



planting instructions

Autumn 2018

HERBACEOUS PERENNIAL & BIENNIAL PLANTS ❁ ROSES
CLIMBERS ❁ SHRUBS ❁ INDOOR PLANTS ❁ KITCHEN GARDEN PLANTS

sarahraven.com



Front cover:
The cutting garden at Perch Hill.

Here are the instructions you will need for planting and caring for your perennials, roses, climbers, shrubs and kitchen garden plants.

For more information and to watch my videos, please visit our website.

Happy gardening,

Sarah

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Herbaceous perennial and biennial plants

When you have chosen the best planting site for your plants, mark out the position with a plant label or empty pot, to make sure you space them correctly. Remove plants from their pot or wrapper and soak them in a sink or wheelbarrow full of water for twenty minutes if they are dry. Dig planting holes deep and wide enough so that the roots are covered. Sprinkle mycorrhizal fungi (**Rootgrow**) into the base of the planting hole. Firm the soil down around each plant and water well.

Acanthus

Soil and site Full or partial shade, deep fertile, well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 60cm apart. Once established it is very difficult to move plants so correct positioning is vital. **Division** Every 3-4 years.

Instructions Deadhead after flowering. 🌸 June-September. H.1.8m S.60cm

Achillea *Contact with the foliage can cause skin irritation.*

Soil and site Tolerant of most conditions but prefers well-drained soil and full sun.

Spacing Plant 45cm apart. **Instructions** Allow for good air circulation to help prevent fungal diseases

Division Every 2-3 years. **Notes** Cut back hard if they start looking straggly and they'll be up and flowering in no time, this will also reduce the need for staking. 🌸 June-September. H.60cm S.45cm

Aconitum (Monkshood) *All parts are toxic if eaten and may cause a skin reaction - wear gloves when handling.*

Soil and site Full sun or partial shade. It grows best in cool, fertile, well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 45cm apart. **Instructions** Plant in a deep hole with lots of organic matter and do not allow to dry out between waterings. **Division** Every 2-3 years. 🌸 June-September. H.1-1.5m Spacing varies, see website.

2 See our website for more information

Actaea *Toxic if eaten, may cause skin irritation – wear gloves when handling*

Soil and site Partial shade in fertile moist, humus rich soil. Good in damp shade. **Spacing** Plant 50cm apart.

Instructions. Do not allow to dry out. **Division** 3-4 years in late autumn. ☼ September-October. H.1.8m S.50cm

Agapanthus (African Lily)

Soil and site Well-drained soil, in a sunny site. On heavy soils, mix in grit when planting. Well-suited to growing in containers (especially in colder areas as they can be moved to a frost-free place over the winter), use a loam-based compost like John Innes No3 with slow release feed granules added. **Spacing** 30cm apart with crowns 5cm (2in) below the ground. **Instructions** Ensure plants are kept moist until autumn to encourage development of new flower buds. Mulch young plants with straw or protect with fleece in winter until established. **Division** Every 4-6 years.

☼ July-September. H.90-100cm S.30cm



Alchemilla mollis

Soil and site Full sun or partial shade in moist, but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 60cm apart.

Special requirements Cut back after flowering to promote new growth. **Division** Divide large clumps in spring. ☼ June-September. H.45cm S.75cm

Althaea

Soil and site Full sun or part shade in moist, well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 50cm apart. **Instructions** May need staking or grow through shrubs. Can be cut back after flowering. **Division** 3-4 years

☼ July-October. H.2m S.50cm

Amsonia *Sap may irritate skin so wear gloves when handling*

Soil and site Full sun or part shade in moist, but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 30cm apart.

Instructions Can take up to two years to establish, but once settled they are incredibly easy to look after. Cut back in autumn. **Division** If necessary, divide in early autumn. ☼ June-July. H.45cm S.30cm

Anemone *May cause skin irritation – wear gloves when handling*

Soil and site Full sun or partial shade in moist, fertile soil. **Spacing** Plant 50-60cm apart. **Instructions** Deadhead after flowers have faded and cut back in spring. **Division** In autumn or spring. Root cuttings may be taken in late autumn. ☼ Varies according to variety. H.1m S.50-75cm

Angelica archangelica BIENNIAL

Soil and site Moist well-drained soil in full sun or part shade. Works well at the back of a herbaceous border. **Spacing** Plant 1m apart. **Instructions** Mulch deeply in dry conditions. Don't allow to dry out. Deadhead after flowering to prevent it from self-seeding, or leave to self-sow. May need staking.

☼ June-September. H.1.5-2m S.1m

Angelica sylvestris BIENNIAL

Soil and site Prefers full sun in fertile, moist but well-drained soil with plenty of organic matter added. **Spacing** Plant 75cm apart in groups of 3 or more. **Instructions** Cut back flowering stems or leave seed heads throughout winter and cut back in spring. Will self-seed. ☼ August-September H.1.5m S.75cm

Aquilegia

Soil and site Plant in a moist, but well-drained soil in sun or shade. Ideal for east or north-facing beds.

Spacing Plant 30cm apart. **Instructions** These may be short-lived, but should self sow.

Division Don't normally require it. 🌸 May-July. H.60cm S.45cm

Aruncus

Soil and site Full sun or part shade in a fertile, moist, but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 1.5m apart.

