



The Village GARDEN CLUB

of Sevenhampton & District

SEP/OCT 2021



Echinacea purpurea
(Coneflower)

NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 16th September “*Beyond the Garden Gate*” Mandy Bradshaw

Thursday 21st October “*Chinese Wilson, Plant Hunter*” Simon Gulliver

Both meetings are expected to take place in the Rhodes Memorial Hall.

- Yet another step towards normality, hope to see you there!



AUTUMN SEEDS



In brief - a seed is a multicellular structure containing a plant's embryo. It has stored food (eg starch) to help the new plant's growth and the whole is surrounded by a thin protective covering, called a 'testa'. The shape of a seed's next protective layer (examples above) will dictate its dispersal method (wind/water/animals/gravity etc.). Collecting seeds from plants in readiness for the next season has been done for centuries. In the past, this was often the only source of a new crop for farmers and it's a practice still carried out. However, restrictions & controls typically exist to limit this, thus ensuring commercial seed is disease-free and its genetic capability is safeguarded. On a much smaller scale, gardeners often still collect 'home-grown' seeds - both for their own use and to swap with other gardening enthusiasts. (*They can also make good stocking fillers at Christmas time*). Collecting seeds is easy to do as long as a few precautions are taken....

- Ideally, gather ripe seeds on a dry day. If this isn't possible, spread collected seeds out on paper to dry.
- Once completely dry, place them in an envelope or paper bag, seal it and **label**. (*I often include a photo of the parent plant too*). Store the packets of seeds in an airtight container.
- Seeds need moisture, warmth and light to germinate, so give them the exact opposite when storing them. That is - a **dry, cool, dark** environment. (*The bottom of the refrigerator is ideal if in an airtight container*).
- Be aware that seeds won't always be exactly the same as the parent plant.

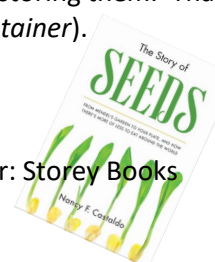
There are many books available on collecting and storing seeds, such as:

The Seed Saver's Handbook by Jeremy Cherfas (ISBN: 9781899233014) Publisher : Grover

Complete Guide to Saving Seeds by Robert & Cheryl Moore Gough (ISBN: 1603425748) Publisher: Storey Books

Growing from Seed; RHS Practicals (ISBN: 0751337226) Publisher : DK

The internet also has a lot of information, which includes the [RHS website](#).



ECHINACEA FACTFILE: Also called coneflowers & red sunflowers, Echinacea are named from the Greek 'ekhinós' meaning hedgehog or sea urchin, which refers to the flower centre's spiky appearance. Whilst the purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) is most familiar to gardeners, there are other varieties including *E. paradoxa*, *E. pallida*, and *E. tenesseeensis*, which collectively offer a wide range of colours. They are herbaceous perennials and members of the plant family 'Asteraceae'.



Native to North America, Echinacea are typical of prairie flowers - drought resistant with a preference for full sun and light soil. Easily grown from seed, plants can also be divided for propagation, which is best done in the Spring or Summer as Autumn plantings are prone to root rot.

Many indigenous N. American tribes (eg Pawnee, Cheyenne) used Echinacea to treat sore throats, coughs and headaches. Medicinal use of *Echinacea purpurea* is continued to the present day, to alleviate cold symptoms and provide anti-inflammatory and immuno-stimulatory properties.

When in flower, Echinaceas attract bees, butterflies and other insects. They will benefit from deadheading but, if left at the end of the season, their seed covered "cones" provide valuable food for many birds (eg goldfinches).

JOBS for the coming months:

SEPTEMBER:

Clean out greenhouses
Plant spring bulbs
Cut back perennials
Net ponds before leaf fall
Reduce houseplant watering

OCTOBER:

Renovate lawns (early Oct.)
Divide herbaceous perennials
Plant spring cabbages
Prune climbing roses
Final trim for hedges

RHS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

This annual competition, open to all ages, is now underway. Wildlife, plants & indoor gardening are just a few of the 10 categories in the competition, which focuses on how plants and gardens inspire and enrich our lives. It **closes on 1st Feb 2022**.

For more info access www.rhs.org.uk

NORMAL SERVICE HAS BEEN RENEWED

In July the club had its first face-to-face meeting at Rhodes Memorial Hall where members enjoyed a very interesting talk from local bee keepers (& members), Nicole Arkell and Victoria Logue. They gave a lot of information about the lives of honey bees & other flower pollinators.

We were also alerted to the devastation caused to bees by the Asian Hornet. The non-native Asian (or yellow-legged hornet) raid honeybee hives by waiting outside the entrance and capturing worker bees as they go in and out. They will decimate the hive before moving on to others. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)



Asian Hornet (2-3cms long)

asks to be informed (email alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk with a photo and location) if this hornet is seen, as they need to be eradicated before becoming established in the UK.

