

### **Acer buergerianum**

"Trident Maple" A pretty small tree whose grace is enhanced by the small three-lobed leaves. Particularly good autumn colour begins scarlet turning orange-yellow. A good hardy Maple tolerant of many less favoured sites. 4m.

### **Acer circinatum 'Monroe'**

A plant I've lusted after for years! Shrubby habit, with deeply incised light green leaves (even more so than *A. japonicum* 'Aconitifolium'). Predominantly yellow autumn colours may develop some orange. Worthy of a special site. 3m.

### **Acer circinatum 'Pacific Fire'**

Imagine the coral bark colour of *Acer palmatum* 'Sangokaku' combined with the larger leaves and more tolerant growth requirements of this species, and the result is a plant with awesome potential. Fantastic autumn colour too.

### **Acer circinatum 'Sunglow'**

This has been on my "wanted" list ever since I first saw it photographed! Apricot coloured young growth matures to cream, highlighted by orange veins. The exact colour will depend on light levels, though a shady site is preferable to protect the gorgeous foliage. A little chap, to barely more than 1m.

### **Acer x conspicuum hybrids**

This newly established inter-specific hybrid groups together a number of Snakebark Maples, including some of uncertain origin. All are small trees with lovely autumn colours, but most importantly they have fantastic striped bark in the winter—hence their common name of "Snakebark Maples".

It is a group that we have struggled with here in the past due to a combination of a series of wet winters and our very heavy clay. However, just because we have had problems doesn't mean that you will! I know of many plants in this wonderful group which are thriving, and indeed having

improved the soil, ours are doing well too. It is the structure of the soil which is important (not the pH). It shouldn't waterlog in winter but it needs to be adequately moisture retentive in summer. Good air movement around the branches in winter is important to minimise the risk of fungal problems. Similarly, carry out any essential pruning in the summer when the plant is active and the cuts will heal quickly, not the winter.

See also the cultivars of *Acer davidii*, *forrestii*, *rufinerve* and *tegmentosum*.

**All Snakebarks are priced from £32.00**

### **Acer x conspicuum 'Candy Stripe'**

A fabulous new selection that is thought to be a hybrid between *Acer capillipes* and *Acer pensylvanicum*. The dramatic winter bark has a dark purple background, heavily striated with white, whilst the young shoots are a rich reddish purple. The leaves are definitely different, having more rounded lobes although maintaining an essentially triangular outline. 5m.

### **Acer x conspicuum 'Elephants Ear'**

When you see the leaves on a strong growing plant, the reason for the name is obvious! Up to 30cm long and 20cm wide! The bark is dark purple, striped white. 8m.

### **Acer x conspicuum 'Phoenix'**

The amazing winter bark colour is a bright orangey-pink with pure white stripes and never fails to attract comment. Autumn colour is bright yellow, though it does tend to lose it's leaves early in the autumn. Avoid too wet or enclosed a site to minimise the risk of fungal problems in winter. As with so many

plants, adequately moist in summer but well drained in winter is the key to success. 3m.

### **Acer x conspicuum 'Silver Cardinal'**

This Snakebark has the most incredible pink and cream variegated foliage, highlighted by the red petioles and young stems. It occurred as a chance seedling of *A. pensylvanicum* and received an Award of Merit in 1985. Our stock is directly derived from the original seedling in the Windsor Great Park. Unless your soil is very good, it is safest in dappled shade. 3m.

### **Acer x conspicuum 'Silver Vein'**

A hybrid between *A. davidii* George Forrest and *A. pensylvanicum* *Erythrocladum* found at Hilliers about 1960. It is arguably the best of the basic snakebarks for garden suitability and good colour with its rich purple and white striped winter bark, becoming green with maturity. 5m.

### **Acer davidii**

Delightful small tree noted for dazzling autumn colour and attractive white striped purple bark in winter. Flowers and fruits more reliably than many too, which just adds to its considerable attraction.

### **Acer davidii 'Cantonspark'**

A slender, upright selection perfect for small gardens, with slightly smaller leaves too. Purplish-green bark sports the famous white striations.

### **Acer davidii 'Cascade'**

A charming cultivar derived from *A. davidii* 'Serpentine', from which it inherits its weeping habit and very pendant branches. Best staked when young to the desired height and left to weep from there. Perfect therefore for the smaller space.

### **Acer davidii 'Karmen'**

A wonderful tree to add to our range of Snakebark Maples with the typical white striped bark. This one however, boasts chocolate brown young growth which turns reddish green through summer before developing rich orange and yellow autumn colours. It flowers freely too, resulting in attractive bunches of seeds to add to the autumn display. 4m

### **Acer davidii 'Purple Bark'**

This Dutch selection from 1988 is derived from the subspecies *Acer davidii* ssp. *grosseri*, which explains the characteristic three-lobed leaves. More compact than most snakebarks, the white-striped purple bark is as beautiful as any in winter.

### **Acer davidii 'Rosalie'**

I very much like this relatively recent (1985) Dutch cultivar. The young growth opens a delightful chocolate colour, eventually maturing to green. Although the bark is a pleasant green with white striping in summer, it really comes into its own in winter when it turns a rich reddish-lilac colour, highlighting the white striations.

### **Acer davidii 'Serpentine'**

To my mind the most graceful of the snakebarks with smaller leaves and graceful gently arching habit. Winged seeds freely produced, creating a very attractive contrast. Wonderful orange autumn colours complement the lovely purple and white striped bark. 3m

### **Acer forrestii 'Alice'**

This remarkable chance seedling has striped pinkish bark in winter, but its distinguishing feature is the summer leaf colour.

Although they unfurl green, they soon turn a gorgeous, almost metallic, mix of white, cream and dark pink. This is particularly pronounced on the young growth. It makes a well branched shrub or small tree. Ironically, this plant was introduced in 1981 by a Dutchman, from seed collected at Westonbirt Arboretum, Gloucs! 3m

### Acer griseum

Surely needing no description here save to remind you of the stunning peeling bark which gives it its name of "Paperbark Maple" and the gorgeous orange autumn colours. At 15 years old and 4-5m, our tree has now really got going and looks absolutely fabulous, particularly when the winter sun shines through the exfoliating bark. I have now planted a group of 3 together for really serious impact!

## JAPANESE MAPLES

by utilising dappled shade where possible.

Japanese Maples are surprisingly adaptable to soil conditions. Their most definitive requirement is for a constant moisture level around the roots. Extremes must be avoided but any normal soil should be adequate, provided this constant moisture level can be achieved. This is usually the greatest difficulty experienced when growing them in containers.

They are totally hardy in terms of winter cold. Their enemies in this country are water-logging and the dreaded spring-frosts! Thus avoid known frost pockets and site amongst established planting for wind protection. Do not be tempted to apply excessive fertilisers as this can result in vulnerable soft growth.

### The ideal site....

Most of the green cultivars are remarkably tolerant of the sun, as are the purple selections. Most of these actually need good light in order to have good colour. Generally the newest of these hold that purple colour for longest. By contrast, the more delicate variegated forms benefit from semi-shade to prevent unsightly leaf scorch.

Leaf scorch occurs when the moisture is lost from the leaves faster than it is replaced. Several factors will cause this; wind, dry soil or sun. Theoretically, any Maple can be grown in a sunny site if the soil is sufficiently moisture retentive. However, this does not necessarily protect it from sudden gusts of wind or very intense midday sun. I suggest it is safer to give them a buffer

### The ideal plant.....

There are literally hundreds of cultivars of *Acer palmatum*! I doubt that we will ever have them all, although my collection swells alarmingly every year! Indeed we have now dedicated a whole polytunnel to our stock plants. We are working to select a comprehensive range of garden worthy forms which together encompass almost every combination of leaf colour, stem colour and habit imaginable (and a great many which you would never imagine!) There really is a Maple to suit every one.

### Sizes

This is such a difficult issue with Japanese Maples as there are so many factors which can influence it. Potentially they will continue growing for a long, long time. Many live to over 100 years old! However, the size in 10 or 15 years is more relevant to most people. The danger with planning too far ahead is that it can take seemingly forever to actually reach the size you want. Also it is generally the case that the more vigorous selections are tougher in less ideal conditions because they have the vigour to grow through adversity. I have given a guideline size based on this for 10-15 years.

### Nomenclature

Another sticky issue! Elsewhere I have checked all my spellings and names against Plantfinder. However, with *Acers* I have followed the nomenclature and spelling (I hope!) in Peter Gregory's revision of *Vertrees' Japanese Maples*.

## Specimen Plants

It can be tricky to find a plant that will make the right size in the required timescale, that will also grow fast enough to get there. This is where the specimens can be worth their weight in gold.

Select a 6' high plant to fill that gap which will never get much taller! Every gardeners dream! I have tried to give an idea of size to help, but do consider timescale. If in doubt, please ask me!

Although some do have attractive flowers and seeds, it is for their foliage that *Acers* are best known. Some have almost fluorescent pink or orange colours in spring as the new leaves unfold. Then, during summer there are yellows and greens, pinks or reds, and all manner of variegations from which to choose. Their vivid displays of colour in the autumn, however, must be second to none, with their incredible reds, oranges and yellows.

Once you have decided upon the colour, then you must consider the habit. A dwarf specimen in the front of the border or do you imagine it in a beautiful planter on the patio? Perhaps a large tree is needed to hide an eyesore, or another size somewhere in between?

Then there is the leaf shape; the dissectums are famous for their feathery beauty, but consider the daintiness of the narrow linearilobum types or the impact of the bigger leaved forms.....

**Japanese maple prices start at £21.00 or £24.50, but lots of larger and more established plants are available in a variety of sizes. Please ask for details.**

### Acer japonicum 'Ao jutan'

Best described as a slightly more refined version of *A. japonicum* 'Green Cascade'. By that I mean that it shares the same delightful deeply incised, graceful foliage but the growth habit is more compact, lacking the flamboyance of 'Green Cascade' in full flow.

### Acer japonicum 'Green Cascade'

The leaf is similar to *A. japonicum* 'Aconitifolium' but a little smaller and more lacy, whilst the whole plant is of much more weeping habit, more akin to the popular *Acer palmatum* Dissectum group. For extra height, train a strong stem up a cane before allowing side growth to weep.

### Acer japonicum 'Lovett'

### Acer 'Pacific Sunset'

(*A. truncatum* x *A. platanoides*) This incredibly useful and handsome tree was introduced by an Oregon nursery in 1989. Intermediate between its parents in size, it is a tough and tolerant

tree, grown primarily for its gorgeous autumn colours of yellow-orange through to bright red. Perfect therefore for a difficult site which would preclude the planting of a more delicate Japanese maple.

### Acer palmatum 'Alpenweiss'

What an amazing colour this one is! The deeply divided leaves are so symmetrically variegated; with a rich pink margin fading to almost cream in the middle where it meets a vivid green band along the mid ribs. As with all variegateds, shade is essential.

### Acer palmatum 'Amagi shigure'

I'm told that the name means 'soft drizzle', but don't let that dampen your enthusiasm for this lovely, and indeed unique cultivar. The deeply divided leaves have a beautiful shape with out even considering the colour. In spring the pink veining is exquisite, then the purple tones richen through summer before turning bright red in autumn. It forms a fairly squat shrubby tree, of gently arching habit.

<p><b>ACER sizes and availability</b></p> <p>Remember that there are a multitude of sizes available; from the babies, 2 year olds start at £21.00 or £24.50 up to a limited number of superb specimens at over £600, with many in the middle between £50 and £200. We do not buy in, everything we sell, we grow ourselves, so I don't have all varieties in all sizes all of the time.</p> <p>We find that Acers establish better from a larger plant. They are priced by age not by size - the latter varies enormously between cultivars. The older (ie more expensive) plants will be bigger of course, within the parameters of the</p>	<p>habit of that particular cultivar. But the most important thing is that they will be bushier and more substantial. Thus they have more energy reserve within themselves, and can "live off their fat" to a greater degree until established. If a small plant gets frosted in the spring, it doesn't always have enough energy to be able to sprout a second time. A larger plant will have that extra reserve, and is up out of the frost that much more anyway. A larger plant can also absorb more excess water in winter, even when dormant. Conditions need to be that much nearer to perfect for the smaller ones - they have little margin for error.</p>
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#### **Acer palmatum 'Ao seigen'**

(Previously listed as 'Seigen Aureum') A real rarity! Bright reddish-orange new growth turns creamy-green in summer. This small bushy plant can be rather delicate as a result of its reduced chlorophyll content, so do treat it to an extra special site, out of the wind and sun, to enjoy its fragile beauty.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Arakawa ukon'**

One of the toughest small palmatus, similar to 'Nishiki gawa' which we've enjoyed for a number of years. The difference here is essentially yellow autumn colour rather than red, and a much more compact habit. The bark similarly gradually develops the corkiness associated with pine trees.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Aratama'**

I always derive huge satisfaction from gradually building up stocks of a new and exciting plant, to reach the point where I can finally let some go. This is one such occasion. One of my favourite small Acers, the purple leaves are unique in colour and shape. The growth is dense and stubby as befitting a true dwarf. Due to its lack of vigour, it can be tricky to grow in difficult conditions, but spectacular in a nice pot. 1m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Ariadne'**

A recent introduction from Holland where it was named after the raiser's granddaughter. The deeply cut, but not lacy, purple leaves are vividly marked with pink and white with conspicuous veining. I also find the striated silvery winter bark attractive. Definitely one of my favourites! 2m high with broad, arching habit.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Azuma murasaki'**

"The purple of the East" The deeply divided leaves are a purplish red with an undertone of green showing through, contrasting well with striking bright red petioles. White pubescens (hairs) on the young growth gives an attractive "dusty" appearance. A bushy grower, eventually to 6m with graceful rounded habit and cascading outer branches.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Beni gasa'**

A rare broad, shrubby tree. The young growth is brown, which is a lot nicer than it sounds when contrasted with the bright lime-green mid vein and petioles. The deeply divided leaves give a very graceful effect. The name means "woven with golden strings" which refers to the delightful autumn colours of gold with overtones of crimson. 2-3m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Beni kagami'**

"Red mirror" Vigorous when young, slowing as it develops; with long pendulous shoots cascading to the ground. Deeply divided leaves with incised lobes, open purple red, becoming brown red in summer, then crimson in autumn. I never fail to be impressed by the wonderful silvery bark which contrasts so dramatically with the foliage, or is even worthy of planting in it's own right for winter interest. An excellent plant which gives good effect rapidly. 3-4m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Beni kawa'**

Winter bark colour is such an important feature in gardens to extend the season. Again the coral coloured bark is reminiscent of Acer palmatum 'Sangokaku', but it doesn't get quite so large. 3m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Beni komachi'**

"The beautiful, red haired little girl" The leaves are smallish but with a longer central lobe. Bright pinky-red new growth is reminiscent of the Corallinum group, eventually turning scarlet for the autumn. Excellent for bonsai or garden. Young growth can be vigorous and arching, densening with maturity. Dwarf to 1.5-2m.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Beni maiko'**

"Red, a dancing girl" Brilliant scarlet pink young leaves fade to greenish red with prominent red veins. Twiggy habit to 2m. Well suited to container culture and garden.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Beni otake'**

This cultivar has been described as "bamboo like" due to the long, narrow, almost finger like leaves, which are purple. An upright plant, originally from Oregon, USA. Brighter red young growth is repeated again in autumn with vivid crimson colours. 2-3m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Beni shigitatsu sawa'**

I love this group! The 7 lobed leaves are deeply divided with prominent veining. The young growth is pink, becoming more green and white. The pinky red autumn colours are quite stunning as the veining becomes more defined again. Broad and shrubby in habit. The exact colours will be determined by light levels - more purple tones in open, sunnier sites. 2-3m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Beni tsukasa'**

Another beauty that is so hard to describe! Think of the new growth of 'Corallinum', but imagine it in a shade closer to orange. Small leaves and twiggy habit. 2-3m.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Berry Dwarf'**

A delightful dwarf of upright habit which we acquired from Australia. Very much a classic palmatum in leaf shape and colour, it is pleasantly vigorous when young. Excellent orange autumn colours. 1m.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Bonfire'**

see Acer palmatum 'Seigai'

#### **Acer palmatum 'Bonnie Bergman'**

An Australian cultivar almost unknown in Europe, which is a shame because it is gorgeous. A distinct colour, but oh so difficult to describe. Nearer purple than green, having wonderful subtle shades and lovely habit, not stiffly erect yet not floppy and untidy. 4m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Burgundy Lace'**

Attractive in habit and leaf. Deeply divided, lacy purple leaves though not a dissectum. Arching habit, about as wide as high. 4m

### **Acer palmatum 'Calico'**

We obtained this charming cultivar from Australia. Essentially vivid orange in spring, like 'Katsura'; it doesn't grow quite so large. Fantastic therefore for pots or smaller gardens.