Instructions Easy to grow, no special requirements. Allow flowers to go to seed as the seed heads are a very attractive copper tone. **Division** May be divided in spring. 🌸 June-July. H.1.8m S.1.5m



Asclepias tuberosa BARE ROOT

Soil and site Plant in moist but well-drained soil in full sun. **Spacing** Plant 30cm apart.

Instructions If mulched is hardy enough to withstand our winters. **Notes** Avoid overwatering – this likes dry conditions. 🌸 June-August. H.90cm S.30cm

Asplenium EVERGREEN

Soil and site Partial to full shade in humus rich, moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 60cm apart. **Instructions** Remove any dead or damaged fronds to the base as necessary. H.60cm S.60cm

Aster (including symphyotrichum)

Soil and site Well-drained soil in a sunny position. **Spacing** Plant 40-45cm apart. **Instructions** Allow good spacing between plants to aid air circulation and help prevent mildew. Cut back in autumn.

Division Every 2-3 years in spring. 🌸 July/August-October. H.50-90cm S.40-45cm

Astrantia

Soil and site Full sun or partial shade, prefers moist soil. **Spacing** Plant 30-50cm apart. **Instructions**

Do not allow to dry out. Deadhead to prolong flowering. **Division** Every three years in spring, may self-seed. **Notes** Long lasting as cut flower. 🌸 June-August. H.50-90cm S.30-50cm

Brunnera

Soil and site Partial to full shade in moist, well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 50cm apart.

Instructions Deadhead after flowering and remove any tatty leaves in early spring.

Division Every 3-4 years in spring or take root cuttings in winter. 🌸 March-May. H.35cm S.50cm

Campanula

Soil and site Full sun or part shade in moist, well-drained soil that is neutral to alkaline. **Spacing** Give these plants plenty of space to establish, don't crowd them with other more vigorous plants. Plant 60cm apart. **Instructions** Requires little attention once established – just cut back when flowering has finished. **Division** Large clumps may be divided in spring. 🌸 June-August. H.60cm S.60cm

Cephalaria

Soil and site Full sun or partial shade in moist but well-drained soil. Position at the back of the border.

Spacing Plant 1m apart. **Instructions** May require staking in exposed areas. Cut back after flowering.

Division Divide large clumps in spring. 🌸 June-August. H.2.5m S.1m

Cirsium

Soil and site Any fertile, moist but well-drained soil in full sun or partial shade. **Spacing** Plant 75cm apart. **Instructions** They take a while to get established but are then long-flowering and long-lived.

Division Every 3-4 years. ☼ June-September. H.1.5m S.75cm

Coreopsis

Soil and site Full sun in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 30-60cm apart. **Instructions** After the first flush of flowers in mid-summer give the entire bush a shearing to tidy up the plant and encourage a re-bloom. Cut back again in autumn. **Division** Every 2-3 years. ☼ June-September. H.45-60cm S.30-60cm

Cyclamen

Soil and site Full or partial shade in fertile, well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 10cm apart. **Instructions** Top dress with compost or well-rotted manure in early autumn. Will naturalise and self sow. **Division** Lift in autumn and divide while plant is dormant. ☼ January-February. H.13cm S.10cm

Cynara

Soil and site Full sun and well-drained soil in a sheltered position. **Spacing** Plant 1.5m apart. **Instructions** May need staking until established. Mulch during cold winters. **Division** Lift and divide in spring or take root cuttings in winter. ☼ June-September. H.1.8m S.1.5m

Delphinium *Toxic if ingested, may irritate skin – wear gloves*

Soil and site Full sun or dappled shade, suitable for most well-drained soil types. **Spacing** Plant 60-75cm apart. **Instructions** Allow good spacing between plants to help prevent mildew. Provide support to protect from wind and rain. Cut the flower spikes and leaves right to the ground in July and they will leaf up and flower again in August and September. **Division** Every 2-3 years. ☼ June-September. H.1.5-1.8m S.60-75cm

Dianthus barbatus BIENNIAL

Soil and site Well-drained soil in a sunny position, best on a neutral to alkaline soil. **Spacing** Plant 30cm apart. **Instructions** Deadhead to prolong flowering. Cut when flowers are fully open. Cut back hard after blooming has ended. ☼ June-October. H.38-50cm S.30cm

Dicentra

Soil and site Part shade or shade, fertile, moist but well-drained soil. Neutral to slightly alkaline. **Spacing** Plant 45-100cm apart. **Instructions** No pruning required. **Division** Lift and divide large clumps in late autumn when the leaves have died down. ☼ April-August. H.30-60cm S.45-100cm (Height, spacing and flowering times vary according to variety – see our website for details)

Digitalis BIENNIAL OR PERENNIAL *Toxic if ingested*

Soil and site Best in acidic, humus-rich, moist but well-drained soil in a semi-shaded area (but will grow in most conditions – height may be affected). **Spacing** Plant 40-60cm apart. **Instructions** Allow good spacing between plants to aid air circulation and help prevent mildew. Remove the first flower spike early to encourage more 'prince' flowers from the base **Division** For biennial varieties – sow or plant new every year. *D. parviflora* may be divided in early spring. ☼ May-July. Height varies according to variety (see our website for details). S.40-60cm

Echinacea

Soil and site Full sun in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 30-45cm apart. **Instructions** Dislikes disturbance so try to avoid moving plants and avoid overcrowding. Deadhead to prolong flowering. May benefit from a dry mulch during the winter. ☼ June-September. H.70-150cm S.30-45cm