The meeting, held on one of the hottest days of the year, was rounded off by refreshments, including a glass of Pimms kindly donated by Annie and Pippa. An abundance of sweet peas decorated the tables (courtesy of Henry & Sally Coelho), which were distributed to grateful members at the end of the meeting.

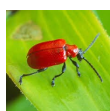
Whilst still being an active club member, **Victoria Logue** has recently withdrawn from the Garden Club committee. Victoria is a founding member of the club (started in 2002) and has supported the club in many ways - financial advice, participant and speaker on various topics (including July's meeting about bees). She is always happy to share her vast knowledge of gardens & plants, enhanced by studying horticulture at Pershore, running her own market garden business and restoring her large Cotswold garden. Many thanks are extended to Victoria, for her diligence and support over the years.

Present Committee Members are:

Gordon Day (Chair)	Pippa Shouler
Ann van Rossem (Secretary)	Joanna Rolfe
Joanna Ruddock (Treasurer)	Sue Tallents
Di Cook (Newsletter Editor)	

More pests to look out for

The Royal Horticultural Society are carrying out surveys of the invasive non-native species noted below. If you think you have seen any, the RHS are asking you to complete their on-line forms, which will be used in their research programme. Follow the links to find out more & to report sightings.



Lily beetle: affecting Lilies (*Lilium*), giant lilies (*Cardiocrinum*) and fritillaries (*Fritillaria*). Beetles eat and lay their eggs on the plants, which are also devoured by the larvae.



Rosemary beetle: Beetles and larvae eat the foliage & flowers of aromatic plants, such as rosemary, lavender, sage, thyme etc. Most active from late summer to spring.



Berberis sawfly caterpillar: These larvae can decimate berberis and Mahonia which are specific to their diet.

WHAT'S ON - A SMALL SELECTION!

4th & 5th Sept (1-6pm) Prestbury Open Gardens

Tickets cost £5 and are available on the day from any of the 15 participating gardens or from Prestbury Library. More info [here](#).

4th & 5th Sept (2-5pm) Hook Norton Open Gardens. 15 gardens on show. Tickets £5, available from the Village Shop. More info [here](#).

18th Sep - 3rd Oct RHS Botanical Art & Photography Show, Saatchi Gallery, London. Tickets (free to RHS members) available [on line](#).

21st - 26th Sept Chelsea Flower Show. Originally scheduled for May. TV coverage has not yet been disclosed but tickets available [on line](#).

24th - 26th Sept (9-6pm) Malvern Autumn Show. Tickets £18 on day or £14.40 in advance. Under 16s free. Further info [here](#).

Since the introduction of Covid restrictions in 2020, the Garden Club newsletter has continued to be produced. This has been quite a challenge with few opportunities to visit gardens for inspiration and nothing much happening to report on. Despite the situation, the newsletter and the Club has managed to remain active with the help of Email and Zoom facilities. With more time on our hands, gardening has become a joy for many rather than a chore and, with the lifting of restrictions, we seem to be heading for a fresh start. Along with this reawakening comes a request to members to contribute articles, snippets, information, tips - in fact almost ANYTHING garden related for inclusion in your newsletter. If you have items of interest that can be included in the next newsletter, then please contact Di Cook (editor) at ditex.cook@gmail.com or **Tel: 01242 603480**



..... and PLANTS !

Following last year's success there will be another

Macmillan Coffee Morning

to be held on **24th September** from **10 am — Noon** at

The Nuttery at the Notgrove Hub, GL54 3BS

There will be plants and cakes for sale, as well as delicious coffee and cake, all to enjoy in comfortable surroundings for a very worthy cause.



The 75th Show at Brockhampton Sevenhampton, Hawling, Charlton Abbots and Brockhampton

The results
are in!



Unlike last year, when the Covid situation prevented active participation on the day, this year's show was up and running, with every effort made by the organisers to make it a great day out for all. There were six classes directly relating to gardening. Here are the results:

Class 1. **Best Veg Plot** First Catharine Blisset, Second Sue Tallents.

Class 2. **Best Flower Border** First Victoria Logue, Second Henry Coelho, Third Sue Tallents

Class 3. **Best Overall Garden** First Henry Coelho, Second Sue Tallents, Third Catharine Blisset. *The pictures above show Henry and Sally Coelho's newly established garden, which was featured in the May/June newsletter.*

Class 4. **Best Wildlife Friendly Garden** First Robert Jackson, Second Georgina Oldham, Third Pippa Shouler, HC Louis and Sophie Shotton

Class 5. **Best Planter** First Charles Arkell, Second Pippa Shouler, Third Georgina Oldham

Class 6. **Best Decorated Wheelbarrow.** First Victoria Logue, Second Georgina Oldham, Third Charles Arkell

Well done to the prize winners and 'thank you' to the organisers.