### **Acer palmatum 'Coonara Pygmy'**

This dwarf Australian cultivar is highly sought after. It rapidly forms a delightful dense upright mound and is surprisingly vigorous as a young plant. Fresh green foliage becomes fiery orange in autumn. 2m

### **Acer palmatum 'Coral Pink'**

This lovely form was selected in the Kalmthout Arboretum, Belgium in 1965. However, it was not named until 1985. This gives an idea of the work that needs to be put into "new introductions"! A small upright shrub, the new leaves are a striking coral pink, turning to a yellow-green in summer. It prefers a sheltered site out of full sun, but we have been impressed by its vigour. Wonderful. 1.5m

### **ACER dissectum group**

Perhaps the archetypal Japanese Maple, these have lovely finely divided fern like leaves and (with the exception of 'Seiryu') develop a mushroom like habit. Choose from a wide range of colours - green or rich purple for a sunny site or cream margined and variegated in shade. Watch out for summer drought and avoid exposure. The perfect complement to a pond or spectacular in a pot on the patio.

It can be useful to gain initial height by training a strong shoot up a cane. Even if you want a weeping plant, this height will establish a framework for it weep from.

It may not be technically correct to use the word dissectum in all their names, but it does make it clearer which cultivars have this special leaf shape and associated habit.

### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Autumn Fire'**

Arising as a chance seedling in Oregon in 1979, this pretty cultivar was finally named in 1996. It is less pendulous than the usual mushroom-shaped dissectum, though still quite broad. Pink edged pale green new growth matures to mid green in summer before taking on spectacular red autumn colour. Deeply toothed substantial leaves make this a really rewarding plant to grow. Expect 2m by a greater width.

### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Baby Lace'**

I love this superb dwarf cultivar, which was the first witches broom from a dissectum to be selected; in the early 1980's in America. The finely cut leaves are considerably smaller than normal dissectums, emerging a reddish orange in spring before becoming bronze-green for the summer, and orange to pink in autumn. Although vigorous when young, it is unlikely to attain more than a metre in any direction, and will require a sheltered site, particularly when young. If anything is worthy of pampering, this is it! Few only.

### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Barrie Bergman'**

A recent Australian selection, that is slow growing so perfect for pot or garden. Rusty red-purple summer colour turns orange red in autumn. This cultivar stood out for me last summer - they looked fantastic and kept their colour well under difficult weather conditions.

### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Berrima Bridge'**

This Australian selection is vigorous as a young plant, but not upright. Thus it seems to naturally attain a wonderful quirky and Oh so "Japanese" shape. It really is very distinctive when seen amongst other dissectums. Young growth is green, becoming

flushed with red or bronze through the summer, which is actually the other-way round to how most colours develop. Autumn colours are complex shades of orange as the nights draw in.

### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Crimson Queen'**

This traditional selection of the red dissectums is still one of the best. The graceful feathery leaves are a persistent deep purple-red colour. It will also endure periods of high summer temperatures with the minimum of leaf scorch. Vivid scarlet autumn colour. Forms a neat, dense mound. 1m

### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Emerald Lace'**

With a name like this, it hardly needs a description, save to comment on what a great plant it is! Yellow young growth quickly turns to rich green lacy leaves on very pendulous branches, becoming a wonderful burgundy red in autumn.

### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Felice'**

So distinctive, yet so hard to describe! Classified as red-leaved, it's really not that simple. Yellowish young foliage contrasts dramatically against purplish-green mature leaves. These leaves are even held differently, almost bunched up at intervals, yet in a most pleasing manner. Bushy mounded habit.

### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Germaine's Gyration'**

An unusually vigorous American selection, with cascading branches which twist as they descend. The green leaves are coarser than most dissectums, giving spectacular red, orange and yellow autumn colours. Eventually this will be much wider than it is tall.

### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Heartbeat'**

Another Australian cultivar, this one has bright reddish-purple foliage which becomes scarlet in autumn. A good vigorous selection.

### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Inaba shidare'**

This can be a fast growing cultivar of more open and less cascading habit. The deep purple leaves hold their colour well all summer.

### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Irish Lace'**

Bright pink new foliage contrasts with the mature leaves, becoming green with pink then bronzed, rather crumpled edges, all held on elegant long red petioles. Typical mounded, cascading habit.

### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Lionheart'**

A very new purple dissectum. It is distinctive due to it's upright, more tree-like habit. Consider it be a purple equivalent of A. dissectum 'Seiryu'. The purple leaf colour is maintained well all summer before taking on wonderful red tones in autumn. 3-4m.

### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Midori no tei boku'**

Why can't I find this listed - either in the books or on the web I ask myself...? Well, this is certainly the name I acquired it under, and it came to me from one of the foremost maple growers in the USA. Whatever the case, it is a handsome cultivar. Essentially green, it is a darker green than many of the other dissectums. Perhaps not as weeping as some; a bit more statuesque one might say.

### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Nigrum Select'**

Yet another red dissectum, easily recognisable by the silvery hairs on the young leaves which are dark purple. Often irregular in growth, its uneven shape makes it popular for planting over

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ponds or for bonsai, although they can look spectacular in any setting.

#### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Orangeola'**

A superb selection with distinctly cascading habit, so it will stay low growing even though it is potentially vigorous. It is characterised by the bright orange-red young growth, which turns a rich red green as it matures. The leaves are larger than most in this group. Late summer will see the display continue with dramatic contrast of new and mature foliage, before they develop dark red and fiery orange autumn colours. Although vigorous as a young plant, it stays low due to its very arching habit.

#### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Otto's Dissectum'**

There is little information available about this new cultivar. I wonder who Otto is or was! However, it is extremely lacy and forms a delightful mound, fundamentally green, but flushed with bronze in spring.

#### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Pink Ballerina'**

This unique colour break occurred here as a sport of Acer dissectum 'Nigrum Select'. Thus the base colour is a deep rich purple, whilst scattered across the branches are leaves of the prettiest pink. What a fantastic combination! Good light is important to give good colour, but avoid midday sun to protect the variegated portions. Typical mushroom like growth habit.

#### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Red Autumn Lace'**

The name says it all really! Reddish bronze tinges the new green leaves, which mature to various shades of green. However, that wonderful red autumn colour is preceded by an eye-catching parade of yellow and orange. Broad, cascading mound to 3m x 4m.

#### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Red Feather'**

Essentially a variation on the infamous 'Red Filigree Lace' but I find this one to be a better garden plant even though the rich reddish purple leaves are every bit as feathered as its cousin.

#### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Shojo shidare'**

Deep maroon foliage intensifies with maturity, suffused down the centre of each lobe with rich green. More slender cascading habit than many lends itself to caning up to gain instant height and structure for a truly dramatic effect.

#### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Spring Delight'**

My thanks to Talon Buchholz for this one; his own introduction. It is gorgeous in spring when the new growth unfolds in spring with subtle shades of pinkish red edging the green leaves. A rewardingly vigorous and satisfactory plant of typical dissectum size and shape.

#### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Sunset'**

This selection has quite distinctive colouring. The young growth is flushed orange, maturing to yellow green before developing wonderful autumn colour. As with so many, the exact colour will be influenced by the light levels. Typical in shape, it is very tidy in habit since the leaves tend to all lie along the same plane, nor are they "over-dissected".

#### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Tamuke yama'**

A Japanese cultivar dating back to 1911, but still strangely

unknown. Bright red young growth quickly turns purple, holding well all summer before turning bright red again in autumn. Cascading habit, with good vigour when young.

#### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Vic Pink'**

This is an Australia cultivar which has slightly coarser, dare I say "shaggier" foliage. Not sure who Vic is/was, but the pink manifests itself in a slight pinkish-bronze flush through the young leaves. Bright scarlet autumn colour is some of the best.

#### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Viridis'**

This classic form of the green cut-leaf maple can eventually get surprisingly large, but will take a great many years to do so! Wonderful yellow autumn colours often become bright red dependant on weather conditions. Equally effective in a pot, border, by the pond or as a specimen in the lawn.

#### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Waterfall'**

Large, deeply divided bright green leaves and strongly cascading habit distinguish this hardy and beautiful cultivar. The leaves tolerate full sun quite well. Autumn colours are yellow, flushed with crimson. The original plant in New Jersey, USA is now over 70 years old and is 3m high by 4m wide.

#### **Acer palmatum dissectum 'Watnong'**

A delightful selection with deeply divided leaves. The youngest growth is a bright pink, relatively quickly toning down to a bronzy green. This gives an ever-changing range of subtle colours, the exact shades of which will be determined by the light levels. Not a vigorous grower, but seemingly fairly well behaved! Some authorities suggest that this is synonymous with 'Baldsmith' - I've kept my stocks separate "just in case".

#### **Acer palmatum 'Edna Bergman'**

New to us from Australia, the general appearance of this cultivar is reminiscent of 'Osakasuki', but to date we have found it more vigorous and more upright as a young plant. In the autumn it stood out over all others as having the most vivid red autumn colour. An excellent strong and well behaved plant. 4-5m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Enkan'**

Of the linearilobum group with narrow, strap like leaves, this is a gorgeous Japanese selection. The rich wine-red colouring is held well all season. Slow growing, but makes a wonderful bushy miniature tree. 2m.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Fascination'**

It is thought that this distinctive cultivar may be derived from A. japonicum 'Aconitifolium', based on its shape and habit. It is fast growing, with large bright coarsely serrated green leaves up to 10cm across. These open yellow orange in spring and turn orange again in autumn. The bark is also attractive, being green with notable white striations.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Fior d'Arancio'**

This Italian introduction has bright orange red young growth, maturing to green with overtones of bronze and copper red, dependant on light levels. The large leaves are deeply lobed and toothed. Growth is sturdy - expect the mature plant to be of broad habit. Autumn colours are lovely reds. 4m

#### **Acer palmatum 'First Ghost'**

I am indebted to Talon Buchholtz for sharing his "Ghost Series" with me. Part of the Reticulatum Group which I love anyway, this one opens with wonderful peachy colours before maturing to cream tipped with rose pink and highlighted with green veining. Delightful, but needing a shady spot.

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#### **Acer palmatum 'Glowing Embers'**

If you have a hot garden, then this could be the maple for you! Selected (and still thriving) at the University of Georgia in southern USA, this cultivar is renowned for its heat tolerance. Its also pleasingly fast growing, making a small tree of graceful, slightly arching habit. The leaves are classic palmatum in their shape, and turn from a restful green in summer to a kaleidoscope of colour in autumn.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Golden Pond'**

The name is intended to conjure images of a golden lake...since this cultivar will grow considerably wider than tall and develops bright golden yellow autumn colour. Through the summer it is mid-green, but I notice a bronze tinge to the young growth which is quite distinctive. Otherwise it is similar in leaf shape and colouring to 'Hogyoku' - though the habit is quite the opposite.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Green Trompenburg'**

A vigorous plant of open habit potentially to 10m. It can be tree like or shrubby according to your mood. The large 7 lobed leaves are rich green, developing striking orange-yellow autumn colours.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Haru iro'**

Another of my more recent acquisitions from the USA which is poorly documented in both literature and on the web. However, from my experience with it, I would describe it as distinctly upright though not especially vigorous. The leaves are large and rounded enough to make me wonder whether it might be of hybrid origin, with *A. shirasawanum*. The colour is quite remarkable too, though not easy to describe, being a glorious mixture of orange-red and copper, with some green tints thrown in for good luck (according to light levels actually).

#### **Acer palmatum 'Ichigyoji'**

This Japanese selection was actually introduced in 1911. It is outstanding for autumn colour. People comment on it every year! The leaf is the same shape as the better known 'Ozakasuki' but the colours are vibrant orange-yellows. 3-4m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Inazuma'**

The translation of the name, "the thunderer" gives a feel of this plant; with rich, deep purple foliage maturing to dark purple-tinged green. The leaves are deeply divided though not as a dissectum. Scarlet autumn colours light up this hardy, vigorous small tree, to 6m or potentially more.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Japanese Sunrise'**

The same principle as the better known 'Sangokaku', the fantastic winter bark is a more orangey shade of coral-red on the upper exposed side of the twig, and yellow-orange on the lower sheltered side; most effective, particularly when planted to catch the low winter sun. Essentially green in spring and summer, the autumn colours are a wonderful kaleidoscope of yellows, oranges and reds. Tolerant of full sun once established, upright when young but maturing to a broad flat topped tree. 5m

#### **Acer palmatum 'JJ'**

Elegant in habit and leaf. Deeply divided and toothed, rich purple leaves.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Karasu gawa'**

Very similar to 'Asahizuru' and 'Oridono nishiki'.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Kihachijo'**

"Tree from the Island of Hachijo" The larger leaves are bright green developing distinctive autumn colour of blends of yellow-gold through orange and red, all with rosy tones. This is a reliable, sturdy small tree of angular, almost layered growth. Attractive striated bark is of winter interest too. 3-4m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Kinky Krinkle'**

This little American cultivar is such a cutie. I don't normally like those with strange foliage, but this one just works! The leaves don't look diseased, just prettily crinkled and clustered together. Wonderful in a pot too, and fantastic orange to red autumn colour. Unlikely to reach much more than 1m tall.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Koriba'**

Another surprise here, when the leaves open purple against the bright green stems. Most effective. Upright habit. 3m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Mardi Gras'**

A fun American cultivar reminiscent of 'Oridono nishiki' and the like, but perhaps with even more variegation. Pinks and whites abound so give it shade.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Matsuyoi'**

Larger, less divided leaves than many cultivars unfurl a light yellowish green before maturing to a clean bright green. However, the distinctive feature is the haphazard way in which it holds its leaves - as if they've been thrown onto the plant rather than carefully laid out. Effective autumn colour in all shades of orange. Forms a broad headed small tree to 3m.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Melanie'**

Another member of the 'Corallinum' group with fluorescent pink young leaves. Yet this one stands out to many people who see it here on the nursery.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Mimaye'**

Quite distinctive once you've seen it, but how to describe it... Upright in habit, but very bushy within that structure, the bright green leaves are longer, narrower and with more rounded lobes than is typical. Autumn colours are a fantastic bright yellow to pale orange. This is a cultivar that really impresses me more with each passing year.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Mirte'**

A distinct cultivar from the van Gelderen stable with very large, deeply lobed leaves which are a mid chocolate-brown on emergence in spring, marked with pretty green veining and a soft pubescence. They become deep olive green through summer and yellow-orange in autumn. It is a strong growing upright tree to 5m.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Mizuho beni'**

Another cultivar new to our range which is not well known! Originating in the States, this exciting plant resembles 'Katsura' with its incredibly vivid orange spring growth. However, this comes into leaf as much as 3 weeks after 'Katsura', which could be most useful to those of us fighting the dreaded spring frosts. 3-4m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Mon Papa'**

A handsome shrubby tree eventually wider than it is tall. The leaves open purple but may fade to olive brown depending on light levels. Brilliant orange and red autumn colours. Our stock plant now looks truly magnificent and never fails to attract attention. 3m

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#### **Acer palmatum 'Mon zukushi'**

A good tough Maple with attractive young growth where the green is flushed with red. Green summer colour takes on brilliant orange and red autumn colours. Sturdy growth, vigorous when young to 4m.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Murasaki kiyohime'**

The yellow green leaves have contrasting red margins and lobes when young. Slow growing to 1-1.25m and densely branched. Lovely yellow autumn colour. Superb.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Mure hibari'**

The leaves of this charming Maple have been described by one Japanese writer as "like a crystal of snow". I regret that my descriptions are less elegant. Almost a dissectum in shape, but not quite, the leaves are green tinted with brick red at the edges when young. Yellow to crimson blends of autumn colour. An upright strong growing plant to 4m.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Musashino'**

(Previously listed as 'Nomura') This ancient cultivar was introduced from Japan in 1896. It is fast growing shrubby tree to 8m by potentially as much wide in the end. The bold purple leaves are quite shiny, particularly when young. Good red autumn colour.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Nishiki gawa'**

Commonly known as the "Pine Bark Maple" after its corky, furrowed bark. Forms a bushy but upright, strong growing tree. Leaves much as the species in shape and colour. This description doesn't really do justice to an excellent plant which is perfect for more natural planting schemes and less ideal conditions. The autumn colours are truly outstanding too. 5m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Nuresagi'**

