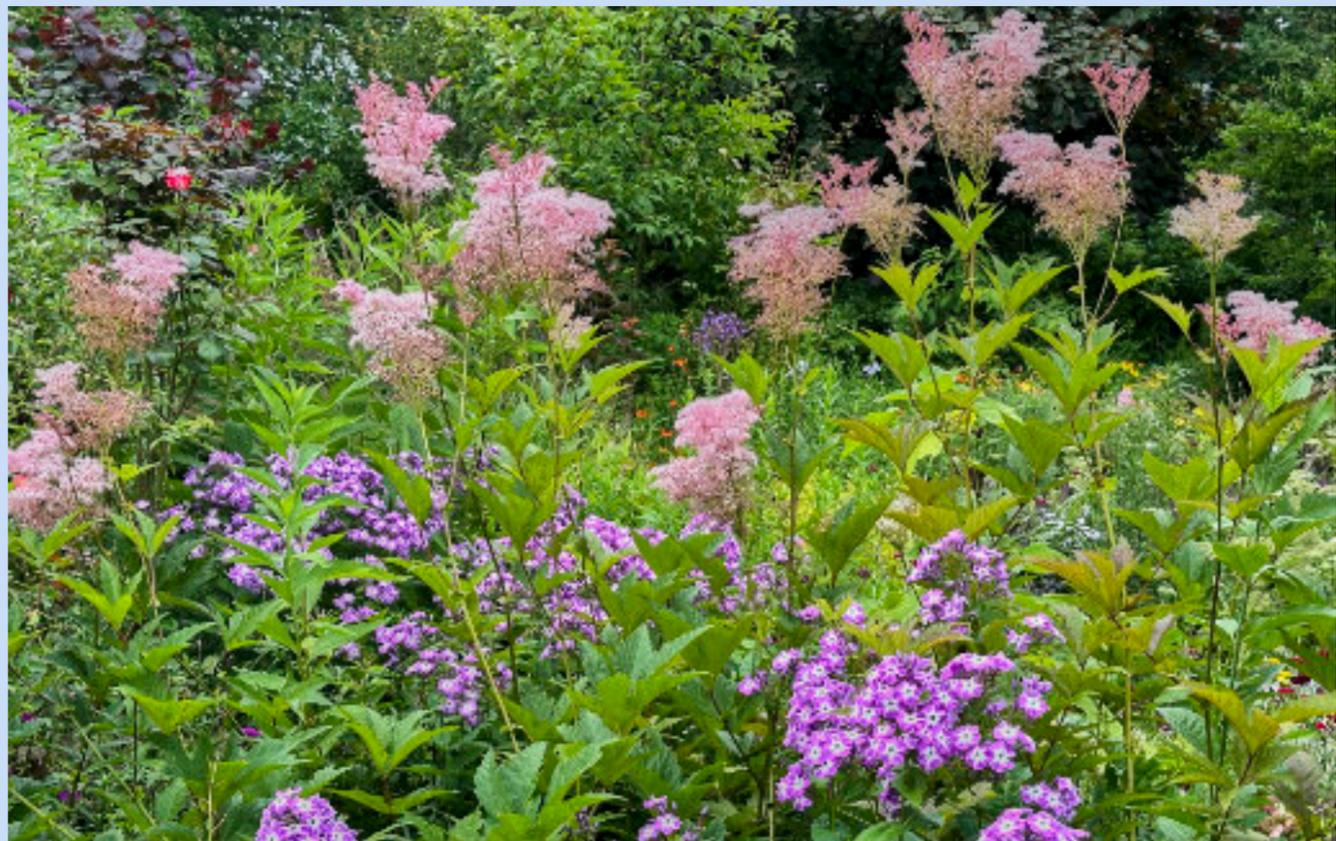
Other shrubs that themselves might become a strong theme in other gardens would include blue flowered *Ceanothus*, lower-growing lavenders, *Hibiscus*, *Spiraea*, *Hebe* and the low-growing, popular cultivars of *Potentilla*.

Stipa gigantea is joined by other grasses as summer unfolds and the two most important now are upright *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* and mounded *Deschampsia cespitosa* subsp. *cespitosa*. Both have delicate, open, fluffy flower heads that will be transformed by the end of the month into seed heads, but now float delicately above their foliage and call out for contrasting flowers with distinctive forms such as *Echinacea*, *Sanguisorba* or *Agastache*.

As the month progresses my hardy salvias fade, but *Stachys* with their thicker flower spikes stand ready to play a similar role. These are eventually joined by some selected early-flowering cultivars of the perennials that will be playing a leading role later in the summer such as *Helenium*, *Inula*, *Helianthus* and spiky *Veronica* and *Veronicastrum*.

Echinacea 'Sundown' with *Stipa gigantea*





A wet summer favours *Filipendula rubra* 'Venusta' and *Phlox paniculata* cultivars such as 'Uspech' and 'Le Mahdi'. The fluffy pink flower heads of the so-called Queen of the Prairie fade to ginger brown and remain a feature through into winter. Phlox flower over a very long season and mix well with upright spikes of *Lythrum*, ground hugging geraniums and billowing *Nepeta* mints. The flat-topped flower heads of *Cenolophium denudatum* contrasting boldly. Bright pink *Monarda* 'Bee Happy' comes into flower this month along with *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Pink Elephant' and *Crocosmia* 'Ember Glow'.





The cloud-like flowering of *Deschampsia cespitosa* 'Goldtau' is echoed in that of the *Limonium latifolium* and contrasts with flat topped flower heads of *Achillea* to its rear. Bold foliage plants bring contrast within planting schemes such as this *Ligularia dentata* 'Desdemona'. Rising high above adjacent mounded grasses and perennials, *Echinacea pallida* brings dramatic contrast both in flower and, later, with its persistent cone-shaped seed heads. Compact, *Hydrangea serrata* 'Miranda' grows slowly, here in shade above *Hakonechloa macra* 'All Gold' with a *Dryopteris goldiana* fern in the background.



Annual *Persicaria orientalis* high above *Salvia farinacea* with white *Cleome* and *Cosmos* near by.

August sees the end of summer with everything having grown to its full height. Many of the plants that were flowering last month will hold on into August to be joined by a new battalion of late-summer flowering perennials.