Echinops

Soil and site Sun or partial shade in any well-drained soil **Spacing** Plant 50cm apart. **Instructions** Cut down to the ground after flowering to encourage a second flush of flowers. **Division** Divide large clumps in spring or autumn. 🌱 August-September H.90cm S.50cm

Epimedium

Soil and site Choose a shady spot or corner, where it will thrive in even the toughest conditions. Excellent for ground cover, at the front of borders or to edge shady paths. **Spacing** Plant 30cm apart. **Instructions** Prune during late winter to encourage new growth and promote a compact growing habit. **Division** Every 3-4 years. In autumn or after flowering. 🌱 April-May. H.25cm S.45cm

Erigeron

Soil and site Can be grown in most well-drained soils (or paths and walls) in full sun. **Spacing** Plant 60cm apart. **Instructions** Cut back in autumn. **Division** Every 2-3 years. Will also self-sow. 🌱 April-November. H.25cm S.60cm

Eryngium

Soil and site Full sun in well-drained, poor to moderately fertile soil. **Spacing** Plant 50cm apart. **Instructions** Ensure good drainage to avoid winter wet. **Notes** Flower stems can be left on over winter and used in floral arrangements. **Division** Propagate from root cuttings in late winter. 🌱 July-August. H.50cm S.50cm

Erysimum BIENNIAL OR PERENNIAL

Soil and site Rich, moist but well-drained soil in a sunny position. **Spacing** Plant 30cm apart. **Instructions** Mulch well in summer to prevent water loss. Deadhead to prolong flowering. **Division** Propagate from cuttings in spring or autumn. 🌱 Varies according to variety, please see our website. H.30-50cm S.30cm

Eupatorium

Soil and site Full sun, moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 75cm apart. **Instructions** Cut back at the end of the season. **Division** May be divided in spring. 🌱 September-October H.1.8m S.75cm

Euphorbia amygdaloides *Wear gloves when handling as the sap can irritate the skin*

Soil and site Full sun, part shade or full shade in moist, well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 50-100cm apart. **Instructions** Easy to grow, will cope with most conditions. Cut back flowering shoots to ground level in late summer or autumn. **Division** Every 2-3 years in spring. 🌱 Varies according to variety, please see our website. H.45-70cm S.70-100cm

Euphorbia x martini, palustris *Wear gloves when handling as the sap can irritate the skin*

Soil and site Well-drained soil in a sunny position (palustris) or partial shade (x martinii). **Spacing** Plant 60cm apart. **Instructions** Provide support to protect from wind and rain. Cut back flowering shoots in late summer or autumn. **Division** Every 2-3 years. 🌱 March-July (depends on variety). H.75-100cm S.60cm

Galium

Soil and site Partial to full shade in moist, well-drained soil. Leaves are prone to scorching in strong sunlight. **Spacing** Plant 45cm apart. **Instructions** Plant directly in a shady area with plenty of space to spread and act as ground cover. **Division** Lift and divide in early spring. 🌱 April-July. H.20cm S.45cm

Geranium

Soil and site Full sun or part shade in moist, well-drained soil. G. phaeum grows best in shaded spots. **Spacing** Plant 45cm apart. **Instructions** Cut back after flowering to promote new growth and a second flush of flowers. **Division** Lift and divide in spring every 2-3 years. 🌱 April-July. Height and spread varies according to variety, see our website.

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Geum

Soil and site Full sun in moist but well-drained soil at the front of the border. **Spacing** Plant 30cm apart. **Instructions** Cut back stems throughout season to encourage more flowers to form.

Division Every 3-4 years in autumn or spring. ✿ May-September. H.60cm S.30cm

Gillenia

Soil and site A sheltered spot in partial shade, acid to neutral soil that is moist but well-drained.

Spacing Plant 60cm apart. **Instructions** May require staking. **Division** Divide in autumn or spring.

✿ May-August. H.80-100cm S.60cm

Helenium

Soil and site Fertile, moist, well-drained soil in a sunny position. **Spacing** Plant 60cm apart.

Instructions Support the heavy stems with a network of hazel sticks or a plant support. Keep deadheading to encourage new flowers. **Division** Can be divided regularly in autumn or spring.

Notes Will not reach optimum height until second year. ✿ June-October. H.1.2m S.60cm

Helleborus *Poisonous if ingested, may irritate skin – wear gloves when handling*

Soil and site Well-drained soil in dappled shade. **Spacing** Plant 30-60cm apart. **Instructions** Add organic matter when planting. Remove old leaves to make flowers more visible in spring. Mulch in autumn. **Division** Divide in early spring and keep well-watered, may be slow to establish.

✿ January-May (varies according to variety). H.30-60cm S.30-60cm

Hepatica bare root

Soil and site Full or partial shade in open soil and cool conditions. **Spacing** Plant 10cm apart.

Instructions Soak in a bucket of water for 15-20 minutes prior to planting. Ensure crown is planted level with soil surface. Improve the appearance by cutting the foliage away in midwinter and allow the simply shaped flowers to stand alone. Top dress with leaf mould in autumn and feed in late winter. **Division** Slow growing but if necessary divide after flowering or in autumn. Each division should be potted up for six months and then replanted in the garden. ✿ February-March.

H.10-15cm S.10cm

Heuchera

Soil and site Part shade in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 20-45cm apart.

