Gardening without harmful invasive plants

A guide to plants you can use in place of invasive non-native species
Gardening without harmful invasive plants

Help protect the environment by using these plants in place of invasive non-native species

With over 80,000 species and varieties of plants to choose from and with new varieties being introduced each year, it is no wonder we are a nation of gardeners.

Plants are vital for our health and the environment. They improve air quality, boost our mood, help to offer climate change resilience and provide a home for other wildlife.

Many of the plants in our gardens and ponds are not native to Britain - they have been introduced from all over the world by people. While non-native plants can help us to create beautiful ornamental displays to enjoy, some become invasive and can cause problems for you and the environment.

Although only a small minority of plants are invasive, the impact they can have is extensive and may be irreversible.

Here are a few examples of the impacts of invasive non-native plants:

• Crowding out native plants which other species rely on for food or shelter
• Changing soil conditions and nutrients
• Spreading plant diseases which threaten native species
• Clogging waterways and reducing oxygen availability in the water
• Damaging buildings and infrastructure and interfering with agriculture and utilities
• Interfering with recreation, making it harder for us to take part in activities such as fishing, sailing or paddling
• Harming our health

Find more information about non-native species at nonnativespecies.org including:

• Information on non-native species
• ID sheets for over 60 species
• More guidance on preventing the spread of invasive plants
• Information on volunteering to help manage invasive plants in the wild

Trying to remove problem plants from natural habitats, especially important nature conservation sites, is expensive and difficult. Often complete eradication is impossible, and millions of pounds are spent each year to limit their spread.

In your garden invasive non-native plants can quickly outgrow their space or become entrenched so that no matter how hard you try to eliminate them, and regardless of how much of your flower bed is dug up, new shoots may keep on appearing.
Choose one of the plants in this booklet to help prevent future invasions.

Invasive non-native plants have sometimes been used in the past for difficult areas of your garden – a particularly exposed patch, for example, or where a bare wall needs to be covered quickly.

This booklet provides examples of plant species that do the same, or similar, ‘jobs’ as invasive plants and can be used in their place.

Each section also includes an example of a damaging invasive non-native plant that should be avoided.

For more information on the plants in this booklet we recommend visiting the RHS Plantfinder.

Did you know that it’s against the law to share or sell some garden and pond plants?

Find more information at nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise.

Key to symbols

- Tolerant of shade / low light levels
- Needs sun
- Needs alkaline conditions
- Neutral conditions
- Needs acidic conditions
- Needs drier soils
- Moist but well drained soils
- Needs wetter soils
- Needs sheltered position
- Attractive flowers
- Attractive foliage
- Fine autumn colours
- Bears ornamental fruit
- Structural feature or screening / hedging
- Windbreak
- Berries for birds
- RHS Plants for Pollinators
- Provides shelter/cover for wildlife
- Submerged aquatic plant
- Floating aquatic plant
- Marginal/emergent aquatic plant
- Bog garden plant
- Native to UK

A plant with no symbols is able to cope with a broad range of conditions. These characteristics are summarised in a table at the back of this booklet. UK native plant classifications are taken from the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland’s Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora, 2022.
Gardening Tips

Know what you grow

Choose the right plants for your garden, pond, aquarium and water features.

Research plants before you buy them to make sure they are suitable for your needs, easy to dispose of, and won’t be invasive.

Take care before giving or accepting cuttings, as you may accidentally pass on invasive plants, pests or plant diseases.

Stop the spread

Keep your plants in your garden, don’t plant them, or allow them to grow, in the wild. Even native plants can cause a problem if they are planted in the wrong place.

If you already have invasive plants in your garden, remove seed heads and pods regularly to stop them spreading on the wind.

Position new plants away from the edge of your garden so they can’t ‘jump the fence’ and spread into the wild, and pull out any runners and seedlings that start to spread further.

Compost with care

Make sure nothing you remove from your garden or pond gets into the wild, you could be breaking the law if it does.

Most plants can be composted to boost your soil, or put in your garden waste bin (but remember to check first what your local council will accept).

Be aware that some plants such as Japanese knotweed have extra controls around their disposal, find out more about disposing of plants safely at nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise.

Help to prevent future invasions

You can help to prevent future invasions simply by reporting plants which are spreading in your garden and proving hard to control.

Do you have a plant in your garden that is spreading and proving hard to control? Submit your records at bsbi.org/plant-alert to help scientists identify which species are likely to become a problem in the wild in the future.

If you think you’ve spotted an invasive plant in the wild, you can report it online through iRecord. Find out more at nonnativespecies.org/recording.
### Himalayan balsam
**INVASIVE!**
Himalayan balsam was promoted as a garden plant in the Victorian period and is now widespread in the UK, causing erosion, damage to infrastructure, and loss of biodiversity. Help prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following species.

#### Himalayan balsam
*Impatiens glandulifera*

#### Sweet woodruff
*Galium odoratum*

#### Stinking hellebore
*Helleborus foetidus*

#### False indigo
*Baptisia australis*

#### Butterflies
*Hypericum perforatum*

#### Butterfly Stonecrop
*Hylotelephium spectabile*

#### Night-scented Stock
*Matthiola longipetala subsp. bicornis*

#### Purple Angelica
*Angelica gigas*
**Orlaya grandiflora**
White laceflower
A branching annual, 45 to 75 cm tall with jaggedly divided leaves and white lacy flowers in flattish umbels. Long flowering and attractive to insects.

**Sanguisorba officinalis**
Burnett
Sanguisorba are herbaceous perennials with attractive, pinnate leaves and branched stems bearing terminal spikes of small fluffy flowers with conspicuous stamens.

**Valeriana officinalis**
Common Valerian
Pinnate-leaved, clump-forming perennial to 80 cm tall or more with upright stems bearing flat-topped pink or white flowerheads.

**Ceanothus thyrsiflorus**
Californian Lilac
Dense evergreen shrub providing cover and shelter for wildlife. Bears bright blue flowers in early summer. Hardy in all but the coldest areas.

**Hamamelis vernalis**
Spring Witch-hazel
Upright shrub bearing spidery yellow or orange flowers on bare twigs in winter and spring. The leaves turn clear yellow in autumn. Easy to grow in an open but unexposed site. Will tolerate deep, humus-rich soils.

**Hyssopus officinalis**
Hyssop
Dwarf semi-evergreen sub-shrub to 60 cm tall with small, dense, aromatic foliage and spikes of two-lipped, dark blue flowers from midsummer.

**Chimonanthus praecox**
Wintersweet
Strong-growing deciduous shrub to 4 m tall with glossy lanceolate leaves to 20 cm long. Nodding, deliciously fragrant, greenish-yellow flowers are produced on the bare twigs in winter. The flowers are often purple inside and up to 2.5 cm wide.