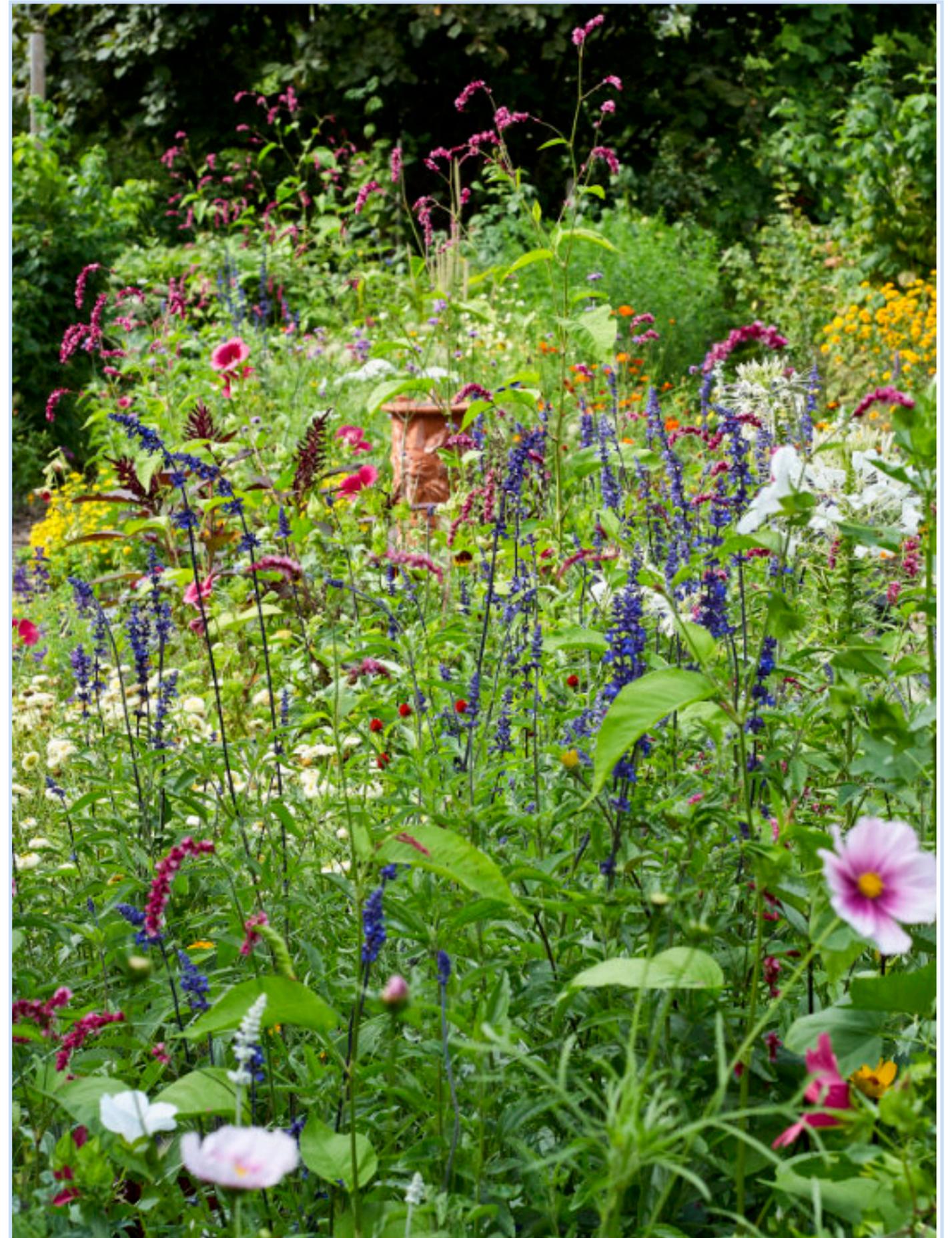
Many good garden perennials have early and late flowering species and cultivars in their ranks. Examples include *Echinacea* cultivars that flower later than the species and *Helenium* 'Sahin's Early Sensation' that starts a month or more before cultivars such as 'Red Army' and 'Ruby Tuesday'. *Persicaria amplexicaulis* cultivars will have started flowering in July, but steadily their flower spikes increase in numbers throughout August and thereby reinforcing their garden impact.

Cool-season grasses such as *Deschampsia caespitosa*, *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* and *Stipa gigantea* will already have been in flower, but towards the end of August they are joined by the warm-season grasses including *Panicum virgatum*, *Calamagrostis brachytricha*, *Pennisetum* and *Miscanthus*. These taller-growing genera, species and their cultivars will become a dominant theme in September and furnish garden borders thereafter through into late winter.

Later flowering perennials bring drama and a fresh splash of colour towards the very end of the month. Tall-growing *Vernonias* display domed clusters of deep purple flowers. Likewise, *Verbena*; growing stiffly upright to over 2 metres with flowers in a fresh shade of yellow. *Lobelias* and in particular the rich toned cultivar 'Hadspen Purple' contrast well with the wispy, paler tones of ornamental grasses and any seed heads of earlier flowered perennials growing nearby.

Crocasmias are late flowering bulbous plants for mild, open, sunny sites. Their intense orange, yellow and red flowers are exciting. Taller growing 'Lucifer' is unusually early flowering but most are at their best this month. Their arching flower spikes contrast with any dome shaped plants particularly those with sprays of daisy-like flowers such as *Rudbeckia*, *Helianthus* (sunflowers) and *Heliopsis*, all of which will be flowering abundantly by the end of the month.

Along side the permanent members of the garden, space needs to be found for the addition of annuals. This ephemeral element can play a role in the garden over a long season starting in late spring, but late sown, taller-growing annuals bring drama to the late summer garden. I will drop these into borders wherever there is a space. Scale is important but some of the most useful for me are the *Cleome* cat's whiskers, *Cosmos* both tall and shorter sorts, *Tithonia*, *Coreopsis*, *Lavatera* and *Salvia farinacea*. All flower for weeks on end and freshen the garden when other plants are starting to wind down into their autumnal slumber.





Annuals can bring extra colours and forms to your summer borders. In the first year of my new garden I took the opportunity to grow many different annuals to learn their potential and provide a quick bold display. Since then I have always grown a few different varieties to ring changes year on year. Tall, white flowered *Cleome* and *Nicotiana sylvestris* shown above make a bold statement whereas the many different forms of marigolds bring bright orange and yellow tones to border fronts. *Verbena bonariensis* is a perennial, but behaves as an annual by self-sowing generously throughout my borders.