Instructions Plant away from direct sunlight to avoid scorching. **Notes** Good foliage for mixing with annuals such as nemesia for luscious containers all summer and autumn. ✿ June-July/August. H.15-45cm S.20-45cm

Hylotelephium (formerly Sedum)

Soil and site Plant in gritty, well-drained soil in full sun. **Spacing** Plant 45-75cm apart.

Instructions Cut back one third of stems to the base in late May to help maintain a compact shape. Avoid over-watering. **Notes** Leave the old flower heads on through winter as birds love the seeds.

Division May be divided in spring. ✿ August-October H.40-75cm S.45-75cm



Knautia

Soil and site Full sun in well-drained soil, preferably alkaline.

Spacing Plant 30cm apart. **Instructions** Cut back stems after flowering. **Division** Basal cuttings in spring. ☼ July-September. H.80cm S.30cm

Liriope

Soil and site Partial to full shade in moist but well-drained (preferably acid) soil. **Spacing** Plant 40cm apart. **Special requirements** Shelter from cold winds in colder areas. Cut down to ground level in spring to promote fresh growth. **Division** Divide in spring. ☼ August-November. H.40 S.40cm

Lupin *All parts of plant are harmful if ingested*

Soil and site Full sun or part shade in well-drained, moderately fertile soil. **Spacing** Plant 30cm apart. **Instructions** Pick the flower spikes to encourage the development of laterals and a longer flowering season. Stake in spring. Protect from slugs and snails. **Division** Basal cuttings in spring. ☼ June-July. H.80-100cm S.30cm



Lysimachia

Soil and site Full sun, partial shade in moist, but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 50cm apart. **Instructions** Add plenty of organic matter before planting. May need staking. **Division** Divide in autumn or spring. ☼ May-September (varies according to variety). H.60-90cm S.50cm

Lythrum

Soil and site Full sun or partial shade in moist, well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 45cm apart. **Instructions** Prefers a cool damp soil through the summer months, do not allow the soil to dry out. **Division** Divide in spring. ☼ July-September. H.1.2m S.45cm

Matteuccia

Soil and site Partial to full shade in moist soil (preferably acidic). **Spacing** Plant 1.5m apart. **Instructions** Remove dead or damaged fronds. **Division** Large clumps may be divided in spring. H.1-1.5m S.1.5-2.5m

Matthiola BIENNIAL

Soil and site Full sun in a sheltered spot. Moist but well-drained and ideally lime-rich soil. **Spacing** Plant 30cm apart. **Instructions** Cut back after flowering. Susceptible to aphids and flea beetles. ☼ June-September. H.45cm S.40cm

Monarda

Soil and site Full sun or partial shade in moist, fertile and well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 75cm apart. **Instructions** Mulch well and water regularly to keep the soil moist. Don't crowd in the border, good air circulation is a must to help avoid powdery mildew. Deadhead regularly and cut back stems in autumn. **Division** Every 3-4 years in spring. ☼ July-September. H.1m S.75cm

Omphalodes

Soil and site Partial shade in moist, fertile soil. **Spacing** Plant 25cm apart. **Instructions** Fast to establish, this plant makes great groundcover and works well planted beneath roses. Will benefit from the addition of well-rotted leaf mould, or garden compost when planting. **Division** If necessary divide in early spring. ☼ March-April. H.15cm S.25cm

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Papaver orientale

Soil and site Well-drained, fertile soil in full sun or partial shade with some shelter. **Spacing** Plant 45cm apart. **Instructions** Looks good planted in groups of three. May need staking. **Division** Every 2-3 years in spring. 🌸 June-July. H.75cm S.45cm

Peony Bare root

Soil and site Full sun or partial shade in well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 75cm apart. **Instructions** Plant in autumn with crowns just below the surface and resting buds no more than 3cm below the soil. In early spring apply a balanced slow-release fertiliser around the base of the plant and mulch with well-rotted compost, avoid burying crown. Deadhead after flowering. **Notes** Will not flower in first year. **Division** Divide when necessary in the autumn, remove sections of the crown with at least three growth buds and roots attached. 🌸 May-June. H.90cm S.80cm

Persicaria

Soil and site Full sun or partial shade in moist but well-drained soil. *P. runcinata* prefers part shade. **Spacing** Plant 60-120cm apart. **Instructions** Mulch to help keep soil moist. Cut back after flowering. **Notes** *Persicaria* are vigorous plants and will form large clumps so give them plenty of room. **Division** Every 3 years in spring. Heights and flowering times vary, please see our website for details.