"The Wet Heron" is one of the more puzzling translations! A good deep purple giving lovely red autumn colours. Perhaps not the easiest to grow but superb colour for those endowed with good conditions. 2-3m

#### **Acer palmatum 'O kagami'**

An excellent purple cultivar which maintains colour well all summer and develops vivid scarlet autumn colours. The name means "the mirror" which reflects the intensity of colour of the almost shiny leaves. 3m

#### **Acer palmatum 'O sakazuki'**

A broad headed small tree and one of the best palmatus for autumn colour, with fiery displays of crimsons and oranges lasting for two weeks or more. At potentially 10cm across, the leaves are some of the biggest too, flushed rose when opening before becoming rich green. Beware of inferior seedlings! Our material came from the beautiful mature trees at the Savill Gardens, Windsor. 4m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Ogon Sarasa'**

"Gold Calico Cloth" An American cultivar; the leaves unfold brick-red in the spring before turning bronze green in summer. The 7 lobed leaves are deeply divided. I love this group of ever changing subtle colours. 4m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Okukuji nishiki'**

A strikingly variegated upright plant. White and cream on a base

of powdery green, often with whole leaves cream. New leaves are tinged pink. 3m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Okushimo'**

This is quite distinct due to the dark green leaves being quite stiff with each deeply divided lobe being rolled upward along its margins almost forming a tapering tube. Vigorous when young, it forms an upright vase shaped plant to 4m but only 1-1.5m wide

#### **Acer palmatum 'Omato'**

this is essentially a purple palmatum which fades (rather subtly actually) through summer. Pleasant orange autumn colours.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Orange Dream'**

This recent Italian introduction is one of my top ten! The orange spring colour is not quite as vivid as that of Katsura, but this one is a much brighter yellow in the summer. It is very upright in habit, certainly as a young plant. As with so many, light levels will determine the exact foliage colour. Too much shade will result in lime green rather than yellow foliage, whilst too much sun (in relation to the moisture retentiveness of your soil) can bleach or even burn them. 4m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Oridono nishiki'**

Perhaps the most reliable variegated of its group. Lots of pink bits, even on strong growing young plants! A handsome dense shrubby tree. 3m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Oshio beni'**

Not just another purple leaved maple, this is at the orange end of the red spectrum, rather than the purple end. Particularly bright new growth and vivid scarlet autumn colour are the highlights of the season for this sturdy upright tree. 4m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Peaches and Cream'**

It was selected as a seedling from 'Shigitatsu sawa' in Australia in 1980. The familiar reticulate variegation is overlaid with tones of pink and salmon. Shrubby in growth to 3m. Best in a sheltered shady site.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Peve Multicolour'**

A variegated cultivar with a difference - rather intermediate between the true variegated group and the reticulate group. Orange-pink emerging leaves mature to cream overlaid with green speckles, all highlighted with dramatic green veining. Shade is essential for all this type.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Red Baron'**

It's funny how a plant can "speak to you" as my son puts it, but for no obviously apparent reason. And so it is for me with this one. Essentially a simple purple leaved palmatum, yet somehow this one stands apart. Its brilliant red autumn colour was truly awesome last year. Tidy, rather upright small tree.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Red Pygmy'**

Although reaching only 2m in 25 years, this sturdy upright plant is surprisingly vigorous when young. Of the linearilobum group, the dark purple spring colour fades to green in the summer before becoming yellow and red in autumn. It holds its colour better than its predecessor, 'Atrolinere', yet is not as dainty as 'Enkan'.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Rising Sun'**

The fiery autumn colours drew my attention to this one. Although not a particularly new cultivar, it is not as widely known as it deserves to be. The leaves are slightly smaller than

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average, emerging surprisingly golden in spring before turning green. Autumn colours start an unremarkable deep purple, but progress through all the bonfire colours in the most spectacular manner, finishing a golden orange before dropping in exhaustion. Tidy, bushy headed small tree.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Ruby Ridge'**

Large leaves with pointed lobes give this one a very different appearance to most cultivars. The young growth is a bright reddish-purple, becoming darker as the summer progresses. Upright, compact habit.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Ryuzu'**

Another desirable dwarf to 1m. The small pale green leaves are overlain with tones of pink or red with serrated margins.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Samidare'**

It means "Early Summer Rain", but don't hold its name against it! The leathery leaves are large at 10-12cm across. Upon unfolding, they are tinged pink but almost immediately turn a fresh green. Golden yellow autumn colour speckled crimson is quite distinctive. Sturdy grower. 4m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Sango kaku'**

This wonderful plant surely needs no introduction! The "Coral Bark Maple" is so called due to its brilliant coral red stems in winter. The young leaves are tinted and margined orange, becoming green, with striking orange and yellow autumn colour. An upright grower. Beware of variable seedlings! We have selected this form for superior bark colour and vivid young growth. See also A. palmatum 'Eddisbury'. 4m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Saoshika'**

The star-shaped bright green foliage is almost translucent, tipped red and an even brighter yellow green when young. It is more bushy than tree like, with the leaves held horizontally, giving a layered effect as it develops. 2-3m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Sazanami'**

I can't believe that this cultivar was recorded in Japan in 1733! Plant a piece of history! Difficult to describe but quite unique. The leaf bases are almost horizontal giving way to 7 lobed blades. The name meaning "Ruffles" is derived from the doubly serrated margins. New leaves are orange-red, becoming dark green with red petioles. Dark golden autumn colour. Height to 6m by 3m wide.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Seigai'**

This delightful selection is known under other names, most notably 'Bonfire' in the USA. Brilliant scarlet spring foliage puts in firmly in the same league as 'Corallinum' et al, but the leaves are a little larger and slightly serrated, giving a "softer" appearance. This dramatic spring display tones to bronze and even green by late summer, dependant on light levels, before having a final fling of scarlet in autumn. Expect a bushy, but upright small tree to perhaps 4m given long enough.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Shaina'**

This one is difficult to describe! An American sport from "Bloodgood" it looks nothing like it! The almost finger like leaves have a noticeably shortened, blunt central lobe. The colour is a unique orangey shade of purple! Upright and compact at first, it becomes dense and dwarf.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Sharp's Pygmy'**

Perhaps my favourite of the dwarf group, and yet another offering from Oregon, with a dense bushy, rounded habit. The small green leaves are nicely shaped and develop deep orange to red autumn colour. 1m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Sherwood Flame'**

Very similar to Burgundy Lace, this one holds its colour into late summer a little better in drier, hotter climates. In this country, there is very little difference! 4-5m.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Shidava Gold'**

Discovered and named by John Emery in New South Wales, Australia, this is a fantastic plant. A witches-broom from 'Aoyagi', it shares the bright yellow-green bark, but is more compact. 2m.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Shigitatsu sawa'**

(syn. 'Reticulatum') A good example of the incorrect name being more descriptive than the official one! 'Reticulatum' describes the reticulate pattern of the leaves where the green veins are prominent against silvery or yellow-green interspaces. Shrubby habit and beautiful, but avoid full sun. 1.5-2m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Shigure bato'**

A rare Japanese cultivar from 1930. Red young leaves turn olive green and are incised and deeply divided, almost as a dissectum, but not quite. Gold autumn colour. Expect 2m, so smaller than most of this type.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Shin chishio'**

(Previously listed as 'Chishio Improved') This is the biggest growing of the Corallinum group with bright pinky red young growth. We find the colour to be a little less red than the others. The colour lasts well through the spring, becoming green in summer. As with all of this group, the intensity of spring colour, and the degree to which it is held through the summer will vary with the light conditions to which it is exposed. More light will result in more intense colour held longer, but watch it doesn't suffer in the summer as a result. 3m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Shin deshojo'**

This is one of my favourites with its superb bright pinky red spring colour. Similar to 'Corallinum' and 'Beni Maiko', but the next size up! It is a twiggy shrub with dark purple young stems. Perfect for pot culture or in the garden. 2m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Shinobuga oka'**

With the typical narrow lobed leaves of the Linearilobum Group, this cultivar forms a sturdy, upright small tree to 5-6m. Bright green summer colour turns to orange-yellow. There are particularly good specimens in the Maple Glade at Westonbirt Arboretum.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Shishi yatsubusa'**

An elegant yet architectural plant, with small green leaves held horizontally (almost like tiles on a roof). So simple yet so effective. Superb autumn colours.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Shojo'**

At first glance another variation on the ubiquitous purple maple. However, it is worth a further look. Young growth is a surprisingly bright red whilst even the basic leaf shape is subtly different and appealing. The strong purple summer colour is held well through the season before developing excellent bright red autumn colours. Growth is quite upright when young but will doubtless thicken out later in life. I like it very much. 3m



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#### **Acer palmatum 'Sister Ghost'**

Thanks again to Talon Buchholz. Similar in principle to the well-known 'Shigitatsu sawa', yet even prettier, with more deeply divided leaves. Shade will be necessary. Bushy habit to 2m.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Skeeter's Broom'**

I have to confess that I'm not wild about most of the witches brooms...but I actually quite like this one! Found in Pennsylvania on 'Bloodgood', it becomes more upright than most of the other similar cultivars. It also has longer leaves than most (usually with the typical truncated central lobe), and for my money is the most purple of them (although it does also exhibit the brighter, more pinky red young growth). It holds its colour well through summer before turning red again in autumn. 2m.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Tama hime'**

I would be tempted to refer to this one as a small grower although eventually it could make 4m in height. The problem is the word eventually, since in the case of Acers, it can refer to most of 100 years hence. At least I won't be here to sympathise with your dilemma. Indeed, the more pressing problem with Acers is the question of planting for the right size in 10 years time. Green leaves casually layered give a very Japanese feel to this one.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Taro yama'**

A delightful small-growing cultivar from Japan which is deceptively vigorous when young. The young growth is an attractive yellow-orange with deep pink margins, changing to light green. 2-3m.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Tiger Rose'**

Another wonderful introduction from Oregon. A chance seedling from 'Azuma murasaki', rose-pink suffuses the otherwise light green spring foliage, before maturing to cream. 2m by a little less, with such a graceful, slightly pendulous habit.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Tiny Tim'**

A delightful dwarf of upright habit which we acquired from Australia. Very much a classic palmatum in leaf shape and colour, it is pleasantly vigorous when young. Excellent orange autumn colours. 1m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Trompenburg'**

Introduced by the Rotterdam Arboretum of the same name, the leaves of this striking purple palmatum look shiny, with the leaf margins rolled down almost forming a tube. Scarlet autumn colour. Strong growing and often angular when young. 4-5m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Tsuma gaki'**

These looked absolutely fabulous this summer! The larger than normal leaves droop daintily as they unfold on this bushy plant to 2m. They are a striking yellow-green with distinct red tips.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Ueno yama'**

This tree has outstanding spring colour, arguably better even than the similar 'Katsura'. The spring growth starts early and makes a deep, bright orange splash of colour. Summer colour tones towards green before the oranges return again in the autumn. A vigorous and hardy tree which is upright when young, broadening with age. 4m.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Ukigumo'**

I love the translation of this one! "Floating clouds" is a lovely way of describing the vivid white splashes on the leaves. The young leaves particularly are also quite pink. A flamboyant little character to 2.5m which will always attract comment! Avoid full sun to prevent leaf scorch.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Umegae'**

A lovely purple leaved palmatum, but with smaller leaves than usual. They are deeply divided and finely toothed, holding their colour well all summer before turning crimson in autumn. Slow growing and suitable for small gardens. Another Japanese cultivar to have notched up its century, but still be rare in cultivation.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Uncle Ghost'**

Another gorgeous ghost! The lobes are so deeply divided, showing wonderful pinky apricot shades in spring before maturing to the characteristic boldly veined ghostly pale colours. As with the others in the group, growth is cascading rather than upright, and shade is vital.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Usu midori'**

This cultivar is very similar to 'Katsura', 'Mizuho beni' and 'Ueno yama' - bearing the same bright orange young growth. It is very poorly documented, both in literature and on the web, and I've not yet grown it for long enough to fully understand how it differs from these other similar cultivars. They are all so pretty though, it really doesn't matter which one you have - but every garden should benefit from this wonderful spring display!

#### **Acer palmatum 'Utsu semi'**

The wonderful name translates to "Skin of a Grasshopper" It actually refers to a classic Japanese romantic poem and should therefore convey romance and happiness. (Try it as a variation on a bunch of red roses...!) The bold bright green leaves are almost leathery. The stunning autumn colours are purple to scarlet, dotted with orange. Forms a rounded tree like shrub. 2-3m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Villa Taranto'**

A desirable plant introduced by the beautiful Italian garden of the same name. Upright growing to 2.5m with the same habit as 'Red Pygmy', the linear leaves unfold orange-crimson, becoming orange-green almost immediately. Beautiful golden yellow autumn colour.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Waka momiji'**

A name with attitude! A lovely plant with subtle variegation not so bright as 'Oridono nishiki'. The greeny-yellow leaves are flecked or dramatically variegated with white, contrasting with bright red stems. Orange autumn colours. Vigorous and upright to 5m.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Wendy'**

I'm taken by this one too. The rather small leaves are particularly glossy and have been described as "ivy-like". Unfurling orange-pink, maturing to bronze red and finally deep green, it is most effective. Bushy, rather spreading habit.

#### **Acer palmatum 'Wetumpka Red'**

Selected in Alabama, so this one is tolerant of heat (once established). Dark red foliage has a brownish tinge as opposed to purple, giving it a slightly different colour. 3m

#### **Acer palmatum 'Yasemin'**

A chance seedling between A. palmatum and A. shirasawanum, it is variably categorised under both species. Consider it to be a purple leaved variant of A. shirasawanum and you will begin to

understand my enthusiasm for it. Large shiny purple leaves are attractively toothed along their margins and develop lovely autumn colours. Potentially vigorous once it gets going. 5m

#### **Acer rubrum**

The classic "Red Maple" of North America was introduced to Europe in 1656. It is a truly wonderful and majestic tree, some cultivars of which can eventually reach 30m tall, but of course it will take many years to do this. An advantage of this greater stature and vigour by comparison with the Japanese Maples just described, is that it is much more tolerant of a wider range of growing conditions.

Many beautiful cultivars

have been selected for their gorgeous autumn colours. These will of course vary with the site and weather, but are usually vibrant shades of orange and red; almost fluorescent in their intensity.

I have become captivated with this species and our collection is building nicely. Many more cultivars will be available in the future.

**2 year old plants at £24.50  
Specimens will also be  
available, so please ask.**

#### **Acer rubrum 'Autumn Spire'**

Introduced in 1990 following 12 years of assessment at the University of Minnesota, this cultivar is particularly cold-hardy with an upright, almost columnar habit. Excellent red autumn colour but surprisingly pretty red flowers in spring too.

#### **Acer rubrum 'Brandywine'**

In the early 1980s, the U.S. National Arboretum was working on a research project to examine the "inheritance of fall color and leafhopper resistance, in an effort to improve existing cultivars of red maple". They crossed *Acer rubrum* 'October Glory' and *A. rubrum* 'Autumn Flame' and released this selection in 1994. Autumn colour begins red before gradually turning brilliant purple red over a long period. Fabulous!

#### **Acer rubrum 'Candy Ice'**

The forms of *Acer rubrum* are becoming increasingly popular, and this one is sure to do the same. It is quite different from the others in that has prettily variegated foliage. Each leaf is dusted with white, cream and pink, yet it seems to be amazingly vigorous and well behaved. I have never seen a mature plant, yet it seems to be amazingly vigorous and well behaved though at maturity it will be considerably smaller than its cousins. Autumn colours are as good as you would hope from the species.

#### **Acer rubrum 'Embers'**

An American selection (as indeed most of them are!) which becomes broader than is perhaps usual. Really gorgeous red autumn colours.

#### **Acer rubrum 'Firedance'**

(syn. 'Landsburg') Extremely cold hardy and symmetrical, oval shape. Brilliant red autumn colour.

#### **Acer rubrum 'Frank's Red'**

(syn. 'Red Sunset') Also American in origin, this is slightly smaller growing, making a broadly pyramidal crown. The leaves are larger than usual so increasing the impact of the rich autumn colour, even at a young age.

#### **Acer rubrum 'Northwood'**

Selected from a northern Minnesota seed source by the University of Minnesota, this cultivar is particularly hardy. Which, to be honest, is irrelevant in this country anyway!

#### **Acer rubrum 'October Glory'**

This originated in New Jersey in 1961 and is upright in habit. We grow these trees for their autumn colour, and this one certainly gives value for money as it tends to hold the leaves longer into the autumn than many. The fantastic fiery crimson and rich orange autumn colour develops reliably in less favourable sites too. A splendid large tree.