**Erica x darleyensis**
Darley Dale Heath
Low-growing shrub with needle-like leaves, bearing flowers in late winter and spring. Flowers are urn-shaped, usually in shades of pink and form racemes to 10 cm long. Many cultivars are available. Alkaline soils may be tolerated.

**Heliotropium arborescens**
Common Heliotrope
Bushy, low-growing short-lived shrub best grown as an annual with dark, wrinkled leaves and flat heads of violet-blue flowers that are carried in summer.

**Sambucus nigra f. porphyrophylla 'Gerda'**
Sambucus nigra f. porphyrophylla 'Gerda'
A deciduous shrub or small tree, with deep purple foliage from spring to autumn. Striking flat heads of scented pinkish-purple flowers, followed by purple-black berries.
Hottentot fig

**INVASIVE!**

Hottentot fig was introduced into Britain as an ornamental garden plant in the 17th century and has since become established in parts of the UK. It changes the nutrient dynamics and acidity of the soil, preventing other plants from surviving. Choose one of the following plants instead to help prevent future invasions.

Help prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following species:

**Carpobrotus edulis**

Heather

**Calluna vulgaris**

Sea-kale

**Crambe maritima**

Chinese wild ginger

**Asarum splendens**
Groundcover plants

**Ajuga reptans**

**Bugle**
Spread perennial with attractive evergreen foliage forming dense mats, with whorled two-lipped flowers forming short spikes. Deep blue flowers from late spring to early summer.

**Bergenia cordifolia & hybrids**

**Elephant-ears**
Robust perennials spreading on thick, branching rhizomes. Leaves are large, glossy and paddle-like and purple-tinged in winter. The flowers are usually in shades of pink, borne on fleshy stems. Good for sheltered sites but intolerant of drought.

**Convallaria majalis**

**Lilly of the Valley**
A highly fragrant perennial to 25 cm in height, forming extensive colonies. Erect racemes of nodding, white bell-shaped flowers arise from the paired, elliptic leaves.

**Leucothoe fontanesiana**

**Drooping Laurel**
Shrub to 2 m or so with arching branches carrying evergreen, leathery, lance-shaped leaves and small white flowers in spring. Variegated cultivars are available. Needs a sheltered position.

**Pachysandra terminalis**

**Carpet Box**
Evergreen perennial spreading on smooth stems from which are produced deeply cut, glossy, dark green leaves. Small white flowers are produced in early summer.

**Sanicula epipactis**

**Broad-leaved sanicle**
A perennial forming a compact clump of glossy leaves, preceded by tight heads of tiny yellow flowers within rosettes of toothed, oblong, yellow-green bracts. Suits the woodland style garden.

**Tiarella cordifolia**

**Foam flower**
An herbaceous perennial to 30 cm in height, with 3 to 5-lobed, broadly ovate leaves becoming bronze-tinged in autumn. Erect stems bearing open racemes of small, creamy-white flowers in summer.

**Viola odorata**

**Sweet Violet**
Rhizomatous perennial bearing toothed, heart-shaped leaves and, in winter or early spring, perfumed blue or white spurred flowers.

**Waldsteinia ternata**

**Siberian Waldsteinia**
Rhizomatous, semi-evergreen perennial with lobed, toothed leaves above which are borne bright yellow, open flowers to 1.5 cm across in late spring and early summer.

**Frankenia laevis**

**Sea-heath**
Coastal evergreen, mat forming perennial with tiny leaves and the general appearance of a heather. Produces small pink flowers. Found naturally in saltmarsh/ sand dune transition zones and saltmarshes. Suits coastal, rock and gravel gardens.
Groundcover plants

**Genista pilosa**

**Hairy Greenweed**

A drought tolerant creeping shrub with bright yellow pea like flowers and deep green foliage. Preferring well drained sandy soils. Ideal for the gravel or rock garden. Will tolerate dapple shade, prefers full sun.

**Crane’s-bill ‘Mavis Simpson’**

Herbaceous perennial to 30cm tall with silvery, lobed leaves. It bears open flowers (to 3.5 cm wide) that are pale pink with darker veins. Grows in any moderately fertile soil but not in waterlogged areas. Ideal for underplanting shrubs, roses, rock and gravel gardens.

**Geranium pratense**

**Meadow crane’s-bill**

A clump-forming perennial with hairy stems and deeply-lobed foliage. The saucer-shaped, white, blue or violet flowers are 4 cm across and appear in early to mid-summer.

**Geranium sanguineum var. striatum**

**Striped Bloody Crane’s-bill**

Herbaceous perennial to 15 cm tall with deeply cut leaves on long spreading stems. Produces large, very pretty, open flowers with very pale pink petals that are darker along the veins.

**Silene uniflora ‘Robin Whitebreast’**

**Sea Campion ‘Robin Whitebreast’**

Semi-evergreen perennial with lance-shaped grey-green leaves borne on prostrate stems. Bears white, double flowers with cut petals.

**Veronica perfoliata**

**Digger’s Speedwell**

Evergreen perennial bearing low, arching stems with pairs of stalkless, rounded, glaucous, leathery, toothed leaves to 5cm long. Attractive racemes of blue flowers are borne in late summer.

**Hyacinthoides hispanica**

**Spanish bluebell**

Introduced into British gardens in the 17th century and was first recorded in the wild in the early 20th century. Spanish bluebell hybridises with the native bluebell which may lead to the native species being lost, reducing biodiversity. Help prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following species.

**Asphodeline lutea**

**Yellow Asphodel**

Tall, fleshy-rooted perennial forming clumps of narrow, glaucous leaves topped by dense spikes of fragrant yellow flowers. Grows to 1.5 m high.

**Colchicum autumnale**

**Meadow Saffron**

Cormous perennial producing copious pink, goblet-shaped flowers (to 15 cm), followed by lance-shaped leaves. Double-flowered cultivars are available.
Naturalising plants

**Galtonia candicans**

**Summer Hyacinth**

Bulbous perennial with fleshy, lance-shaped leaves and leafless stems to 1.2 m tall. Bears pendant, white, bell-shaped flowers that are each 5 cm long. Soils need to be moist in spring and summer but drier over winter.

**Geum rivale**

**Water avens**

A herbaceous perennial with bright green, lobed basal leaves. The flower stems and sepals are flushed with dark red, and the dusky pink or pale orange, drooping flowers appear from late spring to midsummer.

**Aster linosyris**

**Goldilocks Aster**

UK native. Clumping perennial herb for shallow soil in open grassy places. Erect stems of golden yellow flowers to 70 cm tall in late summer and early autumn.

**Campanula rotundifolia**

**Common Harebell**

UK native spreading perennial to 30 cm tall with heart-shaped leaves. Slender stems bear nodding bell-shaped flowers, usually in shades of blue. Suitable for rock gardens, sunny banks or walls.