Echinacea flower heads are bold and stand out clearly amidst softer textured neighbours; here the grass *Stipa tenuissima*. Solid mounds of sedums and the flower spikes of *Liatris spicata* contrast with the softer tones and textures of summer flowering, pale blue *Scutellaria incana*, light purple *Origanum* and wispy flower heads of *Pennisetum orientale* grass. Rudbeckias flood the garden with yellow towards the end of August: waist high *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *deamii* and the taller *R. nitida* 'Herbstsonne'. Yellow and red *Heleniums* broaden the colour pallet whilst upright *Lobelia* 'Hadspen Purple' stands out.



September is when ornamental grasses really start to play a leading role throughout the garden. Tall or arching, initially their flowers are light and colourful, eventually developing into seed heads that guarantees their impact for months to come.

The colour yellow takes over the garden with different species and cultivars of Rudbeckia endlessly in flower. Heleniums and perennial sunflowers also flower well, but towards the end of the month these fade to form their dark seed heads

Red, white and pink flowered persicaria flower spikes offer relief from all the yellow daisy flowers as can tall-growing, white-flowering Aster umbellatus and Aster glehnii 'Agleni' and Eutrochium 'Bartered Bride' (Syn. Eupatorium).

Evergreen shrubs bring structure and contrast to the garden amidst the looser growing perennials and grasses. Hollies, box and yew playing a leading role here, but broad leaved Viburnum davidii and other compact mounded forms such as Skimmia x confusa 'Kew Green' and dwarf, arborescent ivies are indispensable for me.

The one flowering shrub that features in my September garden is an old plant of Fuchsia magellanica 'Riccartonii'. Sometimes it is killed to the ground in a cold winter, regrowing in spring and never failing to flower abundantly this month. I grow many other fuchsias, some in pots, some in the ground, all are worthwhile.

However, it is the dramatic flowering of many warm-season grasses that change the character of the garden from now on. Many of these grasses are from the North American prairies with Andropogon, Panicum and Sorghastrum being some of the tallest, but the lower-growing Sporobolus heterolepis and Schizachyrium scoparium are equally useful.

Miscanthus sinensis has thrown up many different cultivars, large and smaller. In flower these grasses are all exciting especially when blown by the wind and caught by low-angled sunlight at this time of the year.

Work in the garden now is all about making plans and changes for the following year. It is the ideal time to start moving and dividing clumps of perennials. The soil is still warm and rains come to break any summer drought. Bulbs of especially daffodils and ornamental onions (Narcissus and Allium) benefit from early planting, but any tulips can better wait till autumn or early winter.

Biennials such as wallflowers - Erysimum, Iceland poppies - Papaver nudicaule, honesty - Lunaria annua and Salvia sclarea var. turkestanica sown in early summer and grown on in pots can now also be planted out into the borders.





Miscanthus sinensis 'Herman Mussel' has golden flowers with a metallic glow while in the case of 'Malepartus' they are pink. Such flowers when positioned to be lit from behind, form a dramatic background feature. Sorghastrum nutans is one of a number of prairie grasses to bring height into garden borders. Panicum virgatum 'Northwind' would create a very similar feature whereas there are other cultivars of this warm-season grass that offer lower, finer or arching forms for planting combinations. The mounded form of Pennisetum alopecuroides is yet another alternative design option.





Mounds over 2 metres tall topped with purple-pink or white flowers makes Eutrochium/Eupatorium a dramatic background feature. The distinctive flower spikes of Persicaria amplexicaulis stand out amidst the seed heads of Deschampsia grasses remaining a feature until the arrival of the first frosts. Rudbeckia fulgida var. deamii creates a sea of yellow for many weeks in late summer; here punctuated with orange Helenium, white Aster umbellatus and Miscanthus sinensis 'Ferner Osten'. Strong, upright, Verbescinia alternifolia is an indispensable late flowering, soft yellow perennial with great character.



October weather can be both wild and beautiful with storms and rain alternating with calm sunny days and dramatic, low-angled sunlight. Tall-growing perennials and grasses responding to these changes will attract attention within the stable framework of any well designed garden.

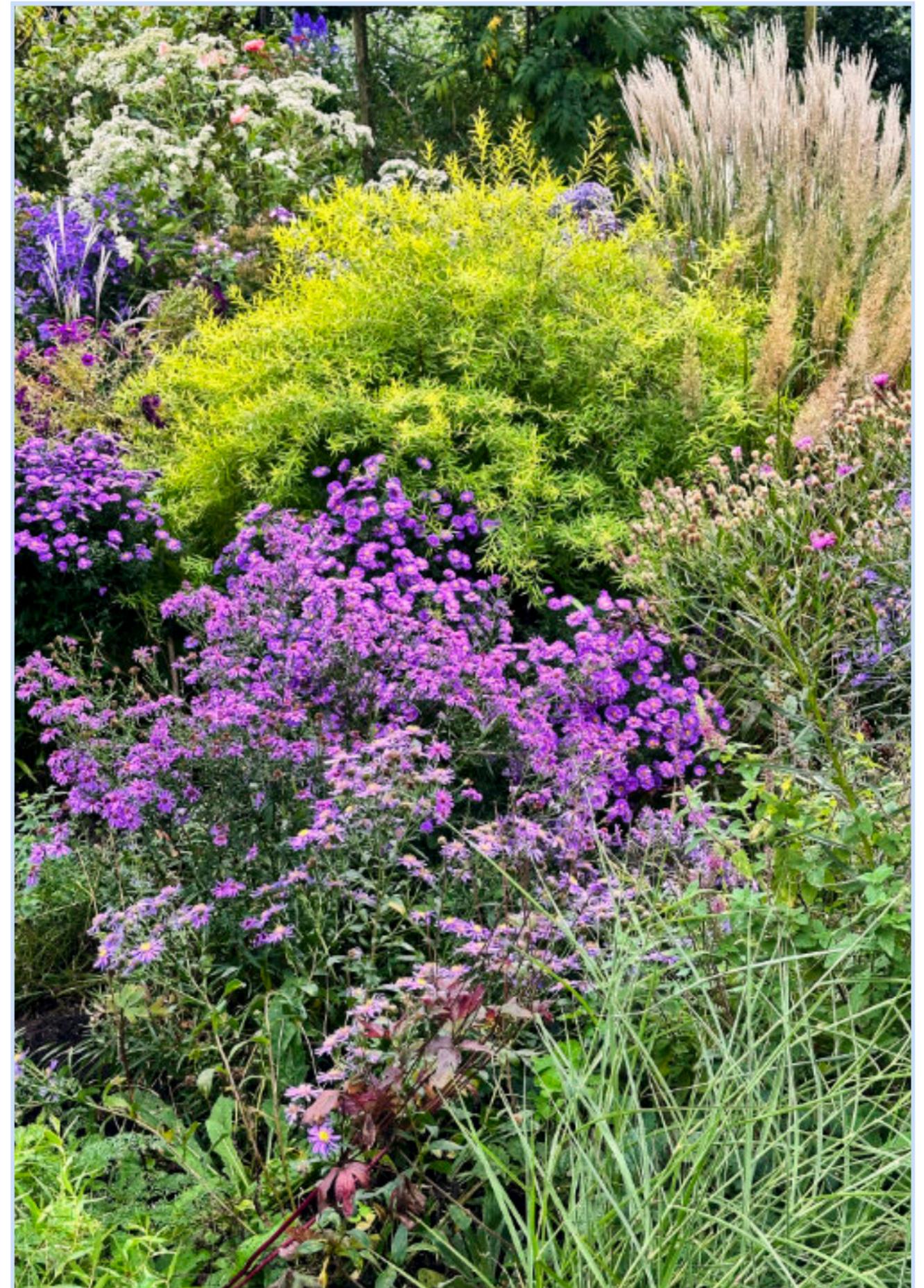
As the yellow daisy flowers of the heleniums and rudbeckias fade, the garden's colour pallet is taken over by the blues and purples of the many asters that are present throughout my garden. Their flowering times vary and will be influenced by the current season's temperature, but by the end of the month the garden can be bright with these strong tints amidst the silvery plumes of tall-growing grasses which themselves are just beginning to develop their golden foliage tints of autumn. On the right day in October my garden can be seen at its most beautiful; its final crescendo.