#### **Acer rubrum 'Red King'**

I can't find any detail about this one; suffice it to say that it has excellent red autumn colour! But there's more to it than that...it stood out this last autumn as being something rather special. It also branched more freely than most, though as it is still relatively new to us, I will reserve judgement as to whether that is typical of the cultivar or just the way they grew this year. Definitely one for the future and already one of my favourites.

#### **Acer rubrum 'Scanlon'**

An American selection of upright, columnar habit. Expect the width to be approx. one quarter of the height as it develops. Bright orange initial autumn colour matures to purple red before leaf fall. Very tolerant of dry soils.

#### **Acer rubrum 'Schlesingeri'**

The autumn colour is a darker red on this form than in the others I list. A rather more subtle difference is that the leaves have a slightly more wavy edge. Selected at the famous Arnold Arboretum in Massachusetts as long ago as 1896. Potentially a large tree, but as always with maples, over a long period of time.

#### **Acer rubrum 'Somerset'**

(*A. rubrum* 'October Glory' x *A. rubrum* 'Autumn Flame') Fantastic new selection, though from the USA seemed appropriate for us here in Somerset! From the same research program as 'Brandywine', and the same parentage. Vivid red autumn colour and rich red bark particularly noticeable in winter. Gardeners in milder locations often struggle to find trees which colour well in autumn. This selection appears to fulfil this requirement, with excellent colour reported in Georgia, southern US.

#### **Acer rubrum 'Summer Red'**

It can be difficult to differentiate between these spectacular trees, so this one is particularly exciting. The summer foliage is quite definitely suffused with purple to make it really stand out in the landscape.

#### **Acer rubrum 'Sun Valley'**

(*A. rubrum* 'Red Sunset' and *A. rubrum* 'Autumn Flame') Another great recent introduction from the USA. This tree really does glow in the autumn.

#### **Acer rubrum 'Tilford'**

An older cultivar, dating back to 1949. Less common, rounded head shape. Autumn colour varies with the season, but potentially changing from bright red through to orange.

#### **Acer rufinerve 'Albolimbatum'**

(Correctly called *A. rufinerve* 'Hatsuyuki') An attractive small bushy tree with the leaves strongly variegated with white, particularly at the margins. The bark is usually green, but in winter becomes purplish green with white striations and a white bloom. The best colour is shown by mature plants and those on poor soil.

#### **Acer rufinerve 'Winter Gold'**

This is effectively indistinguishable from *Acer rufinerve* 'Erythrocladum' Here the winter bark colour is an amazing shade of amber with faint white striations and a ghostly silver sheen.

Truly remarkable. 2-3m

#### **Acer shirasawanum 'Autumn Moon'**

This originated as a sport from the well known Acer shirasawanum 'Aureum' on an American nursery in 1978. Here the leaves are a softer lemon yellow and are suffused with an orange red glow. Having observed them avidly last summer, I am delighted to report that this is now my favourite Acer (what a fickle person I am!) I love the way the leaves are held almost flat to give a gently layered impression and the colours were just gorgeous, continuing their display into the autumn. It seems to have better vigour than it's cousin too, but as so often the exact nature of the plant will be determined by it's conditions - light and soil moisture levels. 3m

#### **Acer shirasawanum 'Kawaii'**

Apparently Kawaii is the Japanese word for "cute" which pretty much sums up this dwarf selection! The deeply dissected leaves are orange-red to bronze in colour. Compact of habit, it is unlikely to exceed 1m in 10 years.

#### **Acer shirasawanum 'Mr Sun'**

A little known (and almost un-described) cultivar from the US, this one is growing on me. It has been very slow to grow away here, which supports the suggestion that it is unlikely to exceed 2m. The leaves are larger and more rounded than is typical of A. palmatum...leading me to wonder about A. shirasawanum influence in its genes perhaps? Apparently it was named in recognition of the resemblance of the slightly pointed-lobed leaves and a child's drawing of the sun with its rays; lime-green summer colour turns bright sunshine-yellow in autumn.

#### **Acer shirasawanum 'Ogura yama'**

This Maple is unique. The light green young growth in spring is covered in fine hairs to give a silvery appearance, which disappears as the growth ripens to green. Autumn colour is a dependable scarlet. Some authorities include this cultivar under A.sieboldianum. It grows slowly to become a multi branched tree to 3m.

#### **Acer shirasawanum 'Palmatifolium'**

The maple for those who cannot grow maples! With the vigour of A.shirasawanum but the large 11 lobed leaves are reminiscent of A.palmatum. Happy in full sun without scorching and not fussy about soil conditions. An excellent plant. 6m. Brilliant scarlet and orange autumn colours, slightly earlier in the season..

#### **Acer shirasawanum 'Sensu'**

(A. shirasawanum x A. palmatum) The name means "fan" which aptly describes the leaf of this delightful hybrid from Oregon. Imagine the leaves rustling in the breeze, just like a fan in motion. Essentially green leaves develop fantastic autumn colours. Expect 3m x 2m.

#### **Acer sieboldianum 'Sode no uchi'**

A dwarf selection, the bright light green leaves are the smallest in the species, and shaped very much as those of A. palmatum. Predominantly bright yellow autumn colour is highlighted by red tones. Forming a rounded bush, it is happy in either border or container and is popular for bonsai use owing to its naturally compact habit.

#### **Acer tegmentosum**

This handsome small tree from Manchuria is arguably the hardiest of all the snakebark maples. It remains small and lightly branched so that the bold leaves and white striped bark can be appreciated with ease. This is such a tactile plant. The winter

stems are covered with a white bloom, which sadly rubs off when caressed! 4-5m

#### **Acer tegmentosum 'White Tigress'**

One of the best recent selections of snakebark maple; youngest twigs are glossy purple, gaining the characteristic white striations with maturity. Yellow autumn colours add to the display.

#### **Acer x conspicuum 'Candy Stripe'**

A fabulous new selection that is thought to be a hybrid between Acer capillipes and Acer pensylvanicum. The dramatic winter bark has a dark purple background, heavily striated with white, whilst the young shoots are a rich reddish purple. The leaves are definitely different, having more rounded lobes although maintaining an essentially triangular outline. 5m.

#### **Acer x conspicuum 'Elephants Ear'**

When you see the leaves on a strong growing plant, the reason for the name is obvious! Up to 30cm long and 20cm wide! The bark is dark purple, striped white. 8m.

#### **Acer x conspicuum 'Phoenix'**

The amazing winter bark colour is a bright orangey-pink with pure white stripes and never fails to attract comment. Autumn colour is bright yellow, though it does tend to lose it's leaves early in the autumn. Avoid too wet or enclosed a site to minimise the risk of fungal problems in winter. As with so many plants, adequately moist in summer but well drained in winter is the key to success. 3m.

#### **Acer x conspicuum 'Silver Cardinal'**

This Snakebark has the most incredible pink and cream variegated foliage, highlighted by the red petioles and young stems. It occurred as a chance seedling of A. pensylvanicum and received an Award of Merit in 1985. Our stock is directly derived from the original seedling in the Windsor Great Park. Unless your soil is very good, it is safest in dappled shade. 3m.

#### **Acer x conspicuum 'Silver Vein'**

A hybrid between A. davidii George Forrest and A. pensylvanicum Erythrocladum found at Hilliers about 1960. It is arguably the best of the basic snakebarks for garden suitability and good colour with its rich purple and white striped winter bark, becoming green with maturity. 5m.

#### **Acer x freemanii 'Autumn Blaze'**

This delightful American hybrid between A.rubrum and A.saccharinum makes a small tree of upright habit. The leaves resemble A.saccharinum in shape and develop lovely orange autumn colours. Easy to grow on most normal soils, it is also rapid when young.

#### **Aesculus glabra**

Anyone who searched diligently for conkers as a child will be familiar with the classic horse chestnut, which makes a big tree. However, there are smaller growers which have ornamental flowers in early summer (held in large upright panicles) as well as those typical spiky seed pods. Many have good autumn colour too. The Ohio Buckeye is native of south east United States and forms a small to medium sized tree. The flowers are yellow-green.

#### **Aesculus indica 'Sydney Pearce'**

Changing continent, A. indica comes from the Himalayas, but this rather gorgeous cultivar was selected at RBG Kew back in 1928. The flowers are wonderful - essentially pink, but with flushes of yellow and white. Very nice.

### **Aesculus x neglecta 'Erythroblastos'**

(A. flava x A. sylvatica) A slow growing, medium sized tree which bears pale yellow flowers, but its main attraction is the brilliant shrimp-pink young growth as it emerges in the spring. It then turns to a more muted pale yellow-green, but that initial display is quite spectacular.

### **Agapanthus campanulatus**

A departure from our usual range, but who could resist the intense blue colours of these? These are all hardy deciduous forms which survived last year's difficult winter. Much hardier than their evergreen cousins, they die back to a fleshy rootstock in winter. It is important that this is well insulated, so if growing them in a pot (where they can flower exceptionally well) remember to put it up against the house over winter for added protection. There are numerous named cultivars these days, but for me, this species is hard to beat. I don't need the massive flowers of some of the hybrids; indeed I actually prefer these smaller heads...and the richness of that blue is just breathtaking!

### **Agapanthus 'Jack's Blue'**

By comparison with the species, this one has slightly larger flowers, of a slightly lighter blue.

### **Agapanthus 'Navy Blue'**

Smaller heads of rich, dark blue flowers.

### **Agapanthus 'Silver Mist'**

Such a difficult colour to describe...a sort of silvery lilac. Very delicate. Large flower-heads.

### **Agapanthus 'Wolga'**

This is a rather choice cultivar which stood out for me the first year I went in search of agapanthus. Good sized flowers of a superb deep, slightly purple blue.

### **Amelanchier x grandiflora 'Autumn Brilliance'**

As the name implies, this lovely form was selected for particularly attractive autumn colours.

### **Amelanchier x grandiflora 'Ballerina'**

We used to grow this many years ago. I recently realised what an undervalued genus Amelanchier is and vowed to add to our collection; the first step being to propagate those cultivars which we already have. This hybrid has huge creamy white flowers, clearly displayed against the rich green foliage. Wonderful autumn colour is almost a bonus.

### **Amelanchier x grandiflora 'Rubescens'**

The pinkest of the group, with bronze young leaves. The flowers are deep pink in bud, opening paler.

### **Arbutus 'Marina'**

This is a handsome hybrid with larger leaves than the more familiar A. unedo. In fact, it is bigger in every way. It seems to be quite happy on limey soil (not extreme though) and the extra vigour gives it a little more resilience to adverse conditions, retaining the lovely peeling bark. If you have dreamt about growing A. menziesii but had neither the soil nor the climate, then this could be the plant for you!

### **Arbutus unedo 'Atlantic'**

This one has the white flowers of the species, but is more compact. Not particularly dwarf (larger given time than 'Quercifolia' below) just a nicer looking plant than the basic A. unedo. Strawberry-like fruit and lovely bark are typical of the genus. Evergreen of course - as are the others.

### **Arbutus unedo 'Quercifolia'**

The smallest of the group, with distinctive wavy edged foliage, named after their resemblance to oak leaves. Flowers and fruit are typical of the genus.

### **Arbutus unedo 'Rubra'**

This traditional version of the "strawberry tree" needs little introduction. Red tinged pitcher like flowers hang in bunches in autumn, before developing into the strawberry like fruits which give it its name. Attractive peeling bark too. It has surprised me how well ours has done on our heavy alkaline clay.

### **Arbutus x andrachnoides**

This hybrid between A. andrachne and A. unedo is extremely versatile being totally hardy and more lime tolerant than is appreciated. Year round interest is provided since the cinnamon-red peeling bark is most attractive, and it produces bunches of pitcher shaped flowers in late autumn and winter. Slow growing, it can eventually become a small tree.

### **Azara microphylla 'Variegata'**

I have been amazed at how hardy this tree actually is. In a "sheltered site here, it happily survived -12 degrees last winter without dropping a leaf. To put that into perspective, the Pittosporum next to it practically defoliated! Small leaves brightly edged with cream make it a lovely foliage plant. Vanilla scented yellow flowers are produced on the undersides of the twigs in early spring. 4m

### **Berberis 'Baby Bear'**

This cute little dwarf is our own selection. A seedling from 'Goldilocks', the name is a tongue-in-cheek reference to Goldilocks and the Three Bears. This one just had to be 'Baby Bear' because it stays so small and compact. The original plant was about 1m in all directions after 10 years, despite the stature of its parent. Happily it has also inherited its prolific golden flowers.

### **Berberis 'Goldilocks'**

(B. darwinii x B. valdiviana) This splendid vigorous shrub was introduced by Hilliers. It has large glossy green leaves, bronzy when young and many large golden yellow flowers in spring. Blue berries. Great for screening too.

### **Berberis koreana 'Red Tears'**

Large shrub of arching habit. The young growth is red, as is the stunning autumn colour. The yellow flowers are large and are followed by hanging bunches of red berries. Do the "red tears" refer to the berries or to the result of the thorns...?

### **Berberis thunbergii 'Darts Red Lady'**

Not our normal type of plant, but yet again I have been seduced by a little chap looking fabulous in the garden. Bigger than the truly dwarf forms, yet a tidy and compact grower, the foliage is a wonderful rich ruby red holding well all summer and contrasts beautifully with the small cream flowers in spring. In autumn, it positively drips with red berries. Easy position.

## Betula

Silver Birch are one of the loveliest small trees giving winter interest with their fabled white bark, but are you aware of just how many other bark colours there are to brighten up your winter garden?

We have planted a group of different coloured birches together, which will become the focal point of a winter bed. The different colours will enhance each other to maximise their effect as they mature. It's so exciting watching them develop.

If you are uncertain which to

choose, do come and look at our stock plants; their differing characteristics are becoming clearly evident.

Birch are very tolerant trees and will grow in most soils - they thrive here on our horrible heavy clay. They are easy to grow and best of all grow quickly when young. There can be no surer way of achieving a woodland area than with a glade of birch of whichever colour.

It will take a couple of years for the true bark colour to show though, so be patient - it will be worth it, I promise you!

**All Betula are priced from £32.00**

Ask if you need help with your selection

### Multi-stemmed birch.

In addition this year there will be a number of plants with multiple stems per pot. They will be derived from 'Polar Bear' so are sure to give you fabulous sparkling white bark. Please ask for details.

There will also be a very limited number of older, **more mature specimens** available from the open ground.

### Betula albo-sinensis 'Bowling Green'

The species *albosinensis* is a classic, originally introduced from China in 1910 by renowned collector Ernest Wilson, making a medium tree with glossy leaves on slightly rough shoots. This lovely selection has rich chestnut bark, with similarly coloured buds and catkins which are freely produced. Rich outer bark peels to reveal a paler under layer.

### Betula albo-sinensis 'China Ruby'

Considerably less vigorous than the species, so eminently suited to small gardens, this is a very dramatic tree. The rich pink bark can appear almost scarlet when wet.

### Betula albo-sinensis 'Chinese Garden'

From the same batch of seed as 'Bowling Green' (which is proving to be more difficult to grow), the rich pinkish bark of this one is darker by comparison. Slightly more dainty and upright in habit, certainly as a youngster.

### Betula albo-sinensis 'Kenneth Ashburner'

A vigorous, upright selection. The cinnamon coloured bark peels to reveal a pinky red under layer which is initially covered in a white bloom, giving a silvery pink effect.

### Betula albo-sinensis 'Ness' (Clone F)

The rich chestnut bark peels to reveal a deep pink under layer beneath the ghostly white bloom. Bushier habit than some.

### Betula albo-sinensis 'Pink Champagne'

Also from the Ness Gardens seedlings, this selection from seed collected by the Chinese Forestry Service in the Gansu province of China really stands out amongst its peers. The bark becomes an intoxicating orangey-pink...so hard to describe, but paling beneath a white bloom over the surface.

### Betula albo-sinensis septentrionalis 'Kansu'

This is a wild collected selection of good vigour. The bark becomes coppery-tan overlaid with a distinct bloom.

### Betula albo-sinensis septentrionalis 'Purdom' 752

This graceful tree develops a light airy canopy (great for underplanting). The deep maroon-pink bark has a blue-white bloom.

### Betula apoiensis 'Mount Apoi'

This Swedish selection is extremely hardy. The orangey red bark peels away to reveal a pale tan layer beneath.

### Betula 'Conyngham'

A seedling from var. *septentrionalis*, but with pinky stems fading to cream, this one is a little more vigorous. Sometimes classified as a hybrid with no specific epithet, I have listed it here to

indicate its allegiance to this species.