**Kniphofia rooperi**

**Rooper’s Red-hot-poker**

Imposing perennial to 1.2 m tall with clumps of broadly linear leaves and impressive, fat heads of red hot poker flowers in autumn.

**Echium vulgare**

**Viper’s-bugloss**

Bushy biennial bearing bristly, narrow leaves and in the second year purple, pink-tinged, bell-shaped flowers in dense inflorescences.

**Eupatorium maculatum**

**Joe Pye Weed**

Perennial to 3 m tall with domed heads of purple flowers over whorls of dark foliage in mid to late summer. Prefers moist soil in full sun or part shade.

**Gillenia trifoliata**

**Bowman’s root**

A rhizomatous perennial with reddish stems bearing small, 3-lobed leaves and open sprays of starry white flowers. Prefers acidic to neutral moist but well drained soil in part shade.

**Polemonium caeruleum**

**Jacob’s ladder**

Erect perennials with a spreading habit. Pinnate leaves and usually clustered, tubular, bell, or funnel-shaped flowers. Self-seeds freely.

**Geranium sylvaticum**

**Wood cranesbill**

A medium-sized, deciduous perennial with divided, toothed leaves. Flowers are borne in May and June generally being violet-blue with a white centre. It is a UK native of woodland and meadows.
### Ligularia 'Gregynog Gold'
**Leopard Plant 'Gregynog Gold'**
Award-winning hybrid with rounded leaves to 35 cm long. Bears pyramids (to 1.8 m tall) of golden daisy flowers 10 cm across in late summer and autumn. Needs protection from very hot sun.

### Aethionema 'Warley Rose'
**Stone Cress 'Warley Rose'**
Semi-evergreen subshrub with narrow grey green leaves (to 1 cm wide) and abundant racemes of bright pink, cross-shaped flowers in late spring and summer.

### Iberis saxatilis
**Alpine Candytuft**
Evergreen subshrub forming a cushion of fleshy leaves to 2 cm long. The small, white, cross-shaped flowers are borne in late spring and summer. Prefers very well drained soils.

### Camassia quamash
**Common Camassia**
Vigorous, bulbous perennial to 80 cm producing bright green, channelled leaves and large, upright spikes of starshaped, showy blue flowers. Intolerant of waterlogging.

### Colchicum speciosum
**Giant Meadow Saffron**
Vigorous, cormous perennial to 18 cm tall with narrow leaves. Goblet-shaped flowers are pink-purple, often with a white throat.

### Crocus banaticus
**Byzantine Crocus**
Cormous perennial to 10 cm tall producing solitary, purple flowers. The outer tepals are large and boat-shaped, the inner much smaller. Leaves are dark green and linear.

### Crocus biflorus
**Silvery Crocus**
Variable cormous perennial to 6 cm tall carrying flowers which have yellow throats and can be found in shades of blue or white, sometimes with purple striping.

### Crocus etruscus
**Tuscan Crocus**
Cormous perennial to 8 cm tall usually seen with lilac-blue flowers that are finely veined. Leaves are produced after the flowers.

### Crocus laevigatus
**Smooth Crocus**
Variable cormous perennial to 8 cm tall with usually white to lilac, fragrant flowers often with distinct feathering. Flowers are produced simultaneously with the dark green, linear leaves.

### Dierama pulcherrimum
**Angel’s Fishing-rod**
Cormous perennial to 1.5 m tall with narrow, grass-like leaves and graceful, arching stems of pendant, bell-shaped flowers in shades of pink. It requires plentiful water when in growth and may be susceptible to hard frost.
**Heracleum mantegazzianum**  
**Giant hogweed**  
Introduced to gardens as a monumental curiosity in the Victorian era and is now widespread across the UK. The sap of giant hogweed contains toxins which cause nasty skin burns on exposure to sunlight, avoid handling this plant. Help prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following plants instead.

**Carex flagellifera 'Glen Murray'**  
**Tussock sedge**  
*C. flagellifera* is a clump forming evergreen perennial, with narrowly linear, reddish-brown leaves, showing eye catching light brown flower spikes on stems to 1 m tall in late summer.

**Allium atropurpureum**  
**Very-dark purple allium**  
A hardy perennial bulb, up to 60 cm tall, with strap-shaped green leaves. Deep purple-red flowers up to 5 cm across on upright stems in late spring and early summer. Beautiful cut flower.

**Eucomis pallidiflora subsp. pole-evansii**  
**Pole-Evans pineapple lily**  
A giant perennial bulb with strap-shaped leaves, up to 1 m long. Spires of loosely-packed, greenish-white flowers, topped with a cluster of leafy bracts, up to 2 m tall in late summer and early autumn. Needs a warm, sunny position in well drained soil.

**Deschampsia ‘Goldtau’**  
**Deschampsia Goldtau**  
A smaller-growing Deschampsia variety. Dark green leaves age to golden brown. The long-lasting flower plumes, held up to 75 cm, are silvery brown and green, turning warm gold as they mature, giving a shimmering effect.

**Melica uniflora f. albida**  
**Wood melic**  
A delicate creeping perennial grass with bright green deciduous foliage. White flowers appear from June to July. Well suited for shrub/ hedge underplanting and in wildlife gardening. Avoid waterlogged soil. Thrives in dryish alkaline soil.

**Milium effusum 'Aureum'**  
**Bowles Golden Grass**  
A semi-evergreen perennial grass forming loose clumps of large arching, soft yellow leaves, with nodding panicles of yellow flowers in early summer. Intolerant of full sun on poor dry soils.

**Astelia chathamica**  
**Silver Spear**  
Clump-forming evergreen perennial to 1.2 m tall bearing clumps of broad, channelled, silvery leaves. Yellowish green flowers are sometimes produced and followed by orange berries on female plants.

**Ampelodesmos mauritanicus**  
**Diss Grass**  
Impressive grass to 3 m tall with arching, evergreen foliage and tall stems bearing pendant flowers.