The autumn flowering ox-eye daisy, *Leucanthemella serotina*, delights me by flowering now. It is a tall plant, but stands straight up, offering a mass of soft white flowers with their green/yellow centres. A refreshing change from all the warm smouldering hues and tints that may be present nearby.

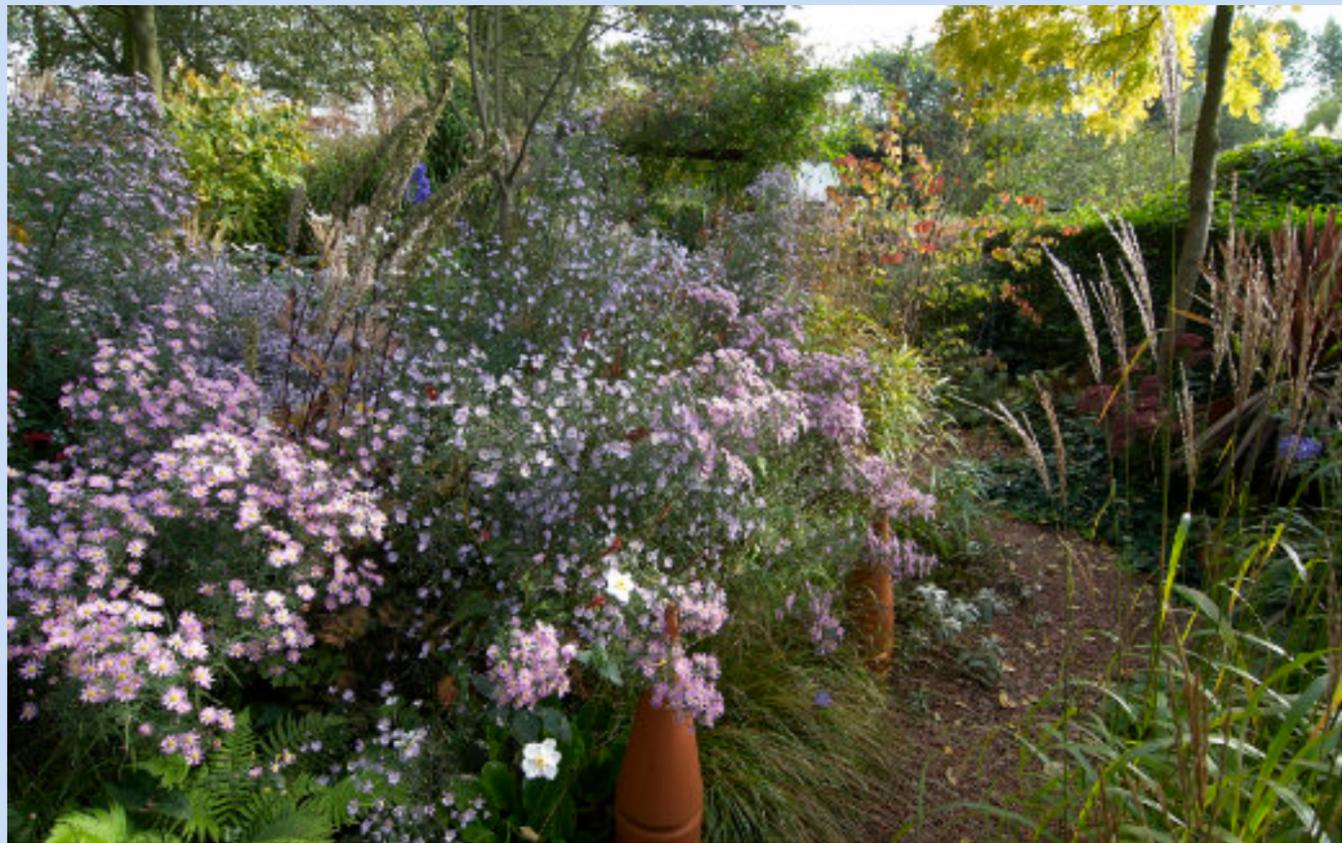
Liriope muscari is another bold perennial that waits until now before starting to flower; although low-growing, its purple flower spikes making a strong impact.

