

The GARDEN HOUSE



Newsletter

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Plant Sales Highlights in August

- ***Cornus controversa* 'Variegata'** The Wedding Cake Tree. Glorious tiered branches highlighted by finely white, variegated leaves. Slow growing but worth the wait!
- ***Agapanthus* cultivars** including ***A. Inapertus* 'Alba'** A delightful form with pendulous white flowers. These summer bulbs give a long flowering season.
- ***Miscanthus sinensis* 'China'** Beautiful late flowering grass with stunning red flowers.
- ***Cosmos* 'Chocamocha'** A delightful chocolate scented form with velvety chocolate flowers to match.

~ The Garden in August ~

By Head Gardener Matt Bishop

A warm welcome to The Garden House! As I write, it seems to have been raining for weeks. Fortunately, The South African Garden has been only mildly affected by the weather. The dioramas have been surprisingly good despite the battering they took in the winter. This month they give way to *Agapanthus*. This is a genus which has seen a real renaissance in the past few years. The darkest blue flowered and white flowered cultivars used to be seen only rarely, but are reasonably easily obtainable today. They are extremely simple to grow in any well-drained position with good light. In the first area you pass through on The Long Walk are some fine forms. Pale greyish blue 'Bethlehem Star' is about the earliest we have. Towering above it at 1.5 metres and slightly darker, is the mop headed *A. Inapertus** (there is a super dark form of this species on The Bottom Terrace). For a long time *Agapanthus* were confined to shades of blue and grey through to white.

Friends of The Garden House

This year, those joining or renewing their Friends of The Garden House membership will receive free admission to the garden throughout the season, a complimentary set of colourful post cards, regular newsletters, special events for Friends and the opportunity to have a say. In addition there will be a £4 voucher to spend in the tearooms or at plant sales. Full details are in the The Garden House leaflet—please ask at the entrance.

Volunteers

Could you spare a few hours each week to help in Plant Sales or the Garden? Join our friendly team and enjoy a free lunch and discounted plants. Phone 01822 854769 for more details

A significant plant which has changed all this has been the cultivar 'Mood Indigo' which veers towards purple. It has passed this colouring on to some of its seedlings which includes the purple 'Alan Street' with heads of trumpet-shaped blooms (seen on The Front Lawns).

Another genus of note especially on the Lower Terrace of the Walled Garden are dahlias, a great favourite for their displays in high summer. Competing in richness of colour are the cactus flowered deep currant purple 'Black Narcissus'. Also on the dark side, raised from the famous scarlet-flowered 'Bishop of Llandaff*', is 'Dark Desire' once suspected of being a hybrid with *Cosmos atrosanguineus*, but never proven! The favourite with visitors last year was *D. coccinea* var. *palmeri*, stunning for its finely divided foliage and dazzling single orange flowers. Plants in a friend's garden regularly reach three metres high.

And who could possibly miss *Tropaeolum speciosum** previously dubbed here, Scarlet the Twiner, but this year perhaps it should be Scarlet the Swamper!

Photographic Competition

Photographs must be taken during published opening hours in 2009 at The Garden House. Various categories.

Full details at Reception

Coming up next month

Cultivars of *Hydrangea serrata* and *macrophylla*; late summer shows from dahlias, salvias and asters. The collection of unusual colchicums also looks good this month, as do large numbers of *Cyclamen hederifolium*.

Diary Dates...

Garden Tours

Thursdays, 6, 13, 20, 27 August
Meet on the lawn at 2.00pm

'Kids go Free'

Throughout the month of August there will be no charge for under 16s

The Great Garden Bug Hunt

Wed, 5 August, 2.00pm
Creepy-crawlie fun for children

Agapanthus & other Summer Flowers

Wed, 12 August at 2.30pm
Walk and talk with Matt Bishop

'Estuaries and The Seaside'

Tues 25 Aug & Tues 1 Sep
A Watercolour Painting Workshop

Teddy Bears' Picnic

Sun, 30 August, 2.30-3.30pm
Tea and games for young children —
Don't forget Teddy!

For full details see our
Events Programme

Plant marked * can be purchased in Plant Sales, by the Entrance