**Nicotiana sylvestris**  
**Flowering Tobacco**  
Biennial, or short-lived perennial, to 1.5 m tall. Produces a rosette of dark leaves from which emerges an inflorescence bearing strongly fragrant white flowers with long tubes to 10 cm. May survive outdoors but best raised from seed each year.
**Architectural plants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Herbaceous</th>
<th>Architectural plants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aralia cachemirica</strong></td>
<td>Angelica-tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huge leaves to 1.2 m long divided into shiny leaflets above which appear spikes of starry umbels to 3 m tall.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cirsium heterophyllum</strong></td>
<td>Melancholy thistle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A clump-forming, spreading perennial up to 1.2 m tall with distinctive solitary flower heads of red purple flowers. The lance-shaped, green leaves have softly-spined edges and white-felted undersides.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Crambe cordifolia</strong></td>
<td>Greater Sea-kale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huge clumps of heart-shaped foliage to 1.5 m across are topped by branching sprays of small white flowers to 2 m high.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Datisca cannabina</strong></td>
<td>Cretan Hemp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slender stems to 3 m bear delicate, dissected leaves and tassels of green flowers. Ideal for the back of the border.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rheum palmatum</strong></td>
<td>Ornamental Rhubarb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A huge ornamental rhubarb to 2.5 m tall or more with large, deeply lobed leaves and upright spikes of small greenish flowers.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thalictrum rochebruneanum</strong></td>
<td>Meadow-rue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much-divided foliage bears frothy lavender and yellow flowers to 3 m or more in height.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Athyrium filix-femina</strong></td>
<td>Lady fern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A vigorous deciduous fern with erect fresh green lacy fronds to 80 cm or more. They are especially shade-tolerant.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Anthriscus sylvestris 'Ravenswing'</strong></td>
<td>Cow Parsley 'Ravenswing'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biennial, or short-lived perennial, to 1 m tall with lacy, dark foliage. Umbels of pink flowers on slender stems are carried early in the season.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Iris 'Black Swan'</strong></td>
<td>Iris - Black Swan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An herbaceous bearded iris perennial, to around 90 cm tall, with narrow, pointed, grey-green leaves. In late spring and early summer flowers of deep purple appear.</td>
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Take care before giving or accepting cuttings as you may accidently pass on invasive plants, pests or plant diseases. Find more gardening tips on page 6.
Climbers

**Parthenocissus inserta**
False Virginia creeper INVASIVE!
Introduced to gardens as an ornamental climber in Victorian times. Its prolific growth has caused introductions from garden cast outs. Scales most trees and shrubs blocking light from reaching the host and plants below, causing branches to break due to the additional weight, and strangling trees. Help prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following plants.

**Stauntonia hexaphylla**
Stauntonia vine
A vigorous climber with leathery elliptic leaves. Flowers in racemes of fragrant, dull pink flowers 2 cm in length, sometimes followed by ovoid purplish fruits to 5 cm in length. Ideal for a warm sheltered wall.

**Actinidia kolomikta**
Kolomikta
Vigorous twining climber to 5 m or more, rarely producing its small flowers but bearing large leaves that become attractively variegated white and pink in the upper half.

**Ceanothus arboreus 'Trewithen Blue'**
Californian Lilac 'Trewithen Blue'
Evergreen shrub to 5 m or so with glossy, dark green, oval leaves to 10 cm long. In spring and summer frothy heads of blue flowers are borne in abundance. May be damaged by frosts.

**Clematis 'Étoile Violette'**
Clematis
A large, vigorous deciduous climber with mid green leaves. Profuse single deep purple velvety flowers to 10 cm in width produced mid to late summer.

**Clematis x durandii**
Durrand clematis
A medium-sized deciduous, non-twining perennial with long stems with simple ovate leaves to 12 cm long. Ideal for a border where it can be supported by other plants. Indigo blue flowers to 10 cm across appear in early summer to early autumn.

**Clematis macropetala**
Clematis
A robust, deciduous climber with attractive, toothed leaves. Featuring single nodding pale blue to violet-blue flowers 3 to 4.5 cm long and many smaller, appearing semi-double. Flowers in spring with some blooms in late summer.

**Hedera algeriensis 'Gloire de Marengo'**
Algerian Ivy 'Gloire de Marengo'
Large-leaved ivy with creamy marginal variegation and long, easily trained stems. Tolerant of a wide range of conditions once established.

**Hedera helix**
Ivy
Climbing or scrambling plant eventually becoming shrubby. Non-variegated selections have the best chance of producing the nectar-rich flowers, but these will need at least some sun. Prefers alkaline soils.

**Hydrangea petiolaris**
Climbing Hydrangea
Deciduous climber with leaves turning deep yellow before falling in autumn. Grows to 10 m or more and carries large domes of white flowers. Avoid shallow, chalky soils. Best grown in partial shade.

**False Virginia creeper INVASIVE!**
Introduced to gardens as an ornamental climber in Victorian times. Its prolific growth has caused introductions from garden cast outs. Scales most trees and shrubs blocking light from reaching the host and plants below, causing branches to break due to the additional weight, and strangling trees. Help prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following plants.
**Indigofera heterantha**

*Himalayan Indigo*

Spreading shrub to 3 m tall bearing pinnate, grey-green leaves to 10 cm long on arching branches. Throughout summer racemes of purple-pink pea flowers are produced.

**Itea ilicifolia**

*Holly-leaved Sweet-spire*

Evergreen shrub with arching, flexible shoots to 5 m tall and sharp-pointed, glossy leaves to 10 cm long. Pendant racemes (to 30 cm long) of small, greenish flowers from midsummer into autumn. Needs shelter from cold winds.

**Lonicera periclymenum 'Graham Thomas'**

*Honeysuckle 'Graham Thomas'*

Strong-growing, twining climber to 7 m. Very fragrant white flowers, aging yellow, are followed by red fruit. Long flowering season. Best in partial shade, tolerates full sun.

**Rosa 'New Dawn'**

*Rose 'New Dawn'*

A vigorous climbing rose with arching stems bearing glossy leaves and full, palest pink flowers. Suitable for sun or partial shade. A great range of climbing roses, providing for different aspects and effects, are available.

**Vitis coignetiae**

*Crimson Glory-vine*

Vigorous, tendril climber with large, lobed leaves to 30 cm across that turn yellow, then bright red, in autumn.

**Myrtus communis**

*Common Myrtle*

Evergreen shrub to 3 m bearing a dense coverage of dark green aromatic foliage and, from midsummer, white flowers with prominent stamens which are followed by black fruit. Not fully hardy; shelter from cold winds.

**Pileostegia viburnoides**

*Climbing Hydrangea*

Evergreen climber to 6 m with attractively leathery, oblong leaves and creamy white flowers in late summer. May suffer in the coldest winter weather.

**Wisteria floribunda cultivars**

*Japanese Wisteria*

Numerous wisteria cultivars are offered. 'Yae-kokuryu' (pictured) has large, very fragrant racemes of double flowers.

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Keep your plants in your garden, don’t plant them or allow them to grow, in the wild. Even native plants can cause a problem if they are planted in the wrong place. Find more gardening tips on page 6.
Cotoneaster horizontalis

Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster has been a highly popular garden plant since the late 19th Century, but has spread rapidly across lowland Britain where it poses a serious threat to biodiversity as it can spread easily into conservation areas where it crowds out other plants. Help prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following plants.

Box

Dense-growing, rounded shrub eventually to 5 m tall but responds well to pruning. Leaves evergreen, small and dark green. Produces small and yellowish flowers in spring. Good for dry, shady sites.