Now is a good time to be planting trees and shrubs and moving perennials around. Towards the end of the month I start moving tender plants under cover into either the shed or greenhouse. Fallen leaves can be cleared before they smother smaller plants, but more than this will be left to spring. The key now is to keep things looking tidy, but at the same time letting plants die back naturally. Autumn is at hand.

Now is also a good time to plant a few hardy annuals to flower extra early next year. I don't do this every year, but it is worthwhile. You can sow outside in a favourable site, but I use pots in the cold greenhouse. Top of my list is always *Ammi majus*, cornflowers and *Cerinthe major*.



Asters surrounding *Spiraea thunbergii* 'Ogon'

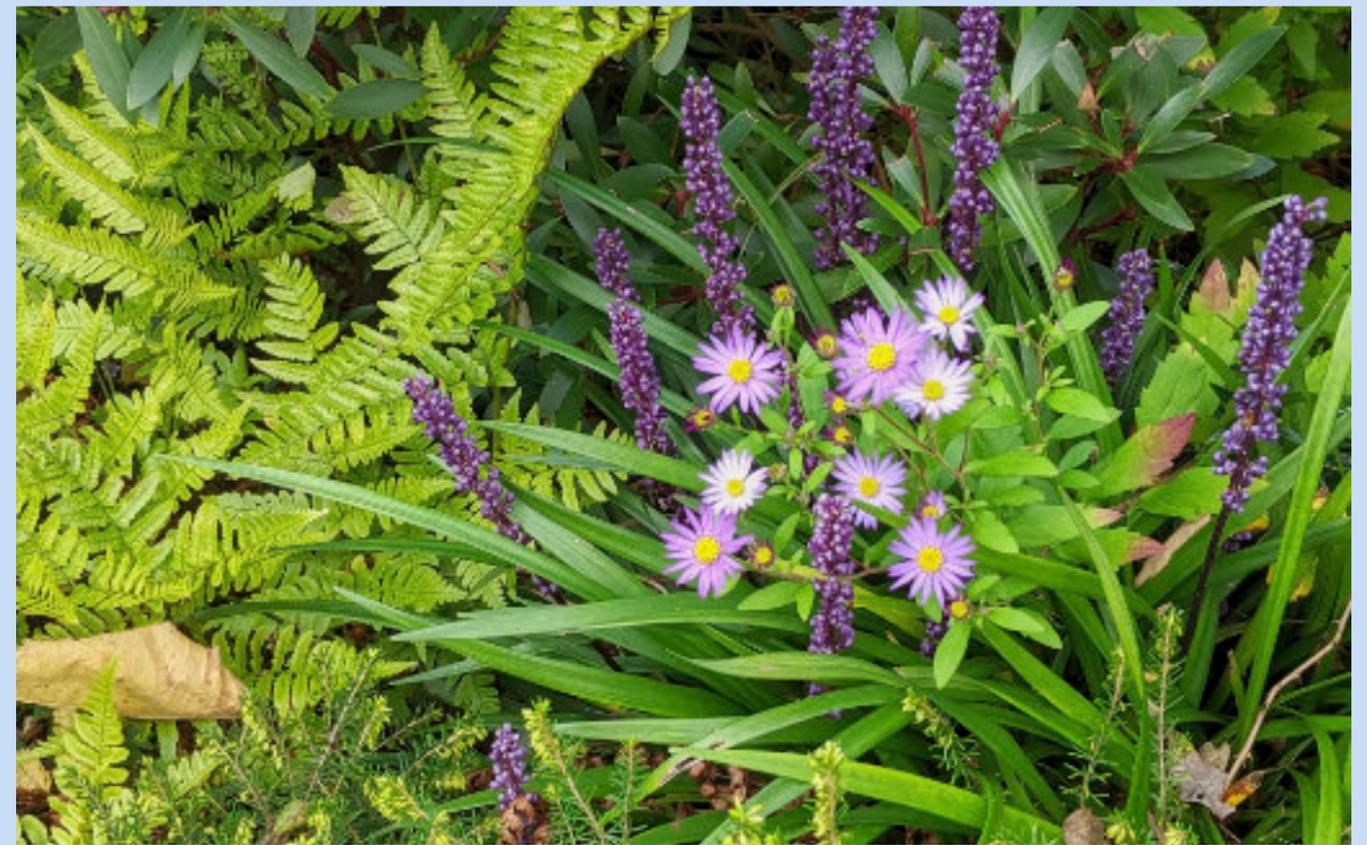


Within a framework of hedges, shrubs and feathery grasses, asters expand to fill in the intervening spaces. Some varieties have vivid colours that work well within their dominantly green surroundings. Wild species of Aster may offer softer tints making plants with an open, less mounded form such as the delicate lilac/blue flower sprays of head-high *Aster turbinellus*; here caught by low-angled sunlight. Billowing mounds of aster flowers contrast with the more vertical or arching growth patterns of nearby shrubs such as *Rubus thibetanus* 'Silver Fern' or upright grasses like *Calamagrostis* and *Miscanthus*.





Leucanthemella serotina makes a spectacular appearance in October with a mass of fresh, soft-white flowers atop upright clumps of mid-green foliage. Fuchsias that have been in flower for weeks seem more abundant and colourful by late October. As night temperatures drop the foliage of *Rhus glabra* 'Laciniata' changes to shades of red and orange, quickly dropping to reveal the tortured branching form of the shrub; a feature until the following spring. Jewel-like moments surprise and delight me such as when the late-flowering *Liriope muscari* is joined by a just a few simple wild aster flowers.



November can be challenging; some days are dark and dank with mist filling the air and then there comes a day when the sun breaks through, the air is fresh and any leaf or flower still with colour glows in the warm, low-angled light.