Phlox divaricata

Soil and site Partial shade in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 90cm apart. **Instructions** Provide support to protect from wind and rain. **Division** Propagate from cuttings in spring. 🌸 May-June. H.30cm S.90cm

Phlox paniculata

Soil and site Full sun or partial shade in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 75cm apart. **Instructions** Support plants with hazel pea sticks. For shorter, bushier plants, cut back at the end of May. **Division** Divide in autumn or spring. 🌸 July-October. H.90cm S.75cm

Polyanthus and Primulas

Soil and site Grow these in pots or plant them in the garden in light shade and good drainage. They like to be protected from rain in the winter and full sun in the summer. **Spacing** Plant 20cm apart. **Instructions** If growing in pots, re-pot after flowering into new, well-drained, gritty compost – 4 parts loam-based compost (John Innes No.2), 2 parts leaf mould and 1 part grit. Top dress with grit. **Division** Every 2-3 years in autumn. Flowering times vary, please see our website for details. H.10-30cm S.25cm

Pulmonaria

Soil and site Moist soil in partial shade **Spacing** Plant 30cm apart. **Instructions** Deadhead after flowering and remove old leaves. Will self-seed. They do not like to dry out. The first sign that they are unhappy is mildewed leaves, so keep them well-watered. **Division** Every 2-3 years. 🌸 April-June. H.25-30cm S.30-45cm

Rudbeckia

Soil and site Full sun in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 45cm apart. **Instructions** Deadhead to prolong flowering. **Division** 3-4 years. 🌸 August-October. H.1.5m S.45cm

Salvia nemerosa

Soil and site Well-drained soil in a sunny position. Can tolerate light shade. **Spacing** Plant 50cm apart. **Instructions** The taller ones will need support. **Division** Every 3-4 years. 🌸 July-November. H.50-60cm S.30-50cm

Salvia uliginosa

Soil and site Prefers a moist soil in a sunny position. **Spacing** Plant 60cm apart. **Instructions** Known as the 'Bog Sage', this variety will appreciate moist soil all year round, so try not to let it dry out in the summer. Cut back 8-10cm from the ground after flowering to maintain a compact shape and encourage a further flush of flowers. **Division** May be divided in spring. 🌱 August-October. H.1.5m S.60cm

Sanguisorba

Soil and site Full sun in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 75cm apart. **Instructions** Encourage strong compact growth with a mid-season chop. May require support. **Division** Divide plants in spring or autumn. 🌱 June-September. H.1.2m S.75cm

Saxifraga

Soil and site Plant somewhere cool and moist but well drained in part shade. Ideal in rockeries or containers **Spacing** Plant 30cm apart. **Instructions.** Avoid over-watering and winter wet. Cut back stems after flowers fade. **Division** Divide in spring. 🌱 April-May. H.15-30cm S.30cm

Selinum

Soil and site Partial shade in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 60cm apart. **Instructions** Deadhead and cut back in the autumn. Apply mulch of well-rotted manure in spring. Protect from slugs and snails. **Division** Every 3-4 years in spring. 🌱 July-September. H.1-1.25m S.60cm

Succisa

Soil and site Full sun or part shade in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 1m apart. **Instructions** Easy to grow. Remove spent flowers if you do not want it to self-seed. **Division** Basal cuttings in spring. 🌱 July-October. H.1m S.1m

Veronicastrum

Soil and site A sheltered position in full sun or part shade. Prefers a fertile, moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 80cm apart. **Instructions** Mulch well around the base of the plant. **Division** Every 3-4 years in spring. 🌱 June-August. H.1.2m S.80cm

Viola

Soil and site Full sun or part shade in moist but well-drained soil. Good for winter containers or as ground cover in borders. **Spacing** Plant 15cm apart. **Instructions** Pick or deadhead regularly and trim back when flowering has finished to promote fresh growth. 🌱 Flowering times vary, see our website for more information. H.15cm S.15cm

x Alcalthaea

Soil and site Full sun in any moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 45cm apart. **Instructions** Prune tips in spring to make a bushier plant and cut back after flowering to help maintain a compact shape. **Notes** Excellent resistance to rust. Sterile so will not self-seed. **Division** Dislikes root disturbance so take basal cuttings in spring. 🌱 July-September. H.1.5m S.45cm

Roses

Choose a site that gets at least 50% of the day in the sun. If you are replacing old roses with new roses, remove as much of the old soil as possible and replace with soil that hasn't grown roses before (the old soil will grow anything else apart from roses). Dig a hole big enough to accommodate the roots and place a handful of bone meal at the bottom, mixing in with the soil. Place the rose in the ground and backfill with topsoil that has been enriched with organic matter (garden compost, manure or a proprietary rose and shrub compost). Make sure the graft union (stumpy bit) is at or slightly below soil level. Water well. Feed and mulch in spring. As a general rule, use climbers on walls, fences, pillars and pergolas, and ramblers will grow into hedges, trees, over large arches and may also be used on pillars and pergolas.

Climbers – ‘Constance Spry’, ‘Madame Alfred Carriere’, ‘Mermaid’, ‘Etoile de Hollande’, ‘Guinee’

Soil and site Full sun and sheltered site, moist well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 3m apart.

Instructions To avoid an unsightly tall plant with a few flowers at the top and nothing below, train to grow horizontally (fan out). Stretch wires out horizontally, at 60cm height intervals, securely along the wall or fence, and bend the rose over, attaching it to the wire with string or raffia. After a time, the stems trained horizontally will throw up vertical stems; use the strongest verticals arising from the base and/or the middle of the plant to train along higher wires to create another tier if required. Prune the remaining vertical stems to one centimetre from the horizontal stem during September-October.

✿ June-September. H.3-4m

Ramblers – ‘Paul’s Himalayan Musk’, ‘Wedding Day’

Soil and site Full sun or partial shade in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 2m apart.