Mexican orange

An evergreen shrub forming a neat mound with aromatic, very slender green leaves divided into leaflets. Sweetly-scented white flowers appear in clusters during spring and often in late summer and autumn.

Silk-tassel Bush

Hard-wearing evergreen shrub to 4 m tall with glossy, grey-green, opposite leaves. Highly ornamental catkins are borne in winter and early spring. Good windbreak.

Intermediate Witch-hazel

Intermediate to 4 m tall with upright branches which carry green leaves (to 15 cm long) that turn yellow in autumn. In winter the bare twigs bear spidery, fragrant flowers in shades of yellow, orange or red. Various cultivars are available.

Hebe topiaria

Topiarist’s Hebe

Dense, low-growing shrub to 60 cm tall with glossy, grey-green leaves to 1.5 cm long. Racemes of white flowers to 2 cm are carried in summer. Good for hedging. Will tolerate maritime exposure but not very cold winds.

Lacecap Hydrangea

Deciduous compact shrub with opposite leaves to 15 cm long and flattened domes of flowers which bear colourful sterile bracts at the margins. Many cultivars are available.

Holly ‘J. C. van Tol’

Self-fertile tree to 6 m tall with glossy evergreen, fairly spine-free leaves and copious bright red berries.

Wild privet

Bushy deciduous native shrub with green, lance-shaped leaves and terminal panicles of small, white flowers in summer, followed by small black berries. Very attractive to wildlife.

Burkwood Osmanthus

Evergreen shrub to 3 m tall with a dense habit and toothed, dark green leaves. The small, tubular white flowers are extremely fragrant.
**Shrubs**

**Photinia x fraseri**

*Christmas Berry 'Red Robin'*

Evergreen shrub growing to 5 m tall but easily pruned to size. White flowers are carried in spring and young foliage is bright red. Needs protection from cold winds.

**Viburnum betulifolium**

*Birch-leaf Viburnum*

Deciduous shrub with an upright habit growing to 3 m tall. The white flowers in early summer are followed by pendant clusters of bright red fruit which persist well through the winter.

**Pieris japonica**

*Lily-of-the-valley Bush*

Neat evergreen shrub to 4 m tall with toothed elliptic leaves that are reddish when young. Panicles of numerous urn-shaped, white flowers appear from pink buds. Several cultivars are available. Protect young growth from late frosts.

**Zanthoxylum piperitum**

*Sichuan pepper*

A bushy, spiny, deciduous shrub with 15 cm long aromatic dark green leaves. The bark and fruit are also aromatic. Sprays of small, yellow-green flowers are produced in early summer, followed by tiny, red fruit with black seed.

**Abelia x grandiflora**

*Glossy Abelia’*

Semi-evergreen shrub to 3 m bearing glossy, dark green leaves and fragrant pinkish white tubular flowers that fall to reveal persistent pink calyces in summer and autumn.

**Camellia japonica cultivars**

*Common Camellia*

Evergreen shrubs to 4 m or more, with glossy, toothed elliptic leaves. A huge number of cultivars have been selected often with large double flowers in shades of pink and red.

**Chimonanthus praecox ‘Luteus’**

*Yellow wintersweet ‘Luteus’*

Deciduous shrub to 4 m with open, clear yellow flowers.

**Enkianthus campanulatus**

*Redvein Enkianthus*

Deciduous shrub to 4 m or so, with toothed leaves on whorled branches turning yellowish in autumn. Dainty, pendant, bell-shaped, creamy flowers (with red on the veins) are produced in late spring to mid-summer.

**Fothergilla x intermedia ‘Blue Shadow’**

*Fothergilla ‘Blue Shadow’*

Rounded deciduous shrub featuring fragrant cream bottlebrush like flowers in spring. In autumn blue green leaves turn to vivid red, orange and yellow. Tolerates partial shade, full sun encourages better flowering and strong autumn colours.

**Fuchsia ‘Genii’**

*Fuchsia ‘Genii’*

An erect medium-sized deciduous shrub with a bushy habit and yellow-green foliage. Single small but showy reddish-purple pendent flowers.
**Shrubs**

**Hebe rakaiensis**

**Rakai Hebe**

Dense shrub to 1 m tall with glossy green leaves to 2 cm long thickly covering a rounded bush. The white racemes of flowers (to 4 cm long) are borne in summer. Good for hedging. Will tolerate maritime exposure but not very cold winds.

**Hydrangea arborescens ‘Annabelle’**

**Hydrangea ‘Annabelle’**

‘Annabelle’ is a small, bushy deciduous shrub with broadly oval leaves and very large, spherical heads of white flowers to 25 cm across in summer and early autumn.

**Hydrangea macrophylla**

**Mophead Hydrangea**

Compact, deciduous shrub to 2 m tall with opposite, broad leaves to 20 cm long. There are many cultivars with domes of flowers in a great range of colours, some with entirely sterile bracts and others with fertile flowers at the centre.

**Hydrangea paniculata**

**Paniculate Hydrangea**

A medium-sized deciduous shrub with ovate leaves. Flowers mostly large, white, ageing to purplish-pink, borne in massive, broadly conical panicles from late summer.

**Magnolia x soulangeana**

**Chinese Magnolia**

Variable large shrub to 6 m tall with dark green leaves to 20 cm long. Large goblet-shaped flowers (to 30 cm across) ranging from white to purple. Shelter from cold winds and avoid transplanting.

**Penstemon newberryi**

**Mountain Pride**

A dwarf evergreen shrub to 25 cm in height, with small, leathery leaves. Tubular, deep rose-pink flowers 4 cm in length are borne in clusters in early summer. Prefers a very gritty well drained position in full sun.

**Ribes x beatonii**

**Gordon’s currant**

A spreading deciduous shrub to 2 m tall, with aromatic, lobed dark green leaves and dense nodding red and yellow flowers in late spring.

**Skimmia japonica ‘Nymans’**

**Skimmia ‘Nymans’**

A spreading shrub to 1 m x 2 m bearing glossy, evergreen, aromatic foliage. Fragrant white flowers and round, red fruits are freely produced.