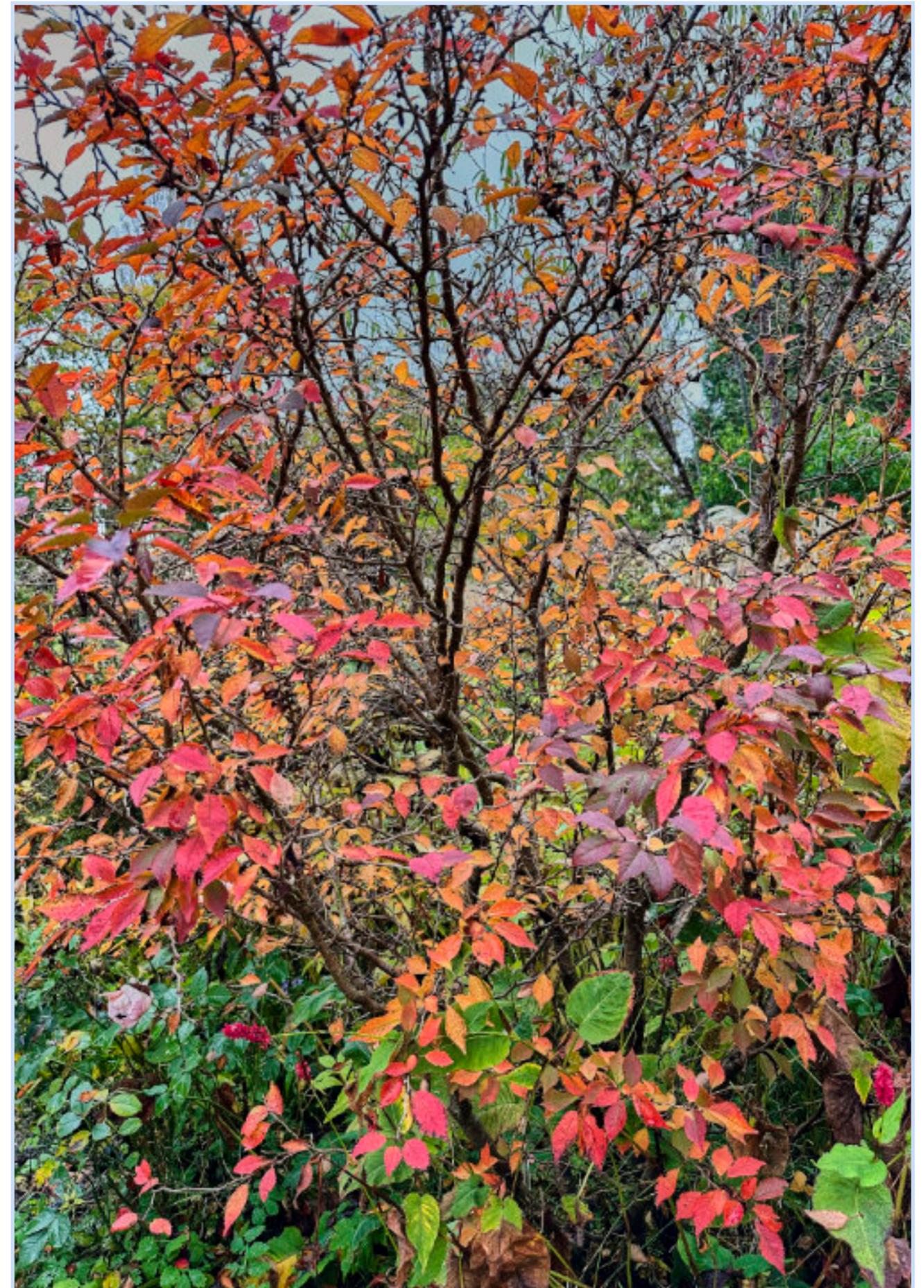
Work in the garden becomes dictated by the weather, but it is still a good time to be moving plants around, planting new shrubs and trees and generally keeping things tidy. Bulbs may still be planted, especially tulips that are best planted later than the rest.

What stands out in November are the fleeting colours of deciduous trees and shrubs before leaf fall and then later the presence of evergreens such as hollies, ivy, yew, Mahonia and Skimmia. Such woody plants plus evergreen perennials including Euphorbia, Carex, Liriope and especially some ferns working together to uphold the garden's structure throughout the following months of winter.

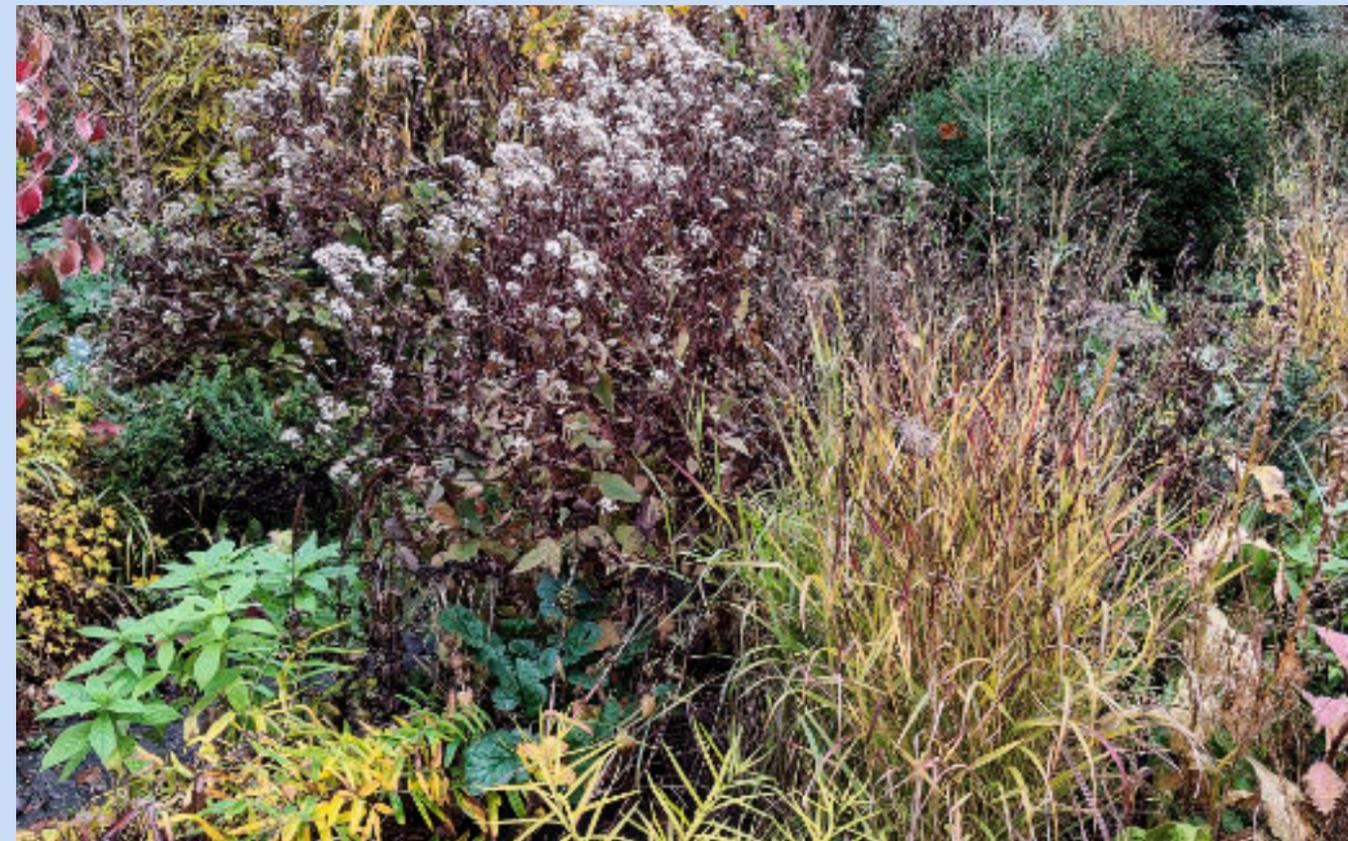
When deciduous grasses and many perennials become dormant in winter, but manage to retain their dead foliage and any seed heads, they too may become the focus of the garden in winter. Their colour pallet may be restricted to shades of brown, tan and chocolate, but when caught by the sun's rays their textures and patterns can glow to spectacular effect. The rule here is never to cut these down until they become untidy and that might mean many may remain effective through until winter's end.