### Betula costata (Rosemoor)

I'm afraid that I have naming issues with this one. I have listed it under this name for the time being because that is how it is labelled at Rosemoor. The tree can be found down on the edge of the winter garden where it is just one of the most beautiful birch I have ever seen. I have long coveted it, and we were most grateful to receive scion wood last winter. However, research suggests that some years ago there was confusion in the trade, with plants of *B. ermanii* 'Grayswood Hill' being distributed under the *B. costata* label. The latter seems to be a fairly undistinguished species in point of fact, and not a truly "garden worthy" tree. We do grow 'Grayswood Hill' of course, but for now I'm keeping the two separate, growing them side by side to monitor whether in fact they appear the same. So if you want to recreate the beautiful Rosemoor tree at home, then this is the one you want.

### Betula dahurica 'Maurice Foster'

Rich red shaggy stems peel to reveal a silvery grey underbark. A lovely contrast. Well suited to northern, colder areas.

### Betula dahurica 'Stone Farm'

A Chinese species usefully more tolerant of drier soils than many other birch. The very dark bark exfoliates in curly cinnamon like flakes to reveal a pinky layer beneath. Relatively compact habit and twiggy growth make this a great choice for a more difficult site.

### Betula ermanii 'Blush'

Originally derived from the plant in the Sir Harold Hillier Arboretum, the peeling bark is pinky orange. Good yellow autumn colour.

### Betula ermanii 'Fincham Cream'

A lovely selection with the typical exfoliating bark and graceful habit of the group. This one reveals a lovely creamy bark as the older layers peel away.

### Betula ermanii 'Grayswood Hill'

This very fine selection, originally obtained from the Savill Gardens at Windsor, has distinct pink to orange peeling bark and rich deep yellow autumn colour.

### Betula ermanii 'Hakkoda Orange'

Originally collected on Mount Hakkoda, northern Honshu, Japan; this selection reveals noticeably more orange bark.

### Betula ermanii 'Mt Zao'

Selected at Stone Lane Gardens, this cultivar is quite unique. A greater amount of purple in the bark, coupled with prominent

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Please ask about larger specimens or if you need help with your selection.

bands of lenticels creates a dramatic striped appearance to the bark.

**Betula ermanii 'Pendula'**

This is a lovely graceful tree. Unlike some weeping cultivars, it produces a leader, and it is the side branches which weep. Lovely yellow autumn colours and subtle creamy bark complete the display.

**Betula 'Fetisowii'**

The pale tan bark is almost the colour of chamois leather, and is covered with a snowy bloom. Thought to be a wild hybrid, it can become larger than many Birch.

**Betula 'Hergest'**

Anyone who has visited Hergest Croft Gardens in Herefordshire will be familiar with this majestic tree. Although it occurred there as a self-sown seedling, it is assumed to be derived from *B. albosinensis*. The light coppery-brown young wood matures to a warm pinkish-cream, seeming to glow beneath wavy-edged, heart shaped leaves.

**Betula medwedewii 'Gold Bark'**

The species hails from the harsh conditions of the Transcaucasus, so you know this one is going to be tough. Although likely to grow larger in the better conditions of cultivation than in the wild, this is still only ever a large shrub or small shrubby tree. It tends to be one of the more colourful birch species in the autumn, but the greatest asset of this cultivar is golden brown bark. Anything less like the archetypal white-barked birch would be hard to imagine!

**Betula nigra 'Heritage'**

This American selection of the river birch has become the standard against which all others are measured. Dramatic pinkish brown peeling bark reveals glossy white stems. Vigorous and eminently suitable for damp sites.

**Betula nigra 'Little King'**

A real gem! This selection becomes a multistemmed bushy shrub rather than a tree. So masses of shaggy peeling bark right where you can see it! Brilliant in the winter garden, the woodland, or really anywhere. Grown from cuttings so the bark can be appreciated right down to the ground!

**Betula nigra 'Peter Collinson'**

*B. nigra* was introduced from its waterside habitat of eastern North America by Peter Collinson, who received material from John Bartram in the early 18th Century. This selection was collected in Canada by French plantsman Aurélien Hémono (to whom I am indebted for his generosity) and named in honour of the original introducer. I am told that it is even better than 'Heritage', so I'm really looking forward to seeing this one develop.

**Betula papyrifera 'St George'**

The paper birch is a large tree with characteristic papery bark and yellow autumn colour. On this vigorous selection, the orange-brown bark peels to reveal a white underlayer.

**Betula papyrifera 'Vancouver'**

This is the most vigorous birch we grow. If you are in dire need of a bigish tree quickly, then this is the one for you! Wonderful

yellow autumn colour late in the season makes autumn last long into winter. Ours has made 10m in less than 10 years.

**Betula papyrifera var. cordifolia 'Clareville'**

Selected from wild collected seed in the Clareville area of Newfoundland, this is quite different to the usual paper birch. In fact it more closely resembles *B. ermanii* in the way the pale golden-orange bark peels. This is a sturdy tree, with thickly textured heart-shaped leaves, each apparently stamped with deep veins.

**Betula pendula 'Bangor'**

This is a vigorous upright tree, but is unusual with its pretty cut leaves. A beautiful graceful small tree.

**Betula pendula 'Dark Prince'**

These purple foliaged birches are so pretty because there is such lovely contrast between the rich dark foliage and the whitening bark. This one has a more pendulous habit than 'Royal Frost' our other purple offering.

**Betula pendula 'Silver Grace'**

"Silver Grace" totally epitomises the characteristics of our native lady of the woods and this selection captures the true beauty of those features. Tall, elegant with light and airy foliage gently cascading from silver bark...what more could you want!

**Betula 'Polar Bear'**

A lovely easy to grow, strong, sturdy tree displaying wonderful pure white branches and trunk.

**Betula 'Royal Frost'**

(*B. populifolia* Whitespire x *B. Crimson Frost*) This fabulous American introduction gives a wonderful contrast in any Betula glade, having as it does rich burgundy coloured leaves all summer. Attractive yellow-orange to red autumn colour.

**Betula szechuanica 'Liuba White'**

Another excellent collection by Roy Lancaster. The name may be a bit of a mouthful, but the tree is gorgeous. Vigorous form with almost blue-green leaves and brilliant white bark.

**Betula utilis 'Fascination'**

Originally attributed to *B. utilis*, as a young plant it seemed to tally with that classification. In recent years I've become aware of it being listed as an *albosinensis* cultivar, and as our plant has matured, I'm now starting to see the possible relationship with that species. The outer bark may be a rich mahogany, but underneath there lies the distinctive silvery pink characteristic of *B. albosinensis*. The maturing limbs and canopy have a grace to them that is so often absent from *utilis* too. Clearly confusion and debate continues because Plantfinder lists it twice... under both species. Oh dear.

**Betula utilis 'Forrest's Blush'**

Renowned plant hunter George Forrest originally introduced this pretty small tree which develops a satiny white bark, flushed with pink. The leaves are small and glossy, whilst showy catkins are freely produced in spring.

**Betula utilis var. jacquemontii 'Doorenbos'**

This is one of the original selections of silver birch. Often incorrectly known simply as *Betula jacquemontii*, this is the plant many people associate with the concept of winter bark interest.

**Betula utilis var. jacquemontii 'Fastigiata'**

As the name suggests, an upright, columnar selection giving a

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Please ask about larger specimens or if you need help with your selection.

pillar of the beautiful white bark.

**Betula utilis var. jacquemontii 'Grayswood Ghost'**

Fast becoming a classic amongst silver birches, true plants of this cultivar have arguably the whitest bark of all. Consider it to be a creamy white rather than a bluey white!

**Betula utilis var. jacquemontii 'Inverleith'**

(syn. 'Edinburgh') This is a wonderful form of a classic tree. Coming from Edinburgh Botanic garden, its habit is tidily and sturdily upright without being fastigiate, but the bark quickly starts to peel to reveal the gleaming white layers beneath.

**Betula utilis var. jacquemontii 'Jermyns'**

The vivid white bark of this vigorous, Hillier named selection is retained into maturity, whilst it has the added attraction of very long catkins (to 17cm).

**Betula utilis var. jacquemontii 'Moonbeam'**

Where space is at a premium, consider this smaller growing tree. It still has the beautiful white bark though.

**Betula utilis var. jacquemontii 'Silver Shadow'**

Selected at Hillier's, this one has an open habit and larger leaves, which combine with the dazzling white bark to give a very dramatic effect.

**Betula utilis var. jacquemontii 'Snow Queen'**

A showy tree with as gleaming a white trunk as you would expect from this species. The leaves are larger than in some selections, and it is more open in habit.

**Betula utilis var. jacquemontii 'Trinity College'**

A newer selection notable for it's smaller leaves and generally smaller growth habit. The gleaming white trunk is apparent from an early age.

**Betula utilis var. occidentalis 'Kyelang'**

A Devon selection with pure white peeling bark, but also the white resinous buds are conspicuous in winter.

**Betula utilis 'Wakehurst Place Chocolate'**

This is something a little different. With it's rich chocolate coloured bark, this is the darkest of the group. We have planted a group of different coloured Birches together, which will become the focal point of a winter bed. The different colours will enhance each other to maximise their effect as they mature. I can't wait to watch them develop.

**Buxus sempervirens**

I'm sure that traditional "Box" needs no introduction, save to explain why we have added it to our eclectic range. This is one seriously versatile plant! We all know it for hedging, topiary and pot culture, but I value it for its evergreen protection in a woodland setting. Very tolerant of dry conditions beneath trees, it will provide shelter for those precious woodland bulbs and early perennials.

**Buxus sempervirens 'Elegantissima'**

The same principle as the species above, but with a little more colour to brighten a darker corner. Neat gold margins to the leaves.

**Calycanthus floridus**

"Carolina Allspice". As the name implies, this N.American native is wonderfully aromatic. Easily grown to form a dense medium sized shrub, it produces a mass of multi-petalled brownish-red flowers all summer. It will thrive in a hot, sunny site.

**Calycanthus floridus 'Athens'**

This incredibly unusual recent selection has greeny-yellow strappy flowers instead of the normal brownish-red.

**Calycanthus floridus var. glauca 'Purpureus'**

This differs from the above since the leaves are tinged purple beneath.

**Ceanothus 'Puget Blue'**

One of the deepest blue flowered Ceanothus. Thankfully also one of the hardier, growing again to 2m plus.

**Cedrus atlantica**

One of the most statuesque of all conifers, this wonderful tree grows quickly when young, soon developing its classical layered habit. These seed grown plants have surprisingly glaucous foliage and are perfect both for specimen planting or bonsai training. Specimens only.

**Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca Pendula'**

Beautiful blue needles but with a supremely elegant, narrow weeping form.

**Cercidiphyllum japonicum**

The pretty heart shaped leaves develop fantastic autumn colour, combined with a unique sweet smell like burnt sugar - a real feast for all the senses! In this country expect an upright growing tree of about 10m.

**Cercidiphyllum japonicum 'Heronswood Globe'**

This American selection does for Cercidiphyllum what Gumball does for Liquidambar in as much as it makes a rounded dumpy shrub rather than a large tree. A real talking point in any size garden. Complete with the familiar stunning autumn colours and aromas.

**Cercidiphyllum magnificum 'Pendulum'**

A beautiful and graceful, rare form with long pendulous branches and larger leaves.

**Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy'**

A wonderful recent introduction with deep purple heart shaped foliage which is so glossy that it looks almost artificial! Definitely in my top ten! Will make a rounded small tree. Flowers are produced following hot, sunny summers; consider them a bonus but by no means essential to the enjoyment of the plant. Wonderful translucent autumn tints. We continue to be impressed by its hardiness. This is a "must have" plant for every garden, but avoid too wet a site.

**Cercis chinensis 'Don Egolf'**

In 1984, seed was sent from cultivated plants in Yunnan, China to the US National Arboretum. Having observed the resultant plants for 5 years, one stood out as being slow-growing, compact, floriferous and sterile. It was eventually released in 2000, having been named in honour of the late Dr. Donald Egolf who was a highly regarded shrub breeder at the US National Arboretum. The twigs, branches and even the trunk will be clothed in bright red-pink flowers in early spring before the leaves. Where space is at a premium, this is the perfect small bushy tree for a hot, well-drained sunny site.

### **Cercis reniformis 'Oklahoma'**

A fantastic recent selection with masses of dark pink, almost purple, flowers. A well drained sunny site will reward with the best flowering. Few only.

### **Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Boulevard'**

Conifers have had a bad press of late, which is a shame I think, since it is so valuable to have a framework of evergreens within any garden, giving structure and protection in the winter. I just love "proper-sized" blue conifers - and this is a classic! Gorgeous shaggy blue-grey foliage but not so big as to cause a problem.

### **Clerodendron trichotomum var. fargesii**

A fantastic large shrub for autumn interest; very fragrant white flowers enclosed in maroon calyces appear in August, to be followed by metallic blue berries, still within the colourful calyces. Best in a well drained sunny site.

## **CORNUS for WINTER STEM INTEREST**

The winter can be one of the most exciting times in the garden. The long nights somehow make one appreciate every second of brightness, whilst those low shafts of sunlight have the ability to spotlight small groups of skilfully placed plants in a manner never seen during summer. Few groups of plants can better achieve this than the *Cornus* grown for their stems. We have concentrated on the flowering dogwoods for many years, but realised that this was one group which did not deserve to be ignored. They are so easily grown, no matter how horrible your soil or difficult your site, and combine well with so many other plants to catch any mood or theme. Imagine any of them with luminescent white barked Birch; try the black stemmed 'Kesselringii' against a golden evergreen like *Ligustrum lucidum* 'Golden Wax' and

brightly coloured daffodils. Many have red and orange stems; I love these in combination with the bronze heads of grasses like *Miscanthus*. You are limited only by your imagination. Cut them down to ground level in late winter to maximise the new growth the following season; or if you don't wish to denude your clump so completely, prune on a 3 year cycle, whereby you prune 1/3 of the shoots to the ground each year, leaving the others to give cover.

As well as *C.alba* and *C. amomum* below, consider also the cultivars of *C.sericea* (includes those previously known under *C. stolonifera*)

**Large, root-balled plants at £12.00**

### **Cornus alba 'Alleman's Compact'**

(Previously attributed to *C. sericea*) A more compact form but still with good red winter stem colour.

### **Cornus alba 'Bloodgood'**

Reputedly "the showiest red stem colour of any selection" in the Arboretum at North Carolina University in the USA. What more can I say?

### **Cornus alba 'Elegantissima'**

A familiar form with bright red stems and leaves variegated pink, green and white. But just because it is well-known, does not mean it should be ignored! These are seriously valuable year-round plants!

### **Cornus alba 'Gouchaltii'**

Also well-known, this time with green and yellow leaves contrasting with red stems.

### **Cornus alba 'Kesselringii'**

Quite different, with black stems. Try planting with the whitest *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii* selections and early daffodils.

Wow! I was interested to learn that it originated as long ago as 1905, surprisingly from seed of *C. alba* 'Sibirica' at the St.

Petersburg Botanic Garden.

### **Cornus alba 'Red Gnome'**

The bark colour of this more compact cultivar is noticeably influenced by light levels - best red colours being produced in the sunniest sites.

### **Cornus alba 'Ruby'**

Selected from a batch of 'Sibirica' seedlings, supposedly for even better stem colour!

### **Cornus alba 'Sibirica'**

The classic red-stemmed *Cornus*, against which all others are judged. I shall never forget my first memory of a big block of this at Westonbirt Arboretum many years ago. Despite my excitement at all our new American cultivars, if I had to choose just the one cultivar for red stem colour, it would have to be this one.

### **Cornus alba 'Snow Pearls'**

Arguably the best of the batch for fruit production, which really does give an extra dimension to the autumn display. A slightly more compact grower (perhaps that's down to the energy expended in all that flower and fruit!)

### **Cornus alternifolia 'Argentea'**

Beautiful large shrub with tiered branches when young, which matures into a dense mound. Small leaves are strikingly edged with creamy white and flushed pink in spring and autumn. When they first open in the spring, the buds remind me of candles. Particularly striking with dew drops suspended from the twigs. Remarkably frost tolerant, especially when a little larger, this is a really good plant.

### **Cornus alternifolia 'Silver Giant'**

Our own introduction, this plant is rather exciting. Occurring as a sport on a *Cornus alternifolia* 'Argentea', the variegation is much more subtle. The central portion is an almost greyish green, whilst the margin is a silvery white. This lesser variegation makes it blend in better with a more natural setting, whilst also giving it more vigour. Thus it is a jolly good garden plant which seems very tolerant of most situations.