Instructions Prune at the end of summer. **Notes** These vigorous ramblers are suited to training through trees. ✿ May-June. H.9m

Shrubs/Bush – ‘Aphrodite’, ‘Café’, ‘Cerise Bouquet’, ‘Cinco de Mayo’, ‘Comte de Chambord’, ‘Felicia’, ‘Ferdinand Pitchard’, ‘Hot Chocolate’, ‘Inspiration’, ‘Ispahan’, ‘Jude the Obscure’, ‘Just Joey’, ‘Koko Loco’, ‘Little White Pet’, ‘Louise Odier’, ‘Mutabilis’, ‘Princess Alexandra’, ‘Reines des Violettes’, ‘Rose De Rescht’, ‘Royal Celebration’, ‘Saint Richard of Chichester’, ‘Tuscany Superb’.

Soil and site Full sun or partial shade, moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 1m apart.

Instructions Prune February-March. ✿ June-September. H.90-150cm

Climbers

Clematis

Soil and site Well-drained soil in full sun or partial shade with lots of organic matter added to the planting position. Try to shade the roots of clematis if possible. If planted on a wall, lean a tile over the base and roots; if planting in a border, shade the roots with other plants. The smaller growing clematis, eg alpinas and modern hybrids, do well in large containers with at least 45cm depth and width. **Instructions** Water well to settle in. All clematis will need support on a wall or in the border over which they can climb. See individual varieties on our website for flowering times, heights and spreads.

Pruning Prune to encourage strong growth and prolific flowering. If you leave them to their own devices they can become a tangled mess with bare stems at the base with flowers way up higher than you'd like them.

Pruning Group 1 C. macropetala ‘Wesselton’, C. montana ‘Elizabeth’, var. rubens ‘Freda’ and var wilsonii. No need to prune them, tidy after flowering.

Pruning Group 2 C. 'Parisienne'. Prune in February and after first flowers in early summer.

Pruning Group 3 C. florida 'Pistachio', C. rehediana, C. tangutica 'Bill Mackenzie', C. texensis 'Prince Charles', 'Princess Diana' and 'Princess Kate', C. viticella 'Etoile Violette' and 'Madame Julia Correvon'. Prune in February, cutting back hard to 75cm above the ground.

Holboellia

Soil and site Moist but well-drained soil. Position against a sheltered wall in sun or shade (in full shade it may not flower). **Spacing** Plant 4m apart. **Instructions** During late spring and early summer these have the potential to put on metres of new growth. Don't be too tempted to chop it right back, as you will lose the benefit of lovely scented blooms. Cut each of these new growths back to just 2 or 3 leaves, as this is where the following year's flowers will appear. 🌸 April-May. H.6m S.4m

Lathyrus latifolius

Soil and site Thrives in full sun or part shade in a moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 2m apart. **Instructions** Provide a little support, then leave it to scramble through old-fashioned roses. Cut back to the ground in autumn. 🌸 June-September. H.2m S.2m

Lonicera

Soil and site Rich, well-drained soil with roots in shade but climbing up into sun. Plant away from a wall or fence line and angle the plant so the growth is climbing into the supports provided.

Spacing Plant 1.5m apart. **Instructions** Cut back flowering stems by a third after flowering. Apply a generous mulch of well-rotted compost or manure around the base of the plant in early spring.

Division Propagate by layering in spring or autumn. 🌸 June-September. H.2m S.1.5m

Shrubs

Daphne

Soil and site Sheltered position in full sun, partial shade in a well-drained soil. Dislikes root disturbance so pick a site well. **Spacing** Plant 90-120cm apart. **Instructions** Prune lightly after flowering, remove any dead, damaged or diseased stems. 🌸 January-March ('Rebecca'), April-October (Eternal Fragrance). H.90-120cm S.1m

Eucalyptus

Soil and site Plant in full sun in a sheltered spot in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 1.5m apart. **Instructions** To keep this gum tree in check and looking its best, coppice every 2 years. This will encourage fresh growth ideal for cutting and restrain the plant to an overall compact shrub.

🌸 Evergreen. H.2m (coppiced) S.1.5m

Euonymus

Soil and site Full sun or part shade in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 2.5m apart.

Instructions Choose an area that has the space for the tree to establish and mature. Water well in the first year while it gets established. Prune young plants in mid-spring to encourage bushy growth, once established they require little pruning other than removal of dead or damaged stems. Apply a well-rotted manure around the base of the plant during the growing season. Berries from September-December. H.3m S.2.5m

Hydrangea

Soil and site Non-alkaline, moist, fertile soil. Plant in a cool, semi-shady part of the garden, avoiding exposed east-facing sites where cold winds may damage young spring growth. Also avoid dry, sunny spots. **Spacing** Plant 2.5m apart. **Instructions** Work plenty of organic matter into the soil prior

to planting. On lighter, sandier soils, feed in early spring with a flowering shrub fertiliser. On richer soils: too much feeding can encourage excessive soft, leafy growth, with plants less likely to develop flower buds and more at risk from frost in colder winters. **Special requirements** *H. arborescens* and *paniculata*: remove any dead, damaged, diseased or crossing branches in early spring. Once established, cut back last year's stems to within one or two buds of the older woody framework to encourage more prolific flowering. *H. macrophylla*: remove the dead flowerheads in early spring, cutting back to the first strong, healthy pair of buds. Once established cut out one or two of the oldest stems at the base to encourage the production of new, replacement growth that will be more floriferous. Flowering times and heights vary according to variety, please see our website.

Salix

Soil and site Full sun or part shade in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 1.2m apart.