**Zabelia triflora**

**Three-flowered zabelia**

A large, upright, deciduous shrub to small tree to about 5 m tall. Deeply ridged bark, with dark green leaves. Clusters of small, very fragrant, pink-tinged white, tubular flowers with five petal lobes are produced in summer.
**Trees**

**Ailanthus altissima**

_Widely planted for ornament during the 19th and early 20th centuries and has since been recorded in the wild in some parts of England. This highly invasive tree affects the biodiversity of plants and invertebrates, including in protected areas. Its pollen can cause allergies and root systems can damage infrastructure._

**Magnolia grandiflora**

_Large-flowered Magnolia_

_Magnificent evergreen tree to 10 m or more with large, very glossy, bright green leaves that are rusty brown on the underside. Bears huge, cup-shaped, fragrant white flowers. May be damaged by very cold weather._

**Parrotia persica**

_Persian Ironwood_

_Spreading tree to 8 m tall bearing peeling bark and spidery, bright red flowers in winter and early spring. Produces fire coloured autumn foliage. Grow in acid soil for best autumn colour._

**Sorbus thibetica 'John Mitchell’**

_Tibetan Whitebeam 'John Mitchell’_

_Deciduous tree to 20 m or so with very broad, round, silver-grey leaves with heads of white flowers in spring followed by yellowish fruit to 1.5 cm across._

**Sorbus ‘Joseph Rock’**

_Mountain Ash ‘Joseph Rock’_

_Deciduous tree to 10 m bearing pinnate leaves that colour well in autumn. Spring white flowers are followed by round, pale yellow fruit to 1 cm across._

---

**Shrubs**

**Chaenomeles x superba 'Rowallane’**

_Japanese Quince 'Rowallane’_

_Spiny deciduous shrub to 1 m tall bearing glossy green leaves and scarlet flowers to 4 cm across. Flowers may be followed by yellowish fruit._

**Stachyurus praecox**

_Early Stachyurus_

_Deciduous shrub to 4 m tall with arching stems and egg-shaped leaves. In spring, hanging racemes of bell-shaped greenish yellow flowers are borne on the bare stems. Needs shelter from cold winds._

**Sarcococca hookeriana**

_Sweet Box_

_Small, suckering shrub to 1.5 m tall forming neat clumps of upright stems with glossy, broadly lance-shaped leaves. In winter, clusters of sweetly fragrant, small white flowers form followed by shiny black fruit. Good for dry, shady sites._

**Rosa 'Gertrude Jekyll’**

_Rose Gertrude Jekyll_

_An upright shrub rose to 1.2 m tall with open growth habit, broad grey-green foliage. Strongly fragrant, fully double, rich rose-pink flowers, open into a flat rosette shape, continuously flowering throughout the summer and autumn._

**Viburnum x burkwoodii**

_Burkwood Viburnum_

_Evergreen shrub to 3 m tall with dark green, shiny leaves. Globes of very fragrant white flowers to 10 cm across open from pink buds and are sometimes followed by small red fruit (turning black)._
**Trees**

**Japanese Maple**

Small tree bearing graceful, lobed leaves that become scarlet in autumn. Many choice cultivars are available.

**Cut-leaved Japanese Maple**

Rounded shrub bearing deeply cut, sometimes purple, foliage that colours up well in autumn and is often accompanied by ornamental winged fruits. Protect from cold, drying winds.

**Hybrid Strawberry Tree**

Tree to 8 m with peeling red bark and glossy, toothed evergreen leaves. The small flowers are white and appear in autumn. Alkaline soils may be tolerated but acid is preferred. Shelter from cold winds.

**Carpinus betulus 'Pendula'**

Pendula is a deciduous, slow-growing, weeping tree to 6 m tall with a dense, spreading crown. Leaves turn yellow and orange, with hop-like fruit clusters in the autumn.

**Lavalleei's Hawthorn**

Spreading, semi-deciduous tree to 7 m bearing domed heads of white flowers followed by orange-red fruits to 2 cm across that persist through the winter.

**Beech**

Large, vigorous deciduous tree with a broad, spreading crown. Leaves broadly elliptic, yellow-green in spring, rich russet-brown in autumn. Small, green flowers and bristy fruits. Numerous cultivars are suitable for hedging and ornamental trees.

**Sweet Gum**

Conical tree to 20 m with glossy leaves turning deep bronze, red and orange before falling in autumn. For best autumn colour plant in full sun. Can tolerate alkaline conditions where soils are deep.

**Crab Apple 'Golden Hornet'**

Deciduous tree to 8 m with a rounded habit. White flowers in spring are followed by copious, spherical, golden yellow fruit to 2 cm across which are carried over a long period.

**Tupelo**

Broadly conical tree to 15 m. Leaves produce spectacular fiery shades in autumn. Shelter from cold winds and plant out when young.

**Yew**

Coniferous evergreen bearing thick, dark needles and, in female plants, red fruit which is eaten by birds. Eventually becoming large but easily pruned to size.
Plants for ponds & bog gardens

**Ludwigia grandiflora**

**Water primrose**  
*INVASIVE!*

Originally introduced as an ornamental pond plant, but a number of wild populations have been recorded since 1998. Water primrose quickly covers water bodies restricting recreational use and harming native wildlife. If it were to establish widely in GB control costs could be millions of pounds annually. Help prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following plants.

---

**Carex acuta**

**Slender tufted Sedge**

A clump forming native sedge up to 90 cm, ideal for pond margins.

---

**Carex elata ‘Aurea’**

**Bowles’s Golden Sedge**

Rhizomatous, perennial sedge, to 70 cm, dying back in winter with leaves that bear a central, golden variegation and small flowers in spring and early summer to 45 cm.

---

**Ceratophyllum demersum**

**Rigid Hornwort**

Low light requirements make this a good choice for aquaria. Perennial with stiff stems eventually growing to 1 m if left unchecked. Leaves dark green and forked into linear, toothed segments. Prefers quite nutrient rich water.

---

**Chrysosplenium davidianum**

**David’s Golden-saxifrage**

Mat-forming perennial to 8 cm tall with hairy, rounded, dark green leaves and greenish yellow, cup-shaped flowers above leafy bracts. Ideal for shady rock crevices.

---

**Ludwigia grandiflora**

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**Eleocharis acicularis**

**Needle Spike-rush**

Rhizomatous oxygenating perennial to 10 cm with rush-like leaves and flowers in spikelets to 5 mm (not produced when submerged). Provides good hiding places for fish fry. British native.

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**Eriophorum angustifolium**

**Common Cottongrass**

A spreading, perennial member of the sedge family growing to about 40 cm and producing in summer spikes of cottonlike flowers. Survives in water to 5 cm deep.

---

**Hosta ‘Sum and Substance’**

**Plantain Lily ‘Sum and Substance’**

Large, ribbed, heart-shaped yellow or green leaves and spikes of bell-shaped lilac flowers in summer.

---

**Hottonia palustris**

**Water-violet**

Perennial oxygenator with whorled, pinnate leaves. Whorls of lilac, yellow-throated flowers to 2.5 cm across appear on upright stems above the surface of the water in spring. Grow in the muddy bottom of a pool in clear, shallow water in full sun.

---

**Lysimachia nummularia ‘Aurea’**

**Golden Creeping-Jenny**

Vigorous prostrate perennial forming a mat of creeping stems with rounded, golden leaves in opposite pairs, bearing yellow, cup-shaped flowers in summer.