### **Cornus alternifolia 'Winter Surprise'**

Another of our own introductions! This one has amazing golden-coral coloured stems in winter (nearly as good as the fabled stem *Cornus*) yet with the wonderful tiered habit of this species. The foliage is almost green, but it is illuminated by the subtlest of golden variegation, according to light and fertiliser levels.

### **Cornus canadensis**

So different from our other *Cornus* that it is hard to believe it is the same genus. This is a dear little woodland carpenter growing only a few inches tall and spreading slowly. The family resemblance is revealed with the white flower bracts in early summer, then lovely autumn colour. In an ideal world, plant in groups to give a better effect.



## TREE CORNUS or FLOWERING

This attractive group of plants is not as widely known and used in this country as they deservedly are in the States. Indeed, many of the newer cultivars have been selected there. We are often asked for the species *florida*, *kousa* or *nuttallii* as many people are unaware that there are so many better selected forms.

We do not grow the species for several reasons. They would generally be grown from seed; this naturally gives rise to variation. The plants can take several years to flower and then prove to be inferior. Imagine the disappointment!

By grafting, we can perpetuate a particular feature, whether flower size, growth habit and size, colour or foliage variegation. *Cornus nuttallii* particularly

is not a happy plant in the somewhat damp British climate and prone to sudden death when grown from seed. By grafting it onto a tougher rootstock we can not only make it easier to grow, but we can guarantee its flowering characteristics.

We graft all the forms of *florida*, *nuttallii* and *kousa* onto the geographical variant *Cornus kousa Chinensis*. It is the hardiest and most vigorous, getting the young plants off to the best possible start. It also ensures that the plants will flower from a very early age.

They particularly like a moisture retentive soil, as the *nuttallii*s and *floridas* especially have large leaves which can lose water rapidly in the summer. Interestingly, we have been told of plants doing well on chalk too.

The attractive parts of the flower head are actually bracts which resemble petals and surround the tiny true flowers in the centre. These are white in the species, but there are now many pink cultivars too. Since they are bracts not flowers, they last longer, starting green and star like before expanding to a more rounded shape as the true flower opens. In some cultivars, the bracts mature to pink.

**All *Cornus florida*, *kousa*, *nuttallii*, *rutgersensis* cultivars and related plants start at £32.00**

**There are larger specimens available of many of them. Do not hesitate to ring me to discuss your specific requirements.**

### **Cornus 'Ascona'**

A small tree with gently pendulous branches. Thus it becomes clothed down to the ground with large white flower bracts in May. Vivid red autumn colour.

### **Cornus 'Aurora'**

Uniformly white flowers from top to bottom, often so densely flowered that the foliage is invisible! The flower bracts are large, and overlapping with rounded edges.

### **Cornus capitata**

Definitely not the hardiest *Cornus*, but worth trying if you have a warm sheltered site. The creamy white flower bracts are delightful, but once the large strawberry like fruits ripen the plant looks wonderful. These plants are grafted so will flower almost the first season, unlike seedlings which can frustrate for many years.

### **Cornus controversa 'Pagoda'**

A grafted form selected for its tiered habit from an early age. Eventually a large statuesque tree of distinct tiered habit. Large panicles of creamy white flowers in May followed by black fruit. Lovely red and yellow autumn colour.

### **Cornus controversa 'Troy Dwarf'**

Of course most cultivars of this species have the potential to become rather large trees (given long enough!) but this one is definitely different. With fundamentally the same characteristic layered habit, it's just the dimensions that are reduced. The young foliage is a handsome pinky-chocolate colour which is most attractive too.

### **Cornus controversa 'Variegata'**

The classic "Wedding Cake Tree" is a beautiful small tree with well-defined layered branches, wonderful creamy margined leaves and red stems. Panicles of white flowers in early summer are rather superfluous! Lovely pink and red shades of autumn colour. This can be a difficult plant to establish; although smaller eventually, *C. alternifolia* 'Argentea' is much more resilient.

### **Cornus controversa 'Variegata Frans Type'**

This distinct form originated in Northern France. The leaves are a more grey green than the classic form and the cream margin rather narrower. This results in a more vigorous tree of more robust constitution and is therefore better suited to less ideal sites. Other features are the same.

### **Cornus 'Dorothy'**

(*C. florida* x *C. nuttallii*) I am indebted to Talon Buchholz for sharing this magical plant with me. He introduced it as part of his Flora Wonder(tm) Collection of Buchholz Nursery where it forms an upright deciduous tree to some 10' in 10 years. There are other well-know hybrids between these two parents of course, but they all sit happily at the *nuttallii* end of the scale. This one by contrast appears much closer to its *florida* parentage. The flower bracts are soft white near the centre with a warm pink edge.

### **Cornus 'Eddie's White Wonder'**

(*C. florida* x *C. nuttallii*) Just to further confuse matters, there are two forms of this popular plant. We offer the true American form, which is similar to *C. 'Ascona'* with its lightly pendulous habit. The other is much more upright and more akin to *C. 'Ormonde'*. Large white flower bracts in April-May, and fantastic red and orange autumn colour.

## **CORNUS florida and its cultivars**

This species originates from the Eastern United States where they are incredibly common and disease is becoming a problem (particularly anthracnose). The Cherokee group has been bred in part for its disease resistance, which is very relevant in the States. Fortunately it is not a problem in this country. They form large shrubs or small bushy trees to approx 5m depending on the cultivar and conditions; some are quite upright, others more mound like.

They flower in May (after the *nuttallii*s but before the *kousas*) and are white in the species. Several selections of the variable *C.*

*florida rubra* have been made giving shades of pink and red.

For extra interest and colour all summer, consider the variegated and coloured leaf forms. The two basic types of variegation are cream or gold margins. There are also completely gold leaved forms. So it is possible to have any combination of leaf colour with red or white flowers! They all have beautiful red and orange autumn colours.

They thrive in well drained soil which does not dry out too much in the summer and benefit from full sun to ripen the wood for flower production. Avoid frost pockets and shallow soil over chalk is not ideal.

### **Cornus florida 'Cherokee Chief'**

One of the best pinks - vigorous upright habit and deep rose-pink bracts, though the exact colour will be determined by light levels. As with many of the *floridas*, the purplish bark is covered with a lovely white bloom in winter.

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*rutgersensis* cultivars and related plants start at £32.00**

There are larger specimens available of many of them. Please ask for details.

***Cornus florida* 'Cherokee Princess'**

Selected for its consistently prolific blooming. White bracts. More upright than 'White Cloud'.

***Cornus florida* 'Cherokee Sunset'**

Another beautiful recent introduction! The young growth is vividly flushed deep pink opening green with a broad gold margin. The extra pink colour is also reflected in the gorgeous autumn colours and deep pink flower bracts. Could this be my favourite?

***Cornus florida* 'Rainbow'**

Beautiful form with leaves margined deep yellow tinged with pink when young. Magnificent deep red-purple margined scarlet autumn colour. White flower bracts.

***Cornus florida* 'Sweetwater Red'**

One of the most vigorous pink forms, with deep pink-red flower bracts and reddish foliage.

***Cornus florida* var. *pringlei***

Given varietal status in the recent Timber Press book 'Dogwoods', this Mexican variant has proven the most robust *florida* here. Its distinguishing feature is the way in which the bracts remain fused at the tips, creating a silhouette reminiscent of a paper lantern.

***Cornus florida* 'White Cloud'**

Splendid white flowered form with large bracts. More rounded shape than 'Cherokee Princess'.

***Cornus* 'Kenwyn Clapp'**

This plant was kindly given to us by Mr Clapp; it occurred in his Devon garden as a self sown seedling. We believe it to be a hybrid between *C. kousa* and *C. capitata* along similar lines to *C. Norman Hadden*. Like its predecessor, it is semi-evergreen, keeping more or less of its foliage according to the severity of the winter. The difference is in the colour - this one has much more pink pigment. It is shown in the purple flushed foliage but more particularly through the delightful summer flower bracts which open creamy apricot before deepening to a rich pink. A superb plant, very worthy of being named.

***Cornus kousa* 'Akabana'**

A pink selection originating in Japan.

***Cornus kousa* 'All Summer'**

Nice form with dense branching and good foliage. As the name implies, its extended flowering time and long lasting bracts gives colour right through the summer. with the latest bracts often still on the tree as the berries start to ripen.

***Cornus kousa* 'Big Apple'**

Large spreading tree with heavy textured dark green leaves, large white bracts up to 14cm across and extremely large fruit up to 4cm across!

***Cornus kousa* 'Blue Shadow'**

Another fantastic American selection which seems to be extremely robust. The leaves are larger and more substantial than most, being a rich bluish green in colour. Reddish autumn colour. Long-lasting white bracts and fruit. Particularly heat

**CORNUS *kousa* and its cultivars**

These are the hardiest of the trio and in many ways the most suited to the rather damp British climate. They tend also to be more shade tolerant and will thrive in a woodland situation. However, they can be supremely effective as individual specimens.

They generally form a small tree, eventually up to 5m. Initially upright in habit they develop spreading branches which are smothered with flowers in June from almost the first year. Most years will see them flower later than the *nuttalliis* or *floridas*, so extending the season.

The bracts are usually cream or white, although

there are pinks. Their shape varies from star-like where the bracts are narrower and more pointed, to quite rounded and almost overlapping. In some cases, they unfurl as greeny star-shaped bracts initially, then open out and enlarge as they develop. Indeed, others continue to mature to a rich pink.

The rich bronze and crimson autumn colours are lovely but generally not quite as vivid as the *nuttalliis*. Variegated forms are available but there is not the diversity that there is with the *floridas*. However, some forms freely produce very attractive large strawberry-like fruits, which are actually edible.

tolerant.

***Cornus kousa* 'Bodnant'**

The young stems are distinctly purple and the large creamy white bracts are freely produced. It also sets fruit freely.

***Cornus kousa* 'China Dawn'**

A wonderful variegated selection with a broad, creamy white margin to the otherwise green leaves. I find that autumn colour is always more showy on the variegated forms as the different portions of the leaf turn colour at different rates. Much more tolerant of the environment than the frankly fussy 'Snowboy', I rate this one highly. However, do avoid a hot sunny site if you can.

***Cornus kousa* 'China Girl'**

An old Dutch selection from 1910; prolific flowering with large creamy white bracts. Upright habit. The bracts open green and mature to white. They then brown and drop. They do not mature to pink as in some cultivars, so perfect for those sticking rigidly to a white flower scheme.

***Cornus kousa* 'Doubloon'**

A tall, upright growing form; the young stems are covered in tiny silvery hairs. An exciting American selection with additional bracts around each flower cluster giving a semi-double effect. The result is an even more dramatic floral display.

***Cornus kousa* 'Fernie's Favourite'**

Thanks to Charles Fernie, previously of Grayswood Hill for this lovely plant. Thought to be an original introduction from the wild, the creamy bracts are marked with distinct pink splashes.

***Cornus kousa* 'Galilean'**

An excellent recent selection, part of the "Biblical Series" from Jim Zampini of Lake County Nursery, Ohio. Impressive, with upright habit and enormous creamy bracts, broad and rounded at the base to give a much more substantial impression. Free fruiting too.

***Cornus kousa* 'Greensleeves'**

A fast growing tree which develops a symmetrical branch structure. Large bracts are held above the glossy foliage for

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maximum effect; these maintain a surprising amount of the initial green colouring except when grown in heavy shade. This is indeed one of the very best cultivars.

***Cornus kousa* 'Highland'**

The bracts of this heavy bloomer are ivory white and the light green foliage is prettily ruffled. Broad habit.

***Cornus kousa* 'Milky Way'**

'Milky Way' is a cultivar with a confused and chequered history, having started as a seed strain and therefore initially variable. This was our initial accession under this name and has distinctive foliage, attractively mottled with white to give an extra dimension, whilst the large creamy bracts are freely and reliably produced.

***Cornus kousa* 'Milky Way Select'**

'Milky Way' is a cultivar with a confused and chequered history, having started as a seed strain and therefore initially variable. This select form came to us from the USA as having been chosen to typify the characteristics of the original plant. It is vigorous, and heavy blooming, with large over-lapping bracts.

***Cornus kousa* 'Moon Beam'**

The name of this delightful recent American introduction was inspired by the very large creamy white bracts. The blooms are inclined downwards like a moon shining through the branches. Vigorous, slightly open habit and great cold tolerance.

***Cornus kousa* 'National'**

This magnificent cultivar is of dense, rounded habit and the large flowers are very freely produced. They open white, then deepen to pink as they mature. This gives an interesting bicour colour effect across the whole plant and maximises the time of interest.

***Cornus kousa* 'Ohkan'**

I find myself increasingly shying away from the continuing stream of variegated *Cornus* becoming available. Yet this Japanese selection is definitely worth having. I can liken it to our own selection 'Greta's Gold', but, much as it pains me to admit it, this one is better! The green and yellow variegation is much cleaner and brighter. The typical white bracts in June are followed by rich orange, red and purple autumn colour, along with plentiful fruit. Not a vigorous plant though.

***Cornus kousa* 'Pollywood'**

Named after Polly Hill of Massachusetts who selected it, it is essentially white, but creamy towards the middle and subtly tipped with pink; the bracts are slightly later produced and very long lasting.

***Cornus kousa* 'Radiant Rose'**

This stunning American cultivar continues to impress me with its vigour and beautiful large pink bracts. The fruit were quite incredible too, being plentiful and large. I noted with interest that there is a tremendous difference between the fruit of various cultivars. Although ostensibly the same at first glance, these are very smooth, whilst others are quite bumpy!

***Cornus kousa* 'Rasen'**

Broad creamy white bracts are freely produced, overlapping and reflexing with maturity.

***Cornus kousa* 'Rosea' ex Rosemoor**

This material came from a very beautiful plant in Lady Ann's garden at Rosemoor, which has clearly been there for many years. It is good to know that an identical replacement has been planted to replace it when the time comes. Lovely pink bracts. I have been quoted in "Dogwoods" as proposing that it should be named 'Rosemoor Pink' to set it apart. I really should follow that through.

***Cornus kousa* 'Satomi'**

We imported this beautiful form from Japan. The dark pink flower bracts surround a central creamy eye. The bronzy foliage reflects the pink bracts, and develops lovely autumn colours.

***Cornus kousa* 'Snowbird'**

A sturdy and compact form to little more than 3m, making it ideal for the smaller garden. The bracts may also be proportionally smaller, but somehow that just adds to its elegance.

***Cornus kousa* var. *chinensis* 'Snowflake'**

The name reflects the distribution of the flowers and the graceful habit of the plant when in flower. Wrong season though! This one was selected for larger bracts which each have a distinctive wavy edge.

***Cornus kousa* 'Snowflurries'**

I can't find much information about this European selection, either in literature or on the internet. Certainly it flowers profusely for us, but I've not really grown it for long enough yet to truly understand its unique characteristics. Early signs are that it's a good one though - so if you fancy snow flurries on your lawn in June, then this is the plant for you!

***Cornus kousa* 'Steeple'**

As the name implies, this one is more upright in habit, with lovely glossy foliage which colours well in autumn. Sharply pointed creamy bracts.

***Cornus kousa* 'Summer Stars'**

The bracts are particularly long lasting, with the first fruits colouring as the last bracts fade. More purple autumn colours in the right conditions.

***Cornus kousa* 'Teutonia'**

Most of our newer selections have come from the US, but this one is European. Large creamy white bracts as expected but it is the autumn colour which sets this one apart, even in a poor year. Translucent and fluorescent oranges with the light behind them, have to be seen to be believed.

***Cornus kousa* 'Tsukuba no mine'**

Such a distinctive plant. Horizontal branching habit, which creates an effect not unlike the *Viburnum plicatum*s. Much more exclusive though and quite different to the other *Cornus* we grow. Small and narrow, pointed bracts perch on top of the thin branches.

***Cornus kousa* 'Wieting's Select'**

Selected in Germany, this form is particularly hardy, with excellent autumn colour. Masses of creamy white bracts as is to be expected from a named cultivar.

***Cornus kousa* 'Wisley Queen'**

Such is the esteem in which the magnificent specimen on Battleston Hill at the RHS Garden, Wisley is held, that it was

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eventually given a cultivar name. And this is that very plant. Statuesque and floriferous. Enough said.

***Cornus kousa* 'White Dream'**

A European selection with good-sized bracts produced prolifically.

