

The GARDEN HOUSE



Newsletter

Buckland Monachorum, Yelverton, Devon, PL20 7LQ
Tel: 01822 854769. www.thegardenhouse.org.uk

Plant Sales Highlights in September

- ***Sedum* 'Purple Emperor'** Lustrous deep purple fleshy foliage, at its best in full sun.
- ***Cyclamen hederifolium*** Hardy species with infinite variety of silvery leaf markings. Flowers pink or white. Performs perfectly even in dry shade!
- ***Anemone x hybrida*** Large autumnal flowers in profusion in this easily grown perennial. We offer 'Königin Charlotte', a clean pink single and 'Honorine Jobert' well shaped pure white.

Plant Sales is located next to visitor reception

~ The Garden in September ~

By Head Gardener Matt Bishop

A warm welcome to The Garden House! Its all too easy to fall into the trap, after weeks of depressing weather, of thinking that we are coming to the end of the growing season. In fact we are at the beginning (if you are into bulbs anyway!). It never fails to amaze or surprise me just how plants can be influenced (presumably) by temperatures and the weather into subtly varying their flowering times each year. I am referring in particular to the colchicums at The Garden House which are currently running at about two to three weeks ahead of where I would expect them to be in an 'average' season. The collection here centres around the front lawns where they are juxtaposed with woody plants and other bulbs, the bulk of which flower much later.

I have to confess to be under-

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

whelmed by the lilac pointy white throated flowers of *C. bornmuelleri*. Much more exciting are some of the early-flowering garden hybrids with large goblets that show a fascinating 'chequer-board' tessellated pattern. Perhaps the darkest of these is the lusty 'Violet Queen' - I went to great lengths to acquire the true plant from the National Collection at Felbrigg Hall in Norfolk; lesser plants often do duty for this clone in the trade. Another very fine and very pale member of this group is aptly called 'Giant', and is somewhat taller, in fact so bulky, that its flowers often fall over under their own weight.

Judging by current progress I would now expect to see my favourite group of colchicums out by about the third week in September. They are the cultivars of *C. speciosum*. They all have characteristic shapely flowers that don't pinch towards the apex. In pure white, and sometimes regarded as one of the most beautiful of all bulbous plants, is 'Album'. I prefer the dark ones. 'Atrorubens' is the shortest whilst 'Glory of Threave'* has slightly smaller flowers on taller stems — I could go on, but have, alas, now run out of space!

Coming up next month

Foliage highlights from The Acer Glade and a mass of autumnal flowers including dahlias, heleniums, asters, nerines, aconitums, hydrangeas and autumn berries.

Diary Dates...

Garden Tours (*min. of 6 people*)
Thursdays, 3, 10, 17, 24 September
Meet on the lawn at 2.00pm

'Estuaries and The Seaside'
Tues 1 September
A Watercolour Painting Workshop

Working for Margaret Thatcher
Wed, 16 September 2.30pm
Tea & Talk with Sir Robin Nicholson, FRS

Wisteria Pruning Demonstration
Thurs, 17 September 2.00pm

'Painting Dartmoor'
Tues 22 September
A Watercolour Painting Workshop

How to Garden
With David Miles
An 8 week course Oct/Nov

'Beginners and Lapsed Painting'
Tues 6 October
A Watercolour Painting Workshop

For full details see our Events Programme

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.

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