---
**Plants for ponds & bog gardens**

### Astilbe 'Fanal' (x arendsii)

**Astilbe Fanal**
Herbaceous perennial with attractive leaves and erect plume-like panicles of tiny white, pink or purple flowers in summer. Grow in moist, fertile, humus-rich soil in full sun or grow in partial shade where soil is likely to dry out in the summer.

### Lychnis flos-cuculi

**Ragged-robin**
An upright dainty perennial to 70 cm, with branched stems bearing terminal clusters of star-shaped rose-pink flowers in late spring and early summer. Well suited to moist meadows or wildlife gardens.

### Astilboides tabularis

**Common Astilboides**
A strong statement perennial. Forming clumps of large, round leaves to 100 cm across. Small, white flowers are borne on long stalks in summer. Can cope with wet but not waterlogged soils. Up to 1.5 m tall.

### Lysimachia ephemerum

**Willow-leaved loosestrife**
A herbaceous perennial forming a clump of erect stems up to 1 m clad in narrow, grey-green leaves, with small, starry white flowers in long, slender terminal racemes in early summer. In full or part shade, in soil that doesn’t dry out in summer.

### Lythrum salicaria

**Purple Loosestrife**
A strong clump-forming perennial with upright, branching, leafy stems to about 1 m. Produces loose spikes of pinky-purple star-shaped flowers in summer.

### Nymphaea 'Pygmaea Helvola'

**White Water-lily**
Perennials with floating, rounded, variegated leaves to about 6 cm across. This miniature water lily with pale yellow flowers to 3 to 5 cm across is ideal for water tubs or small ponds.

### Hosta (Tardiana Group) 'Halcyon'

**Plantain lily 'Halcyon'**
A compact herbaceous perennial with thick-textured, vivid blue-grey leaves to 20 cm in length. Light greyish-lavender, bell-shaped flowers are carried on stems to 40 cm tall. Prefers partial shade in moist soil. Best in slightly acidic or neutral soils.

### Lobelia cardinalis 'Queen Victoria'

**Lobelia 'Queen Victoria'**
A short-lived herbaceous perennial to 90 cm tall, with beetroot-coloured, oblong leaves and bright scarlet, two-lipped flowers in long terminal racemes in summer. Requires reliably wet soil such as in a bog garden.

### Alisma plantago-aquatica

**Water-plantain**
Perennial to 1 m tall bearing linear submerged leaves and rosettes of long-stalked, lance-shaped, greyish leaves above the water. Pale pink flowers produced on much-branched inflorescences in summer. Best in water 15 to 30 cm deep.

### Butomus umbellatus

**Flowering rush**
Perennial to 1.5 m with rush-like, twisted leaves emerging purple and turning green. Umbels of fragrant pink flowers to 2.5 cm across are borne in late summer on tall stems. Grow in mud or water to 25 cm deep.
Plants for ponds & bog gardens

**Iris pseudacorus**

**Yellow Flag Iris**

Vigorous, rhizomatous perennial up to 1.5 m tall with lance-shaped, greyish leaves and bright yellow flowers with darker markings. For large ponds only.

**Juncus articulatus**

**Jointed Rush**

A clump forming British wild native marginal jointed rush with very attractive dark brown-black seed heads.

**Canna 'Erebus**

Tender, rhizomatous perennial to 1.2 m with erect, dark green, paddle-shaped leaves and spikes of exotic lemon-yellow flowers in summer and autumn. Lift tubers and overwinter in frost-free conditions.

**Canna 'Endeavour**

Tender, rhizomatous perennial to 1.8 m with erect, glaucous, paddle-shaped leaves and spikes of narrow-petalled red flowers to 5 cm across in summer and autumn. Lift tubers and overwinter in frost-free conditions.

**Water Canna 'Ra**

Tender, rhizomatous perennial to 1.8 m with erect, slender, green leaves and spikes of exotic lemon-yellow flowers in summer and autumn. Lift tubers and overwinter in frost-free conditions.

**Caltha palustris**

**Marsh-marigold**

Rhizomatous perennial bearing kidney-shaped leaves to 10cm long. Open, waxy, yellow or white flowers are carried on stems to 45cm in spring.

**Fontinalis antipyretica**

**Water Moss**

Attractive evergreen slow growing moss with pretty leaves that can help hide aquaria pumps. Much liked by aquatic wildlife and provides an excellent site for spawning fish. Useful for improving water quality. Thrives in sun and shade, prefers moving water and cooler conditions.

**Callitriche stagnalis**

**Common Water-starwort**

Perennial with narrow, opposite submerged leaves that become broader in the open air. The flowers are small and insignificant, borne in summer.

**Myriophyllum heterophyllum**

**Broadleaf watermilfoil**

Broadleaf watermilfoil was introduced for use in aquaria and as an ornamental plant in outdoor ponds, but a small number of wild populations have since been recorded in recent years. This plant forms dense mats which clog water bodies harming wildlife and impacting on navigation and recreation. Help to prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following plants.

**Plants for pond edges**

**Yellow Flag Iris**

**Vigorous, rhizomatous perennial up to 1.5 m tall with lance-shaped, greyish leaves and bright yellow flowers with darker markings. For large ponds only.**

**Jointed Rush**

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Floating plants

**Hydrocotyle ranunculoides**

Floating pennywort

Introduced as an ornamental pond plant, but has since spread and become widely established in parts of the UK. Floating pennywort can grow up to 20 cm a day under the right conditions, quickly covering whole waterbodies where it replaces native plants, interferes with recreational activities and can increase the flood risk. Help to prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following plants.

**Hydrocharis morsus-ranae**

Frogbit

Stoloniferous perennial spreading on the surface of water and producing rounded, glossy leaves to 3 cm long. White, bowl-shaped flowers, 2 cm across, yellow at the centre are borne in the summer. Less vigorous in deeper water.

**Mentha aquatica**

Water Mint

Rhizomatous perennial to 90 cm with purple stems and narrow highly aromatic leaves. In summer dense spheres of tubular lilac flowers are produced. Grows in water to 15 cm deep. Plant in baskets to contain spread.

**Menyanthes trifoliata**

Bogbean

Rhizomatous perennial forming floating mats of three-parted leaves with leaflets to 6 cm long. Erect inflorescences of white, star-shaped flowers are sometimes produced in summer. Will need regular trimming, for large ponds only.

**Myosotis scorpioides**

Water Forget-me-not

Creeping, rhizomatous perennial with leaves to 10 cm and, in summer, a profusion of bright blue, very open flowers to 8 mm across with a paler eye. Grows best in water to 10 cm deep.

**Myriophyllum spicatum**

Spiked Water-milfoil

Perennial with whorls of deeply divided leaves on stems which grow to 1 m or more. In summer small reddish flowers are carried just above the water. Stems may not die back in every winter, and so may provide year-round cover for fish.