***Cornus kousa* 'White Dusted'**

A much smaller, slower bushy plant for a shady site; the leaves are delicately flecked with cream and white. I remember the first time I saw a decent sized plant of this - I was hooked!

***Cornus mas***

year round.

This is a tremendously useful species, forming small trees or large shrubs which produce copious numbers of bright yellow flowers in February, which are particularly visible since they are displayed on the bare stems. These develop into bright red fruit in the autumn, which are perfectly edible. I'm told they make excellent jam, and they are certainly glacé and used to garnish pâté. Their flowers are reminiscent in many ways of Hamamelis, but these are so much easier to grow, being tolerant of most soil and sites. There are also several variegated selections to really give you colour all

We have a number of brand new cultivars from the States, including one with yellow berries and others bred for commercial fruit production.

In view of our increasing collection and inherent enthusiasm for this exciting yet so easily grown species, we have dedicated an entire bed in the arboretum to them. It will be fascinating to see them develop side by side where we can really compare their flowers and fruit. There is nothing to beat the cheer of yellow flowers in February!

***Cornus mas* cultivars start at £24.50**

***Cornus mas* 'Aureoelegantissima'**

This is a lovely form with brightly coloured leaves variegated pink, yellow and green. It also seems to be found under a multitude of names, but this I believe to be the current official one!

***Cornus mas* 'Golden Glory'**

Deep green leaves and very prolific flowering much younger than possible from a seedling. Large red fruits. It has recently, very deservedly, been promoted to AGM status. It is indeed a great plant, being reliable and easy to grow. 3m

***Cornus mas* 'Jolico'**

Amazingly, this German form was selected for commercial fruit production. Edible yes, but hardly worthy of orchard status. A fantastic ornamental though since masses of large vivid red berries from mid summer follow the lovely yellow flowers of February.

***Cornus mas* 'Variegata'**

Perhaps my favourite of the group, with broad white margins to the leaves. They contrast superbly with the large bright red berries. An excellent plant for year round interest. Eventually it will make a small tree, but it is better grown as a shrub since it's strong variegation reduces its chlorophyll and consequential vigour.

***Cornus* 'Norman Hadden'**

(*C.kousa* x *C.capitata*) This beautiful small tree originated at

Porlock, Somerset. Our plants are derived from the original plant now at Knightshayes Court, Devon. Creamy white flower bracts in June turning deep pink with age. Large strawberry like fruits in autumn. Happiest in a sheltered sunny site. Semi-evergreen, dependent on the winter.

**CORNUS *nuttallii*, its cultivars and hybrids**

The largest known *C. nuttallii* in this country is around 13m tall, but that is unusual! I would realistically expect nearer 5m!

There are two distinct types of growth habit; the vigorous upright grower, and the more cascading shrubby ones. The latter tends to be more typical of the hybrids with *C.florida*. All have stunning red and yellow autumn colours.

The huge flower bracts are the most spectacular in the group, often giving a second flush in September. Like *C.florida*, they need good light to ripen the wood to promote flower development. Occurring in May, the six bracts vary from star-shaped to round and over-lapping.

They range from greeny-white to cream, sometimes maturing to pink.

The cluster of true flowers in the centre of the bracts is larger than in the other species, and I was struck this last year by their scent. When they were fully open, it was delightful. I was frequently to be seen with pollen on my nose from getting just a bit too close!

See also the hybrids: *Cornus* 'Ascona', 'Eddie's White Wonder', 'Ormonde' and 'Pink Blush'. These share the same basic characteristics as *C. nuttallii*; the most obvious difference being that they have just four showy bracts like their *C. florida* parent.

***Cornus nuttallii* 'Colrigo Giant'**

This vigorous American form was named after the Columbia River Gorge in which it was discovered. It is a magnificent small tree of upright habit with enormous flower heads up to 15cm across.

***Cornus nuttallii* 'Monarch'**

A selected form of broader habit than the two previous ones, with large rounded flower bracts and purplish young shoots. Stunning bright red autumn colour.

***Cornus nuttallii* 'North Star'**

A statuesque tree of upright habit with incredibly large flower bracts and dark purple young shoots. It frequently produces a second flush of flowers in the autumn. Lovely autumn colour. The bracts do not expand to overlap, giving a star like effect.

***Cornus nuttallii* 'Portlemouth'**

This first occurred in a garden near Salcombe, Devon. It is a splendid form of upright habit with large flower bracts in May and again in the autumn, along with good autumn colours.

***Cornus* 'Ormonde'**

(*C.florida* x *C. nuttallii*) This has been given hybrid status, rather than just a form of *C.nuttallii*. A handsome small tree with the requisite large flower bracts! Superb autumn colour is almost fluorescent.

***Cornus* 'Pink Blush'**

This is such an exciting recent introduction. As it is of the same parentage, it could be described as a pink-flowered *C.Eddie's White Wonder*. It rapidly forms a symmetrical small tree to 10m and produces masses of large pink flushed flower bracts in June, darkening with age.

### **Cornus 'Porlock'**

(*C. capitata* x *C. kousa*) A sister seedling originally to the popular *Cornus* Norman Hadden, Porlock is semi-evergreen dependant on the weather and location. In sheltered sites, it can remain almost evergreen. Like its sibling, it bracts later in the summer, being at its best from June into July. The bracts open creamy white and mature to pink, going through a wonderful almost apricot phase. Due to its *capitata* parentage, it is not as hardy as the *kousas*, so site with care.

### **CORNUS x rutgersensis hybrids**

This exciting new hybrid series has been developed at Rutgers University in the U.S.A. as a result of crossing *C. florida* and *C. kousa* by Dr. Elwin Orton.

The trees have a vigorous habit to about 6m in 20 years and are all very floriferous. They all have a central leader and tend to

branch almost from the ground.

They are resistant to anthracnose and flowers last for several weeks. Bright red autumn colour is an added bonus!

They have performed superbly well here and seem to truly combine the best of both their parents.

### **Cornus 'Celestial'**

Originally named 'Galaxy', it is of erect habit but with nicely spreading limbs. The rather cupped flowers have a green tinge to them when they first open, then flattening out and turning to a brilliant white.

### **Cornus 'Constellation'**

As hinted at in the name, this one gives a more star like, airy effect as the bracts are distinctly separated. Upright in habit, becoming taller than wide, it is the most vigorous in the group.

### **Cornus 'Ruth Ellen'**

A low and spreading variety which has white flowers. It is the first of the Rutgers hybrids to bloom and the lovely flowers last a good 2 weeks. They mature to pink and look rather like handkerchiefs hung out to dry.

### **Cornus 'Stardust'**

This selection has more resemblance to its *florida* parent than the others in the group. Thus it can become heavily branched from low down, becoming wider than tall. The white bracts do not overlap as they develop, though they do mature to pink.

### **Cornus 'Stellar Pink'**

The beautiful creamy pink, rounded bracts on this selection make it most attractive. Very profuse flowering every year. Of strong upright habit, broadening with age; this a brilliant introduction.

### **Cornus 'Venus'**

This is the first release of the next generation of hybrids from the Rutgers University. In contrast to those above, it is a product of *C. kousa* x *C. nuttallii*, supposedly resulting in the largest flowers of all the dogwoods at up to 15cm across. That will be something to see for sure, though I should temper my enthusiasm by reminding you that a display of that magnitude will be dependant on appropriate growing conditions and weather.

### **Cornus sericea 'Coral Red'**

Bright coral red bark.

### **Cornus sericea 'Flaviramea'**

This classic cultivar really does complete the picture; its vivid acid

green winter stem colour contrasts dramatically with the other red stemmed selections.

### **Cornus sericea 'Hedgerow's Gold'**

This is a superb variegated clone with great vigour. Dark green leaves are boldly margined with golden yellow; superb against the deep burgundy red stems.

### **Cornus sericea 'Isanti'**

Darker stems and also relatively compact, all parts of the plant are proportionally two thirds the size of the species. There was a tremendous crop of white berries on ours last autumn.

### **Cornus sericea ssp. occidentalis 'Sunshine'**

Wonderful yellow foliage appreciates a shadier site, though that will give a colour close to chartreuse than gold. Indeed, sometimes the leaves will vary in colour, some being a single hue and others variegated yellow, gold or chartreuse.

### **Corylopsis glabrescens var. gotoana**

This has the largest leaves of the species that we grow, but they are an amazing shade of green that is almost blue. The delightful primrose yellow flowers hang in bunches from bare twigs in February. Good autumn colour too. Tolerant of alkaline soils provided that the structure is good - ie not too wet in winter, not too dry in summer.

### **Corylopsis sinensis 'Spring Purple'**

A gorgeous form with deeper plum purple young growth becoming deep purple. Soft yellow flowers in dense racemes in April. Beautiful but not the most resilient. Soil structure is all important with this one and ideally it doesn't care for late frost either.

### **Corylopsis spicata**

Distinctive heart-shaped leaves. Large yellow flowers in racemes with bright red anthers in April. Tougher than most.

### **Corylopsis veitchiana**

Possibly my favourite of the genus. Superb plant of upright habit, with long leaves often purplish when young. Large racemes of primrose-yellow flowers with conspicuous brick red anthers. This has done well even for us - heavy clay and a frost pocket!

### **Corylus avellana 'Contorta'**

The Corkscrew Hazel is aptly named when you look at the twisty stems, making this a superbly architectural plant during the winter months. Adorned with catkins in spring, the stems make tremendous additions to flower arrangements. The best thing is that these hazels are so easy to grow, thriving even on our cold wet clay in a frost pocket!

### **Corylus columna 'Tetra Red'**

Essentially a purple-leaved variant of our native hazel, this species is the more vigorous Turkish version. It forms a large shrub or bushy tree resplendent in purple foliage all summer, but don't forget to pick the tasty large cob nuts in autumn. The usual rules for purple leaved plants apply - they will have best colour in a sunny site.

### **Corylus maxima 'Fusca Rubra'**

So many of you have commented on this one! The purple foliage in summer is very handsome, but the feature to catch the eye seems to be the catkins in spring which have a sultry purple colouring, reflecting the additional pigments through the plant. This one also produces copious quantities of nuts.

### **Cotinus coggygia 'Pink Champagne'**

This is well named (American!!) as it produces great quantities of flowers that look like clouds of pink champagne (at least I'm told that's what champagne looks like!) A lovely selection, much more compact in habit, with distinctly smaller leaves. Wonderful orange autumn colour.

### **Cotinus coggygia 'Velvet Cloak'**

A lovely purple form with the velvety texture of its offspring C.Grace, but not as large.

### **Crataegus tanacetifolia**

This is a gorgeous species, introduced from Asia Minor as long ago as 1789 but still almost unknown. It is much more ornamental than our familiar wild hawthorn. The flowers are typical of the genus, but the delightful soft grey foliage is reminiscent of tansies (hence the name). However, the yellow fruit is quite spectacular, being over 2cm in diameter and reputedly juicy and deliciously apple-flavoured.

### **Cunninghamia lanceolata 'Glaucua'**

This small genus of Chinese conifer most closely resembles the infamous monkey puzzle tree (and in more recent times, the

Wollemii pine). It may be necessary to cane the young tree initially until it develops its own dominant leader. It will then grow in layers to create a much more dramatic and architectural shape than many conifers. However, it will get pretty big given enough years. This particular selection is totally hardy despite its almost tropical appearance, and has the most wonderful glaucous leaves, the bloom making the tree appear a breathtaking pale blue. Thanks to Keith Wiley for introducing me to this one and generously giving me a few cuttings to get me started.

### **Cyclamen hederifolium**

These gorgeous bulbs charm us all with their beautiful flowers bravely defying the worst of the weather from October through to Christmas. No leaf is the same with their distinctive ivy like markings. These are strong enough growers to naturalise in grass or around deciduous trees. The bright pink flowers are held up before the leaves start to show. Imagine these carpeted beneath your Silver Birch.....

### **Cyclamen hederifolium 'Silver Cloud'**

Distinguished by having pure silver leaves, with no green. Pink flowers. Wonderful for brightening a shady bed through winter.

## **DAPHNE**

Guaranteed to produce gasps of wonder or grimaces of despair, Daphnes will always inspire comment with their exquisite fragrance and beautiful flowers! I should warn you that they are addictive (a bit like Acer, Cornus.....!)

There is such tremendous variety in shape, size and colour that there really is a Daphne for every site and with this versatility, it is possible to have continuous flower and scent through most of the year.

They have a reputation for being difficult to grow, but we believe that by considering their natural habitat or by grafting them, we can give you good garden worthy plants. Their biggest requirement is a constant moisture level at the roots. If they dry out, the roots will die almost instantly and if they are too wet they will develop all sorts of nasty fungus problems! Thus, the challenge is to find a moist, well drained soil which does not dry out in summer. The first part is more important, since it is easier to add water in the summer if necessary than it is to take it away in the winter! Summer drought can be eased to a major degree by ensuring that the roots are shaded or by mulching. However, avoid organic mulches in favour of gravel to prevent too much wetness around the stem in winter which could cause it to damp off at ground level. This will allow plants to be grown in full sun that might otherwise need light shade for the sake of the roots.

Soil pH (ie whether it is acid or alkaline) is not usually an issue but consideration should be given to site. For

example, *D.cneorum* comes from the mountains on poor stony soils. It would be unlikely to thrive in heavy shade in leaf mould. Conversely, woodland plants like *D.pontica* would not be happy on the rockery. Remember that Daphnes tend to root straight down - they rarely go out sideways. Thus when planting, ensure they have opportunity to develop a good deep root run. As their roots descend, they will more easily survive the vagaries of the English summer.

Daphnes are notoriously difficult to grow in pots due to their precise water requirements.

Many will be happy, indeed, effective for a season, but the problems start when they need potting on. Compost in a pot will slump - ie it will become stale and loose the air pockets between the particles of compost which leads to waterlogging. Not good news for Daphnes. Unfortunately, they dislike root disturbance, so repotting is a risky business. Of course alpine enthusiasts have their own techniques which can result in some truly beautiful plants in pots, but it is not for the faint hearted!

We grow them on capillary beds which provide this moist but free draining situation fairly well. The plants which we sell are in 1 or 2 litre pots depending largely on the variety. Some Daphnes are slow growing and eventually will only be the size of a football. Inevitably, these cultivars will be relatively small when acquired. They will however, be well established young plants, not just rooted cuttings. They are best planted as soon as possible after you receive them. If you tease out the root and make the planting hole deeper than usual, it is possible to

give the roots added depth straight away. This will help the water situation.

The majority will be grafted (it is probably obvious from the prices which are not!) We generally use *D.tangutica* as a hardy, evergreen rootstock which is one of the easier to grow. Some people use *D.mezereum* but we cannot agree with this since it freely produces suckers which need to be removed and it cannot help to graft an evergreen plant onto a deciduous rootstock! We find that most Daphnes will root readily enough, but persuading them to grow away subsequently is another matter. Therefore, by growing them onto an established vigorous rootstock, they grow away much more quickly. Thus although they may seem to cost a little more, we would like to stress that they are good strong plants which should thrive in the garden! However, there will be some alpine types available on their own roots, grown from cuttings. Please discuss.

We have tried to make the choicer, more alpine types into useable garden plants rather than specialist plants for the collector. However, as a result of grafting, they are not suitable for growing in tufa or similar.

Please be aware that the sap of Daphnes can cause irritation to sensitive skin. The berries are also toxic.

There are never half measures with Daphnes, they either do or die! If it does not thrive, get on and move it. If necessary, keep moving it until it does thrive. You have nothing to lose!

### **Good Luck!**

This year, all Daphnes are in 2 litre pots, including the alpine types (though there are very limited quantities of those.)

### **Daphne albowiana**

Large round leaves, very similar to *D.pontica* although we find it actually does better. Unusual yellow spidery flowers in April (just before *D.pontica*) followed by red berries. Glossier leaves too! A

delightful small evergreen to less than 1m in all directions that is very happy in light or heavy shade. Great in a shady border or the woodland garden.

### **Daphne altaica**

Semi-evergreen shrub to 2m of upright habit. The fragrant white flowers occur in clusters in May-June followed by red fruits. Attractive long thin greyish green leaves. Our stock came originally from the Linz Botanic Garden, Austria! It thrives in sun or light shade.

### **Daphne arbuscula**

This is a delightful small evergreen for the alpine garden with almost disproportionately large, deep pink flowers in early summer. As always, there really are only a few, so its very much a case of first come first served I'm afraid.

#### **Daphne bholua**

*Daphne bholua* must be one of the finest winter flowering shrubs. Perhaps the most dramatic of the genus, this species and its derivatives flower in the winter. We have even had them flower for Christmas, continuing until March, dependant on the season, though their main flowering season is January to February. Expect 2m or so in height though taller than this is common in favourable woodland positions.

