



The Village GARDEN CLUB of Sevenhampton & District

SEP / OCT 2019



Hydrangea macrophylla

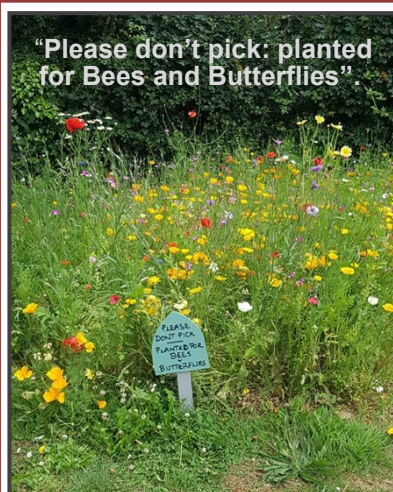
NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 26th September

Julie Richie: "Winter into Spring"

Thursday 17th October

Darren Rudge: "Teabags, Bras & Low Maintenance Gardening"



'RE-WILDING' IN THE GARDEN

The burning of the Amazon forests, the damage to our oceans and the threat to many of our world's species illustrate the need for us to care more for our environment. Here is an idea which I tried out earlier this year which, in a small way, helps to address the balance yet needs little work.

I decided to leave an area of lawn un-mowed for the season. The area I selected was quite weedy and certainly wasn't 'just grass'. It contained a wide variety of plants including (I later saw) lots of wild flowers, possibly from seeds dropped by birds or blown in on the wind. The ground has never been fertilised or had weed killer on it so this, and the poor state of the soil, has favoured some plants.

What does it look like now? Well, pretty attractive I think - with dainty grasses, poppies & oxeye daisies. This Autumn I shall sow some wild flower seeds indigenous to our limestone soil. Looking at the local verges gives an indication of how lovely it will look next year when I repeat the process.

Having reduced the use of noisy, polluting lawn mowers for the season, I now need to cut this long grass, which will be left in situ for a few days afterwards. This will allow the seeds to drop before it is finally collected.

Once you get over the need to keep your lawn cut this method is quite liberating. To make it more interesting an area around the edge can be mowed or a path cut through, which leads to an access or focal point. This will visually help to confirm that the grassy area has been intentionally designed. It's not to everyone's taste and it takes a while to appreciate the look but try it, as the many pleasures of watching birds, bees and butterflies will be so rewarding. At the same time, it makes a small but important contribution to the planet – every little helps!

Note: This useful link gives additional info about the importance and creating of a [Wildflower Meadow](#).

THINGS TO DO IN THE COMING MONTHS.

P

PLANT - spring bulbs & biennials eg. foxgloves, sweet williams. Planting leeks and brassicas, with a final sowing of beetroot and spinach is still possible in early September. Spring cabbage should also be planted soon.

PROPAGATE - lift & divide herbaceous perennial roots. Established rhubarb crowns can also be split. Collect seeds, label & store in cool, dry place; an airtight box in the fridge is ideal for them.

PROTECT - Net garden ponds prior to leaf fall. Dig up last of the potatoes before slug damage occurs. Check plant ties/stakes before strong winds occur.

PRUNE - climbing roses. Hedges will also need their final cuts for the year.

The Hydrangea family, which originates from Asia and the Americas, has about 75 different species. They are woody shrubs, some of which can reach 30metres high. Hydrangeas prefer light shade, although some will tolerate full sun, and climbing hydrangeas will cope with shaded areas (eg *H. anomala* which even tolerate north facing walls). Hydrangeas do not tolerate drought and all varieties benefit from a mulch in spring. The name Hydrangea is derived from Greek & means 'water vessel'.



There are six main types of hydrangeas:

GROUP 1: which bloom on last year's growth ('old wood') and should be pruned in late summer:

- Bigleaf hydrangea (inc. French, Hortensia, mophead, lacecap) (*Hydrangea macrophylla*)
- Oakleaf hydrangea (*H. quercifolia*)
- Mountain hydrangeas (*H. serrata*)
- Climbing hydrangeas (*H. petiolaris*)

GROUP 2: which bloom on new wood and should be pruned in late winter to early spring:

- Smooth hydrangeas (*H. arborescens*)
- Panicle hydrangeas (*H. paniculata*)

Some varieties change colour depending on the soil content; showing blue flowers on acid soils and pink on alkaline soils **BUT** only if there is aluminium in the soil together with an iron content to release it. Apart from this, hydrangeas often subtly change colour throughout the season. For example, some varieties of *H. paniculata* often show colour changes between white, cream, green and pink. *H. paniculata* varieties have increased following recent popularity and the RHS has subsequently conducted Plant Trials. Their report can be seen [here](#).

Hydrangeas are good for use as dried flowers. To do this, cut flowers at the end of the season on a dry day and hang them up in a warm, airy place.

In Japan, a herbal tea made from *H. serrata* is popular and a Japanese won Chelsea's *Plant of the Year* in 2018 with the hydrangea "Runaway Bride Snow White",

FARMER'S MARKETS are often a good source of **plants** as well as food and crafts. All local markets are listed in the link [here](#) with a selection noted on the right.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1st Sept: Rare Plant Fair at [Adwell House](#), Thame, Oxon. OX9 7DQ.

4th Sept: Brockworth Court NGS Open Garden. 2.30 –5.30 pm at Court Road, Brockworth, GL3 4QU

14th Sept: Newent Onion Fayre Starts 10am with parade at 10.45am "It's more than just onions!" See www.newentonionfayre.org

28th - 29th Sept: Malvern Autumn Show www.malvernautumn.co.uk

Cheltenham (9am-2pm) Last Friday of the month on The Promenade

Cirencester (8.30am-1.30pm) 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month at The Market Place

Gloucester (9am-3pm) Every Friday at The Cross

Stow-on-the-Wold (9am-1pm) 2nd Thursday of the month at the Market Square

Stroud (9am-2pm) Every Saturday Cornhill Market Place

Tewkesbury (9am-1.30pm) 2nd Saturday of the month at the Abbey Car Park

Five Time Winners of RHS

Gold medals, [The Garlic Farm](#) (located on the Isle of White) provide the following tips on growing garlic.