**Myriophyllum verticillatum**

Whorled Water-milfoil

UK native perennial oxygenator with whorls of deeply divided leaves and linear leaflets borne on stems to 1m or more. In summer very small yellowish flowers are carried just above the surface of the water.

**Nuphar lutea**

Yellow Water-lily

Perennial bearing floating, rounded, thick-textured, hairless leaves to 40 cm long. Above these in the summer are carried almost spherical yellow flowers to 6 cm across singly on stems. For large ponds only.

**Potamogeton crispus**

Curled Pondweed

Perennial oxygenator bearing submerged, dissected, almost translucent leaves and leathery, floating leaves with very undulating margins. The flowers are very small and whitish, carried just above the water.

**Ranunculus aquatilis**

Common Water-crowfoot

Pretty annual/short-lived perennial with submerged stems and finely divided leaves, and floating lobed, kidney-shaped leaves. Produces white flowers (2 cm) at the water’s surface in summer. Prefers shallow water with good nutrient levels.
Floating plants

**Sagittaria sagittifolia**

*Old World Arrowhead*

Spreading perennial bearing arrow-shaped leaves with long lobes at the base and 1m tall inflorescences carrying white flowers to 2.5 cm across. In deep water long, floating leaves may also be produced. For large ponds only.

**Thalia dealbata**

*Powdery Alligator-flag*

Perennial to 2.5 m bearing lanceolate grey-green leaves on long stalks. Striking, violet flowers are borne in slender spikes in summer. Not fully hardy and may be deciduous in cold weather.

**Veronica beccabunga**

*Brooklime*

Creeping perennial bearing fleshy stems and leaves which are rounded and can be entire or toothed. Racemes of blue flowers with a white eye are produced in spring and summer. Will tolerate shallow water only.

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Make sure nothing you remove from your garden or pond gets into the wild, you could be breaking the law if it does. Find more gardening tips on page 6.

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<th>Needs drier soils</th>
<th>Moist but well drained soils</th>
<th>Needs wetter soils</th>
<th>Needs sheltered position</th>
<th>Attractive flowers</th>
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<th>Fine autumn colours</th>
<th>Bears ornamental fruit</th>
<th>Structural feature or screening / hedging</th>
<th>Berries for birds</th>
<th>RHS Plants for Pollinators</th>
<th>Provides shelter/cover for wildlife</th>
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### Table of characteristics

| Characteristic | Tolerant of shade/low light levels | Needs full sun | Needs partial shade | Needs full shade | Needs light shade | Needs acidic conditions | Requires neutral conditions | Needs alkaline conditions | Moist but well drained soils | Needs wetter soils | Provides shelter from wind | Requires shelter from wind | Requires shelter from heat | Requires shelter from cold | RHS Plants for Pollinators | Submerged aquatic plant | Floating aquatic plant | Marginal/emergent aquatic plant | Bog garden plant | UK Native plant |
|----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Helleborus niger | 08                              | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Hosta 'Sum and Substance' | 12                         | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Hosta 'J. C. Van Tol' | 28                         | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle' | 29                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Hydrangea macrophylla | 31                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Hydrangea paniculata | 32                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Hydrangea serrata | 33                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Hylotelephium spectabile | 36                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Iberis saxatilis | 37                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Juncus articulatus | 38                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Kniphofia rooperi | 39                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Leucothoe fontanesiana | 40                     | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Ligularia 'Bicolor Gold' | 41                     | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Ligustrum vulgare | 42                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Liquidambar styraciflua | 43                   | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Lobelia cardinalis 'Queen Victoria' | 44                   | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Lonicera periclymenum 'Graham Thomas' | 45           | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Lychnis flos-cuculi | 46                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Menyanthes trifoliata | 47                      | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Myosotis scorpioides | 48                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Myriophyllum spicatum | 49                      | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Myriophyllum verticillatum | 50                    | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Nasturtium officinale | 51                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Nepeta sylvestris | 52                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Nymphaea Pygmaea Helvola | 53                    | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Oxalis corniculata | 54                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Parrotia persica | 55                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Physocarpus opulifolius | 56                     | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Physostegia virginiana | 57                       | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Plantago major | 58                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Polygonatum sibiricum | 59                       | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Potentilla fruticosa | 60                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Pyrus communis | 61                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Rubus 'Red Wings' | 62                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |
| Sambucus nigra | 63                        | ✓              | ✓                  | ✓                | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                      | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓               | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      | ✓                      |

**GARDENING WITHOUT HARMFUL INVASIVE PLANTS**

**BE PLANT WISE | 53**
### Table of characteristics

| Characteristic                      | Tolerant of shade / low light levels | Needs sun | Needs acidic conditions | Needs neutral conditions | Needs alkaline conditions | Needs waterlogged soil | Needs drier soils | Needs sheltered position | Attractive flowers | Attractive foliage | Fine autumn colours | Bears ornamental fruit | Structural feature or screening / hedging | Windbreak | Attracts bees / butterflies | Useful for wildlife | Submerged aquatic plant | Floating aquatic plant | Marginal / emergent aquatic plant | UK native plant | RHS Plants for Pollinators | Provides shelter / cover for wildlife |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Sanguisorba officinalis            | ✓                                   | ✓         | ✓                       | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓                         | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓                   | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓               | ✓                       | ✓                 | ✓                       | ✓                        | ✓                | ✓                       | ✓                 |
| Sanicula epipactis                 | ✓                                   | ✓         | ✓                       | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓                         | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓                   | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓               | ✓                       | ✓                 | ✓                       | ✓                        | ✓                | ✓                       | ✓                 |
| Sorbus ×帮你 (Joseph Rock)         | ✓                                   | ✓         | ✓                       | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓                         | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓                   | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓               | ✓                       | ✓                 | ✓                       | ✓                        | ✓                | ✓                       | ✓                 |
| Viburnum betulifolium              | ✓                                   | ✓         | ✓                       | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓                         | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓                   | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓               | ✓                       | ✓                 | ✓                       | ✓                        | ✓                | ✓                       | ✓                 |
| Viburnum x bodnantense             | ✓                                   | ✓         | ✓                       | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓                         | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓                   | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓               | ✓                       | ✓                 | ✓                       | ✓                        | ✓                | ✓                       | ✓                 |
| Viburnum x burkwoodii              | ✓                                   | ✓         | ✓                       | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓                         | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓                   | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓               | ✓                       | ✓                 | ✓                       | ✓                        | ✓                | ✓                       | ✓                 |
| Viola odorata                      | ✓                                   | ✓         | ✓                       | ✓                        | ✓                         | ✓                         | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓                   | ✓                | ✓                   | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓               | ✓                       | ✓                 | ✓                       | ✓                        | ✓                | ✓                       | ✓                 |
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For more information about non-native species visit nonnativespecies.org