Flower colour in winter is limited but welcome even when only appearing at odd moments in odd corners of the garden. Bulbs such as winter flowering crocus appearing as forgotten jewels in my own garden are always welcome as are the bolder displays of Colchicums. Sternbergia lutea is another bulb I cherish with startling fresh-yellow flowers that seem at odds with the season. Heathers are also worth considering as forms of Erica carnea and E. x darleyensis may flower effectively over many winter months in shades of pink, mauve, purple and even white.

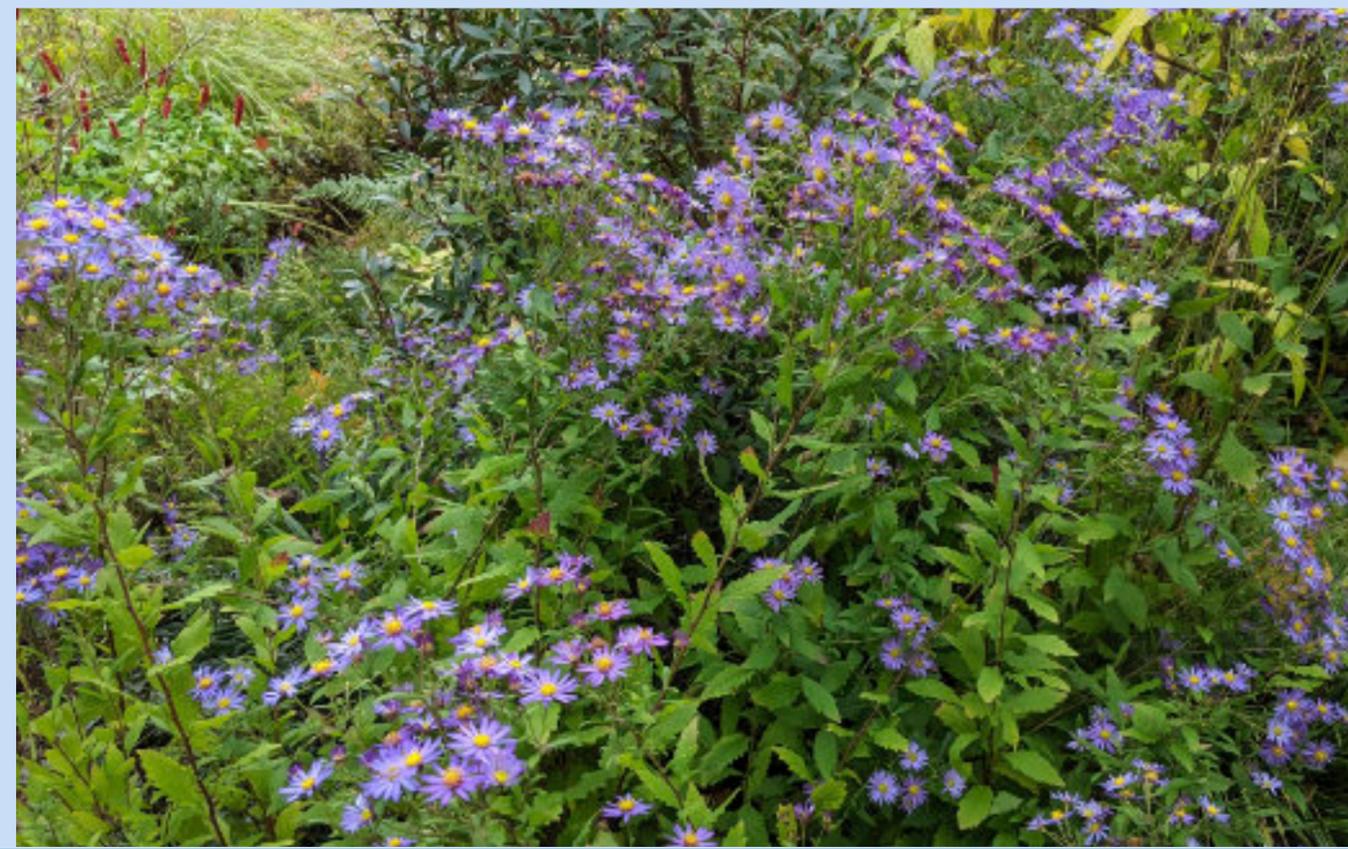
I always wash the greenhouse glass and find time to tidy the potting shed; not a welcome task, but November allows the time to carry out such dull but necessary jobs before it gets too cold to feel like bothering.



Prunus incisa Kojou-no-mai



Warm colours, rich textures and contrasting forms are the dominant themes of the garden in early November. Tall Miscanthus grasses catch any low-angled sunlight in the afternoon, their billowing forms standing proud amidst the fading foliage of surrounding trees and shrubs. The dark leaved *Eupatorium rugosum* 'Chocolate' surprises by opening a cloud of tiny white flowers amidst autumn tinted grasses and perennials. One of the latest species to flower is *Aster scaber* perhaps more useful as a rapidly spreading, attractive ground cover all summer, but it brings a welcome splash of colour late in November.