Instructions To keep this willow in check, it is best to coppice every 3 years. This will encourage fresh growth and an overall compact shrub. 🌸 March-April. H.4m (coppiced) S.1.2m

Sambucus

Soil and site Full sun or part shade in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 2m apart.

Instructions This Elder is quick to establish and can easily reach 6ft in 2-3 years. To keep in check simply pollard the plant or selectively prune on a yearly rotation to keep the height down.

🌸 June. H.3m S.2m

Sarcococca

Soil and site Full or partial shade. Suitable for low hedging. **Spacing** Plant 50-75cm apart.

Instructions Thrives in the shade and responds well to trimming in order to maintain its dense, compact form. Trim back shoots after it has flowered. 🌸 January-February. H.1m S.75cm

Viburnum

Soil and site Will tolerate most soils other than very wet soils, being well suited to chalk soils. Avoid planting in extremely dry conditions or exposed, cold areas. **Spacing** Plant 4m apart. **Instructions** Pruning is not always necessary in the first few years. In many cases, light pruning just after flowering but before the setting of seedpods is sufficient. If frost is imminent in your area, you should put off pruning so as not to damage new growth. Typically, once established, Viburnum shrubs should be trimmed back about a third of their size each year. Most pruning is done for shaping purposes only.

🌸 May-June. H.4m S.4m

Indoor Plants

Backhousia citriodora EVERGREEN

Soil and site Full sun or part shade in moist but well-drained soil that is slightly acidic. This is best grown in a container and moved indoors before the first frosts. **Instructions** Incorporate a slow-release fertiliser when planting. Keep well-watered. Harvest leaves year-round. **Division** Propagate from cuttings in early spring. 🌸 July-September H.1.8m S.1.2m

Calceolaria

Soil and site Full sun or part shade in well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 45cm apart.

Instructions Remove spent flowers and cut back in winter. Reliably hardy if winter wet is avoided otherwise grow in containers and move to a frost-free position over the winter. 🌸 May-August. H.60cm S.45cm

Clerodendrum ugandense *The fruit can be toxic and should not be eaten*

Soil and site Full sun or part shade in moist but well-drained soil. Plant into a pot that can be moved indoors through the winter or grow it in a conservatory or greenhouse or as a houseplant. **Instructions** Dead head to encourage repeat flowering. After flowering cut faded stems back to 25cm. Protect from frost. **Division** Propagate from cuttings in late spring or summer. 🌸 July-September. H.1.2m S.75cm

Fuchsia aborescens

Soil and site Full sun or part shade in moist but well-drained soil, requires a sheltered spot. **Spacing** Plant 1.2m apart. **Instructions** Can be kept outside if frost free and protected from cold winds, or grow in a container and bring it inside over the winter as it makes a great indoor plant. Responds well to being pruned so you can keep it at a manageable size to suit your garden or grow it in a container. 🌸 July-August. H.1.8m S.1.2m

Jasminum CLIMBER

Soil and site Grows well in a cool conservatory. Sun or part shade but best scent in full sun in moist, well-drained soil. Happy in a loam-based compost mixed with a multipurpose compost. **Instructions** Jasmines are sensitive to the dryness created by central heating. The best way to increase the humidity around your plants is to set plants in trays filled with pebbles or gravel. Add water to a level just below the tops of the pebbles (if the potting mix in the pots comes into contact with the water it will draw water into the pot causing the mix to become saturated which could cause rotting to occur). Refill trays frequently to replace water lost through evaporation. Water pots only when the top half inch of the potting mix is dry to the touch; Jasmine won't tolerate a soggy potting mix. After flowering, give your plant at least 6 hours of direct sun and normal room temperatures. Feed every 2 weeks with a high-phosphorus liquid fertilizer diluted by half. Stop feeding in spring after the flowers fade, while the plant is dormant. 🌸 November-February. H.2m

Muehlenbeckia

Soil and site Part shade, moist but well-drained soil. Choose a pot at least 12cm wide and regularly pot on once roots become congested. **Instructions** Is happy confined to a small pot. It can benefit from pruning to keep a compact shape. 🌸 July-August. H.30cm S.2m (trailing)

Pelargonium *Contact with foliage may cause skin irritation*

Soil and site Keep your pelargoniums in a light, frost-free position over the winter, a bright windowsill, conservatory or greenhouse with good ventilation. **Instructions** Very little water is needed until growth resumes in spring. Pot on into 2 litre pots, harden off and place outside in their final container or in the border (in fertile, neutral to alkaline soil in a sheltered, sunny spot) once all risk of frost has passed. Water sparingly every two to three days during their active growing season. Feed with a potash-rich liquid feed, such as comfrey juice, every fortnight. Special requirements Deadhead regularly. **Division** Cuttings may be taken when plants begin to shoot in spring. 🌸 June-November. H.25-45cm S 20cm.