The best time to plant is from October to March, but you will generally get a better crop if you plant in the autumn as Garlic cloves need to experience a 'chilling period'.

Garlic cloves should be planted narrow end up in free-draining soil or in pots with good quality compost. Plant in a sunny position with the tops of the cloves 1" below the soil surface and 6" apart. If in pots, 3 cloves to a 6" pot, transferring to 10" pot when the plants are 4" high. As with all alliums, water well throughout the growing season. Around July, harvest when the leaves start to turn yellow, allowing the cloves to dry out in a dry, airy position before storage.

Info on how to tie dried garlic/onions can be found in the newsletter [Jul / Aug 2016](#)



PICK, TRIM, CONDITION, REST, ARRANGE

Top tips for arranging your beautiful garden flowers:

- ♦ **Pick** flowers in the morning/evening, avoid the full heat of the day and place in water as soon as possible
- ♦ **Trim** lower leaves so they do not sit in the water.
- ♦ **Condition** stems by cutting them to the required length and plunge briefly in hot water (about 10secs).

- ♦ **'Rest'** the flowers in water in a cool place, preferably overnight.
- ♦ **Arrange** and enjoy!

Further reading: *The Cutting Garden* by Sarah Raven (Frances Lincoln Ltd. 2013, ISBN:9780711234659)
The New Flower Arranger by Fiona Barnett (Anness Publishing, 2018, ISBN: 9781840388107)

If you want to look at information from a previous newsletter, don't forget that many are available on the **SEVENHAMPTON WEBSITE** at www.sevenhampton.org/clubs/the-garden-club/

Too many courgettes? Try this recipe for **RAW COURGETTE SALAD** or find many more recipes [HERE](#).

Thinly slice the courgettes into long thin ribbons & season. Mix with chopped mint & basil; add lemon juice and chopped chilli to your taste. Hey presto — a simple, quick, healthy and tasty salad.

These wildflower seeds were sown in the National Trust's walled garden at Sherborne Saint John this year. The plants were selected to encourage insects, birds and other wildlife as well as to offer a spectacular and colourful display. It was a delight to behold and may help if you're inspired by the newsletter's front-page article to 're-wild' some of your garden.

Latin Name

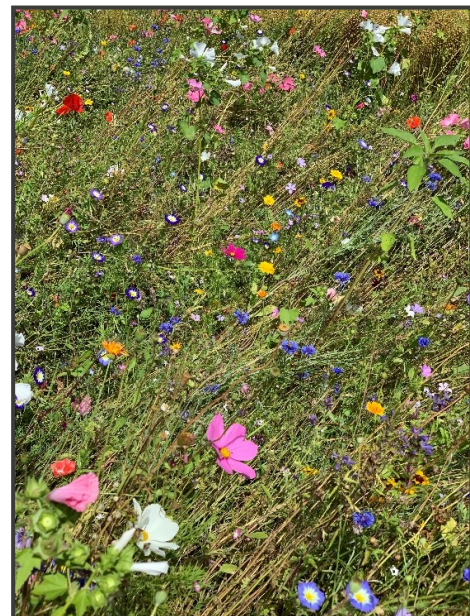
Gypsophila elegans (white)
Linum perenne (blue)
Linum grandiflorum rubrum
Cosmos (dwarf colours)
Centaurea cyanus dwarf blue
Nemophila maculata
Nemophila insignis
Calendula officianalis
Adonis aestivalis
Godetia azaleaflora (mixed)
Nigella damascene
Chrysanthemum/Glebionis segetum
Linaria maroccana
Coreopsis tinctoria (dwarf mixed)
Borago officinalis
Consolida ajacis
Cheiranthus maritimus
Iberis sempervirens
Lobularia maritima
Helipterum roseum (mixed)
Echium plantagineum (mixed)
Dracocephalum moldavica
Silene armeria (Rubra)
Convolvulus (dwarf tricolour mixed)
Saponaria vaccaria
Godetia grandiflora (Ruddigore)
Cynoglossum amabile
Viscaria oculata (mixed)
Dimorphotheca aurantiaca
Dimorphotheca pluvialis
Phacelia campanularia
Clarkia unguiculata
Papaver commutatum
Papaver rhoeas
Papaver rhoeas (Wildform)
Iberis umbellata (mixed)
Iberis amara white N
Eschscholzia Californica

Common Name

Baby's breath
Perennial flax
Red flax
Cosmos
Cornflower
Baby blue eyes
Baby blue eyes
Pot marigold
Pheasant's eye
Godetia
Love in a mist
Corn marigold
Moroccan toadflax
Golden tickseed
Borage
Larkspur
Mediterranean stock
Candytuft
Sweet alyssum
Paper daisy
Vipers bugloss
Moldavian dragon's head
Sweet William catchfly
Dwarf morning glory
Pinks /Cow soapwort
Godetia
Chinese forget-me-not
Catchfly
Cape marigold
African daisy
Desert bluebell
Elegant clarkia
Ladybird/Caucasian poppy
Common poppy
Flanders poppy
Garden candytuft
Wild candytuft
Californian poppy



Wildflowers growing in the National Trust's walled garden at **Sherborne Saint John**



Have you anything of interest that can be included in the next newsletter? If so please contact Di Cook (editor) at

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or

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