Shrubs help build the structure of the garden., evergreens especially. *Arbutus unedo* has both flowers and colourful fruits at the same time. The yellow flowers will adorn the attractive *Mahonia* foliage from now on. *Ilex x altaclerensis* 'Golden King' is a bold presence all year, but in winter its yellow variegation seems more intense. At a lower level, *skimmia* shrubs are invaluable, *Skimmia x confusa* 'Kew Green'. is my favourite, both in bud and flower. Short lived foliage colour is now also a feature with Japanese maples and my favourite small-growing , spring-flowering cherry, *Prunus incisa* 'Kojou-no-mai'.





Afterword

A year has passed and every month I have studied my files of photographs covering a period of more than 25 years and added to them where possible with new images taken in other gardens around the world as well as in my own.

This year was apparently the warmest ever recorded on a global scale. Here in the Netherlands it was mild but not too excess, however, it rained heavily throughout spring and early summer. This all resulted in perennials growing larger and taller than normal and it was hard work to keep the garden's borders from falling over. On the plus side, it was possible to plant new things throughout the summer without needing to water them too much.

Two areas of my own garden needed reviving and rethinking. As always is the case, as mixed borders age some plants take over at the expense of others. For a time this is fine, but it had reached a point that the plantings were no longer interesting and thereby occupying space that could be far better utilised.

In one long border where the meter high umbellifer *Cenolophium denudatum* had seeded around was the first area tackled. This beautiful perennial was reduced to just one clump and a repeating pattern of ornamental grasses was introduced in its place: upright *Calamagrostis x acutiflora*, *C. brachytricha* and *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Ghana'. Over-sized asters were removed and replaced with a lower-growing mix of perennials including *Geum*, *Geranium*, *Iris*, *Astrantia* and *Anemone*. Probably next year this mix will need tweaking, but the border should certainly have a much longer season of interest than before.

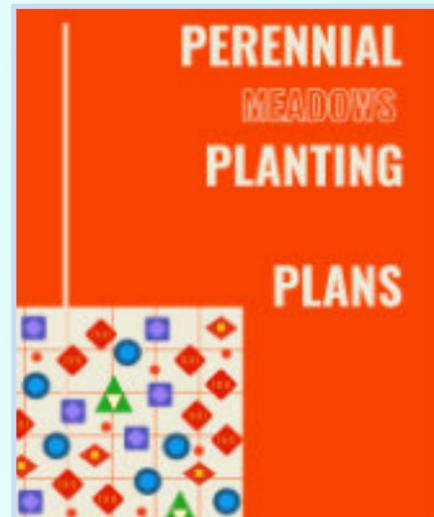
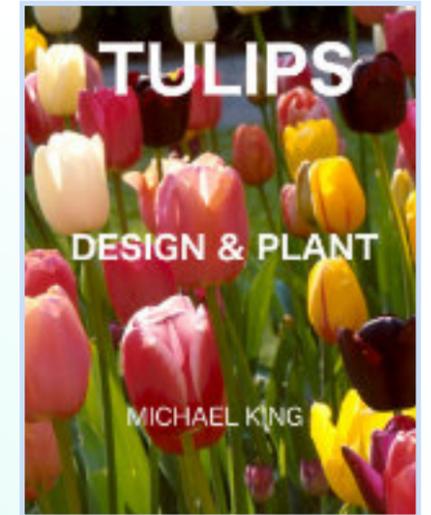
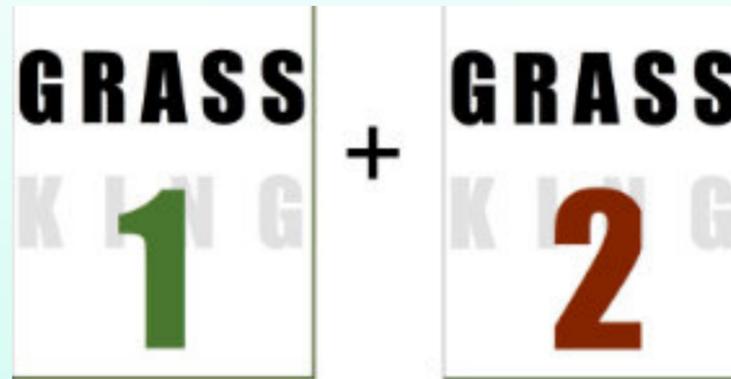
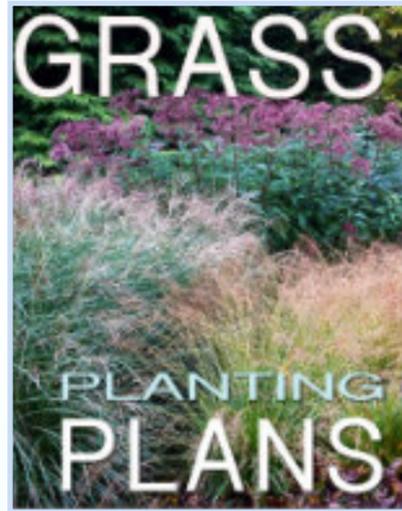
The second area tackled had not been changed for more than twelve years. *Chelone obliqua* filled in all the gaps between wide clumps of *Persicaria*, *Euphorbia* and *Rudbeckia*. In spring the border was a delight with self seeded purple ornamental onions flowering amidst clumps of yellow *Euphorbia palustris* and *Smyrniun perfoliatum*, but thereafter it lost too much of its former interest. Changes will continue next year, but this autumn a path has been made through the middle with borders either side to accommodate my every growing collection of hardy ferns. Again this will be a planting that must mature and will no doubt teach me a lot about a number of plants that I have never grown before.

The one thing that has become apparent throughout this project is just how much flowering times vary from one year to the next. This year has been exceptionally early throughout. Combinations of plants may succeed one year but not work out in another. The longer I garden the less I feel I know, but the challenge remains to have a go, take chances and dream. Gardening will be part of my life for ever and for so long as I still have the strength to lift a spade, of that I am certain.

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eBooks available from the Perennial Meadows' web site



Earlier Publications by Michael King

- ◆ Gardening with Grasses. 1996
- ◆ Gardening with Tulips. 2005
- ◆ The Perennial Garden. 2006