Plectranthus

Soil and site Full sun, partial or full shade in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 60cm apart. **Instructions** Works well in a container or as ground cover in the border through summer. Bring inside before the first frosts, they make excellent houseplants. **Division** H.50cm S.60cm 🌸 September-November (varies according to variety, see our website for details)

Kitchen Garden Plants

Blackberry

Planting out Blackberries are very tough and will grow almost anywhere with decent drainage, although you will always get better crops on a sunny, fertile site. **Spacing** Plant 2m apart. **Instructions** Water young plants during dry spells, top-dress and mulch in mid-spring. Provide support with galvanised wires at 30cm intervals attached to a wall, fence or stretched between sturdy wooden posts. **Special requirements** Both these varieties fruit on last year's growth so cut out old canes following fruiting and tie in new canes as they appear. Harvest August-September/October. H.2m S.2m

Blueberry

Planting out Full sun to part shade in fertile acidic soil. **Spacing** Plant 90cm apart. **Instructions** Mulch newly-planted blueberries with leaf mould or pine bark (composted or chipped) and mulch each spring or autumn thereafter. Water with rainwater if possible rather than tap water as rainwater is naturally slightly acidic. No pruning necessary in the first two years. After that, prune in late February or March to remove a portion of the old wood. **In containers** Start off in a 30cm pot, use ericaceous compost and feed every month with a liquid feed formulated for ericaceous plants. May require re-potting each season to refresh the compost. Harvest June-early July. H.60cm S.90cm

Rhubarb

When you receive your bare root rhubarb plants

Plant in a pot of compost, with the growing point at or just below the soil surface. Grow them on for about a month until the roots have filled the pot well. **Planting out** Choose an open, sunny site with moist but free-drained soil. Avoid waterlogged soil and frost pockets. Choose an area which has not grown rhubarb in the last six years. Rhubarb can also be planted in very large pots at least 50cm deep and wide. **Instructions** Don't harvest anything in the first season – mulch your plants (not too close to the crown) and let them grow and establish themselves well. Allow the sticks of rhubarb to die back in the first autumn. Spread organic compost around the crown in its dormant winter phase. If a stressed plant should run to seed in late spring due to dry and cold conditions, remove the flowering spike straight away. **Harvest** In the second season (12-14 months after planting), you can start picking when the leaves have fully unfurled and the stems are approximately 30cm long. Never take more than half of the stems at a time – over-cropping will reduce the plants vigour. Stalks are harvested by gently twisting the stems and pulling from the base of the plant. Remember: the leaves are poisonous to eat but can be safely composted with the rest of your garden waste. **Division** Lift and divide crowns every 5 or 6 years, between November and March while the plant is dormant. Use a spade to lift each crown, split into 3 or 4 pieces and replant separately. Make sure each piece has a healthy-looking bud, which will become the growth point for next year's new shoots. H.60cm S.1.2m

Strawberries

Grow these in the border, in pots, in the veg patch or in the allotment. They are easy to grow and, after a smaller first crop, will provide abundant fruit for at least three years.

Planting out Immerse in a bucket of warm water and soak for 20 minutes so the roots can rehydrate. Choose a sunny, sheltered spot and dig in plenty of compost or well-rotted manure. Plant 45cm (18in) apart with 75cm (30in) between each row. Dig your planting holes to the same depth as the lengths of the roots and twice as wide. Spread the roots out in the hole and refill the hole with soil, keeping the crown of the plant where shoots will emerge at soil level. Water after planting and mulch with straw or bark to help preserve moisture. Alternatively, they may also be planted through sheets of polythene which will help smother weeds, retain soil moisture and encourage early cropping by warming the soil.

Maintenance Strawberries require regular watering throughout the growing season and ripening fruits can be netted against pests. Flowers may need protecting from frosts in spring. Pinch out runners as they appear if new plants are not required. Once the crop has been picked, cut out old foliage from plants, taking care not to damage young leaves. Clear away straw, foliage and debris from around the plants to reduce opportunities for pests and diseases to take hold. Feed with a balanced fertiliser.

Harvest May-July, when fully ripe, complete with stalks. Use at once for best flavour. H.15cm S.45cm

Garlic

Plant garlic outside as soon as you can after you receive it. Garlic grows best in a sunny site in light, well-drained soil. Split the bulb into cloves and plant these individually, each clove upright, with the flat base down and pushed into the soil to twice their own depth, spaced at intervals of 15cm (6in) or 30cm (12in) for Elephant garlic. **Maintenance** They need very little after care. Just nip off the flower bud if one appears and keep the area weed-free until the foliage turns yellow. **Harvesting period** varies according to variety, as soon as the leaves start to fade and dry the plants need to be lifted. They can be bunched or plaited together and stored in a cool, dry, frost-free area for several months until required. H.30cm S.15cm

Shallots

Sets are easy to grow, with a small set turning into a full-sized bulb without any attention from you. Sets are the immature plants that are raised from seed the previous summer. Because they were sown at a very high density, they do not reach sufficient size to bolt – they just carry on growing instead.

Instructions Plant sets out as soon as you receive them, pushing gently into the soil so the tips are level with the surface. It's a good idea to cover them with pea sticks or fleece to prevent birds pulling them out. To get lots of small bulbs about 5cm (2in) in diameter, plant 2.5cm (1in) apart in rows 15cm (6in) apart. To get larger bulbs 10cm (4in) across, plant 10cm (4in) apart instead. The chance of bolting is decreased if you avoid planting in cold, wet soil. Onions thrive in a sunny, well-drained situation. Keep weed-free, especially early on. **Harvest** Lift in the spring. The foliage will yellow and fall over naturally. Lift the bulbs with a fork to break the roots and leave them on the soil surface to ripen fully in the sun. In a wet spring, move them to a greenhouse bench to ripen.

Notes It is important to move the onion bed around every year to prevent the build-up of diseases like onion white rot. H.35cm S.15cm

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