#### **Their scent is utterly intoxicating!**

Plant them near the front door for constant appreciation! Most are evergreen so they will enjoy shelter from cold wind. Protection from summer sun

helps prevent them drying out. They are happy in sun if their roots are shaded but they perform best for us in a shady site. Try them amongst your deciduous shrubs - when they lose their leaves the daphne will be revealed in all its glory, shortly to overwhelm the garden with its scent and beauty. Every garden should have at least one!

Although most are classified as evergreen, they tend to lose their old leaves just before the new growth starts in the spring. This also tends to coincide with the flowers finishing, so they can look rather messy for a while at this time. Overwatering at this point can kill them, so just be patient.

**All will be £24.50**

### **Daphne bholua 'Alba'**

The smallest and bushiest of the bholuas, at not quite 2m. The leaves are smaller and darker green. The pure white flowers are also slightly smaller, but produced in such profusion that their size is academic. We've even had a second flush of flowers in late summer some years. Possibly my favourite..!

### **Daphne bholua 'Cobhay Debut'**

This is our own selection. The late Sir Peter Smithers collected seed from the Daman Ridge, Nepal in 1970. These plants are grafts from a seedling from these plants. As a group they have proved to be evergreen in his Swiss garden and are doing equally as well for us too! Flower colour is slightly paler than the type, whilst I find the foliage distinctive. Slightly more rigid in the way it is held, and a rich glossy green. It just looks "well"...a superb plant in all respects.

### **Daphne bholua 'Darjeeling'**

This geographical variant is reputedly the hardiest and is certainly the most evergreen. The white flowers are flushed pink, although slightly smaller than the other varieties. The leaves are a paler green with white hairs beneath and on the stems. Weather permitting, this is the earliest to flower here, even before Christmas.

### **Daphne bholua 'Jacqueline Postill'**

The flowers are even larger, with more pink colouration and equally fragrant. It originated as a seedling of Gurkha in 1982, raised by Alan Postill, propagator at Hilliers. It is truly beautiful

but be aware that it can look a little messy for a period in the spring, after flowering as the sap starts to rise. At this stage, the leaves will yellow, hang and eventually drop off as the new growth starts. It really isn't sure whether it actually wants to be evergreen! Don't panic, don't feed or water at this stage, just give her time and her beauty will return.

### **Daphne bholua 'Lympsfeld'**

Roy Lancaster wrote a feature on *Daphne bholua* in the RHS journal *The Garden* last winter, which was accompanied in the usual way by a plate showing a photographic comparison between flowers of the various cultivars. For me, this one stood out. Although I have not grown it for very long, and therefore my experience of the plant itself is limited, plants that went in early in the new year (not my preferred time for planting) have done jolly well despite the at times ferocious weather we have endured over the last 6 months.

### **Daphne bholua 'Penwood'**

It has superb rich purple buds which open into large flower clusters in the usual way. We actually prefer this one to the popular 'Jacqueline Postill' because it holds its foliage so much better after flowering - truly evergreen rather than suffering the unflattering "moult" that afflicts 'Jacqueline Postill' for a couple of weeks each spring. We raised 'Penwood' as a seedling from a plant of *D. bholua* acquired from Doug Harris at Penwood Nurseries 15 years ago, hence the name. Just one seedling came from the seed. It stood out not only for the fact that it holds its foliage so well but also for the dramatic contrast between the rich purple buds and the large white flowers, much less pink than 'Jacqueline Postill', with just a little pink colouring seeping in at the edges of the white petals. It has an upright habit, the original plant is 2m tall and 1m wide and the fragrance is superb.

### **Daphne bholua 'Sir Peter Smithers'**

A superlative selection with large flowers, the darkest coloured of all the bholuas, and an exquisite fragrance as one would expect!

### **Daphne bholua var. *glacialis* 'Gurkha'**

This vigorous upright form is totally deciduous. The large flowers are pinkish in bud opening white. This form was collected by Major Spring-Smyth in 1962 on the Milke Banjyang Ridge, Nepal. After 10 years it was 2.1m by 1.5m.

### **Daphne x burkwoodii 'Albert Burkwood'**

(*D. caucasica* x *D. cneorum*) One of a pair of semi-evergreen seedlings raised by the Burkwood brothers in 1931. Rather unlikely parentage to have produced such a classic plant! Semi-evergreen dense and rounded to 1m. Superbly scented pale pink flowers in May-June and often again in the autumn.

### **Daphne x burkwoodii 'G.K.Argles'**

Originating in Devon, this is the strongest growing of the variegated burkwoodiis and a really excellent plant. The leaves are broader with a deep gold margin. The large flowers are quite pink in bud, opening to a pale pinky white with the usual exquisite fragrance. A must for every garden!

### **Daphne x burkwoodii 'Gold Sport'**

This superb selection comes to us from Robin White and has remarkable vigour for a plant with such pronounced variegation.

### **Daphne x burkwoodii 'Golden Treasure'**

A very different foliage effect, sporting as it does a lime green centre and a green edge to the leaves. Flowers as the type.

**Daphnes are difficult to grow.  
Be prepared that some will fail!**

#### **Daphne x burkwoodii 'Somerset'**

The sister seedling of 'Albert Burkwood', this differs in larger leaves and overall size and paler flowers. In many ways it is the better plant!

#### **Daphne x burkwoodii 'Somerset Gold Edge'**

A sport of 'Somerset', it is more robust than 'Astrid' and 'Carol Mackie'. In comparison with G.K.Argles, it is more bushy with creamier leaf margins. The flowers are the slightly paler colour typical of Somerset.

#### **Daphne caucasica**

This upright semi-evergreen is one of the parents of the D.x burkwoodii group. It has clusters of fragrant white flowers in May-June. It is closely related and similar to D.altaica from which it differs in greener leaves and yellow berries.

#### **Daphne DJHC 98164**

Dan Hinkley collected the original seed from which these plants are derived near the Tibetan border with Yunnan in 1998 from over 3000m. Here it grows into a glossy evergreen shrub a little over 1m in all directions and bears clusters of narrowly tubular creamy-white scented flowers seemingly continually throughout the summer, followed by orange-red fruit. We find it to be very shade tolerant and personally I would avoid full sun unless your soil is particularly moisture retentive.

#### **Daphne x eschmannii 'Jacob Eschmann'**

(D.cneorum x D.blagayana) A spontaneous hybrid raised in Switzerland in the 1960s, this will make quite a large sprawling mound if allowed to grow naturally, even scrambling up through neighbouring plants if allowed. The alternative is to pinch new growth as it extends, to create a bushy framework for the future. Tolerant of sunny conditions, this is extremely floriferous, with large strongly fragrant flowers opening paler from rich pink buds. The main flush in late spring is followed by sporadic flower through the summer.

#### **Daphne 'Fragrant Cloud' CD&R 626**

A wild derivative of D.acutiloba, the beautiful white flowers in April actually remind me of D.blagayana, since they are much larger than those of most Daphnes. This cultivar is quite upright in habit and the leaves are much larger. The scent is intoxicating.

#### **Daphne genkwa**

A scarce species of upright, almost straggly habit. Unique large lilac flowers all along the stems before the leaves in April. Notoriously difficult to grow but we are making progress!

#### **Daphne x hendersonii 'Kath Dryden'**

Narrower leaves than some cultivars and distinctive flower colour, being about as close to red as I've seen on a Daphne.

#### **Daphne 'Hinton'**

(D.acutiloba x D.collina) A super little shrub, in some ways reminiscent of a dwarf napolitana. Compact habit, glossy foliage and deep pink flowers in May.

#### **Daphne x hybrida**

(D.collina x D.odora) A lovely plant, but shelter from freezing winds is worthwhile since it is evergreen. The foliage is dark glossy green and the flowers benefit from the dark pink colour of collina, although they smell like odora! They are freely produced from November-January. A hybrid which gives the best of both

parents.

#### **Daphne jasminea**

A beautiful alpine with small, narrow bluish-green leaves. There are at least two forms of this, a prostrate hummock-forming plant and a vigorous upright one. This is the former. The small white flowers are freely produced with red shading on the outside and are, of course, delightfully fragrant. Our plants flower for weeks and are quite magnificent. In this country it is totally cold hardy, but it does dislike our winter wet, particularly here on our heavy clay in the wet West Country! Protect it with a sheet of glass propped over it or better still grow it in alpine house.

#### **Daphne x jintyae 'Pink Cascade'**

(D. petraea 'Cima Tombea' x D. rodriguezii) The influence of D. rodriguezii in this pretty hybrid is unmistakable, illustrated by the bright glossy, reflexed, evergreen leaves on thin twiggy stems. These are clothed by a mass of sweetly scented, though small, pink flowers in spring. Expect 45cm x 60cm. Robin White questions its cold tolerance due to the rodriguezii influence, but this will be significantly enhanced by well-drained soil of good structure. As such it survived -12 for us last winter.

#### **Daphne 'Kilmeston Beauty'**

(D. caucasica hybrid) Originally thought to be a hybrid with D. bholua, its raiser, Robin White, has now concluded that it is more likely derived from D. tangutica. This gives it enormous potential to be an excellent garden plant. Forming a bushy plant to a little over a metre in all directions, it gives the effect of a more robust, evergreen D. x burkwoodii. Rosy pink in bud and subsequently on the outside of the flower, the interior opens white before maturing to pink. These delightful flowers are sweetly scented.

#### **Daphne laureola**

This is actually a native, being widespread along woodland margins. It is therefore shade tolerant. The curious yellow-green flowers are clustered beneath the dark green leaves in February-March. Black berries.

#### **Daphne laureola subsp. philippi**

Dwarf, suckering habit with dark glossy green leaves. Dense clusters of greeny-yellow flowers in February. Shade tolerant. Ideal for underplanting trees but do ensure it remains adequately moist in summer.

#### **Daphne x mantensiana 'Audrey Vockins'**

A recent variegated sport; the foliage is conspicuously margined with gold.

#### **Daphne x mantensiana 'Manten'**

(D.x burkwoodii x D.retusa) This pretty hybrid occurred in British Columbia in 1941. It is a dense small shrub to 1m. The fragrant deep rose-pink flowers are borne freely in April-May. Indeed last year, they were still flowering in November! Dappled shade is ideal.

#### **Daphne x mauerbachii 'Perfume of Spring'**

(D.caucasica x D.petraea) There are so many crosses and backcrosses of Daphne today that it is refreshing to find a hybrid that is really different. Rich pink buds open to deliciously fragrant creamy flowers, giving that wonderful contrast between bud and open flower. Delightful tidy habit in a plant making this 2' x 2' semi evergreen a real winner. Ours tends to flower in May.



### **Daphne odora 'Aureamarginata'**

This must be one of the most sought after of all flowering shrubs and indeed must be one of the most beautifully scented. Dark pink buds open to pale pink flowers in March which are wonderfully fragrant. The green leaves are narrowly margined yellow. On our heavy clay, they do better in a shady site where they don't get so hot in summer - try it on the edge of woodland or amongst deciduous shrubs. It will generally flower there before the others come into leaf.

### **Daphne x napolitana 'Enigma'**

A superb small rounded bush, making approx. 1m by 1m. Masses of bright pink flowers in summer and sporadically through the year. Indeed, often they start in March and continue through to November. This original clone was previously simply *D. x napolitana*.

### **Daphne x napolitana 'Meon'**

(*D. cneorum* x *D. collina*) Once more hybrid vigour gets this plant off to an excellent start. The flowers are one of the largest of all our Daphnes, being pink in colour and fragrant of course. Expect 12-15" high by 2-3' across.

### **Daphne x napolitana 'Stasek'**

Originally thought to be a clone of *D. cneorum*, I am happy to follow Robin White's initiative in classifying it here. Identical in habit to *D. x napolitana* 'Bramdean', it makes a small dense shrub to approx 12" tall by 24" across. The pale pink flowers are held in profusion above leaves which are cleanly margined creamy white.

#### **Daphne odora and its cultivars**

The name tells it all! Only it is not an odour so much as the most beguiling and exquisite perfume which will waft across the garden on a warm spring day...

*Daphne odora* and its cultivars have to be one of the most sweetly scented of all flowering shrubs. I am often asked whether all forms have as wonderful a perfume, and the answer is an emphatic "Yes!"

The flowers are a rich deep purple in bud and open to almost white, creating a wonderful contrast. The green leaved species is rarely grown as it is not as hardy as the more popular variegated forms. The archetypal *D. odora Aureamarginata* has a narrow gold margin around the glossy green leaves. All these plants (indeed most of the shrubby evergreen daphnes) are essentially woodland plants. They like a par-

tially or even completely shaded site and a constant moisture level. Try them on the edge of woodland or amongst deciduous shrubs. It will flower there before the other plants come into leaf. As with all daphnes, they hate to be too wet in winter but they also detest getting too hot and drying out in summer. This is the secret to their success. A good thick mulch over their roots in spring will help keep the soil moist and cool (but don't bank the mulch up against the stem as it can cause collar rot.)

In a suitably shady site, these are not difficult plants to grow and will reward you with their fragrance. They respond well to regular feeding through the growing season to maintain the lustre of the leaves. Every garden should have at least one!

**All cultivars are priced at  
£18.00**

### **Daphne odora 'Double Cream'**

We selected this highly variegated sport here. The margins are a broad creamy white with a slightly grey green centre. Given a shady site on good soil it grows well and flowers as magnificently as it's better known cousin (which is rarely well variegated.)

### **Daphne odora 'Rubra Variegata'**

The variegation is bolder than *Aureamarginata*, and the flower buds are a much deeper pink, opening paler. This gives an attractive bicolour effect across the plant.

### **Daphne pontica hybrid**

This Daphne came to us as *D. pontica*, but the flowers are not quite spidery enough to be true *pontica*. They are more like the "typical" Daphne flower in shape and a delightful greeny yellow in colour, so we suspect that Mr Laureola came visiting! They are also quite definitely scented. The leaves are *pontica* like in shape but a particularly healthy deep green in colour. I believe it to be an exceptionally fine plant, being unusually tolerant of heavy shade and heavy clay, giving a wonderful leafy, verdant feel to the area. If however, you require the spidery yellow flower of true *D. pontica*, then *D. albowiana* is awfully similar.

### **Daphne retusa**

Surprisingly unavailable, this rewarding dwarf evergreen is very slow growing and compact. The flowers are strong pink in bud, opening white tinged purple on the outside. They occur in clusters in May-June. Sun or light shade. Very similar to *tangutica*, but smaller!

### **Daphne 'Richards Choice'**

(*D. collina* x *D. x burkwoodii*) This fantastic small semi-evergreen shrub was named after Richard Lee, propagator at Rosemoor until his untimely death in 1993. The leaves are rounder than those of *D. x burkwoodii* but more papery and larger than *D. collina*. The flowers are reminiscent of *D. x burkwoodii*, only larger. They are distinctly pink in bud, opening white flushed pink on the outside. The first flowers open in May and it continues to flower until November! Simply magnificent and the fragrance is superb too. More robust and tolerant than most Daphnes, it has the best features of both parents.

### **Daphne x rollsdorfii 'Arnold Cihlarz'**

(*D. petraea* x *D. collina*) Dark glossy green evergreen foliage makes a healthy background for fragrant dark rosy pink flowers. Bushy in habit and reliable repeat flowering.

### **Daphne x rollsdorfii 'Wilhelm Schacht'**

(*D. collina* x *D. petraea*) Very similar to the above, it is distinguished by being slightly more vigorous and having marginally paler flowers.

### **Daphne 'Spring Herald'**

(*D. acutiloba* x *D. bholua*) The name really sums it up! When this one flowers, we know that the winter is almost behind us and the days are lengthening. Almost pure white flower stud this lovely evergreen shrub, filling the air with a delicious spicy perfume. The *acutiloba* influence should make this one hardier than *bholua*, though flower size suffers a little as a result.

### **Daphne x stillwellii 'Rosy Wave'**

(*D. burkwoodii* x *D. collina*) Similar to *D. mantensiana* 'Manten', but a little smaller growing at 2'x2'. The lovely pink fragrant flowers open fully rather than the more star like appearance of *Manten*. Flowers start in May, but repeat flowering through the summer is common.

### **Daphne x susannae 'Anton Fahndrich'**

This hybrid from the continent is typical of this group, with glossy dark green leaves and bright pink flowers in April-May. Potentially 15" x 3'

**Daphnes are difficult to grow.  
Be prepared that some will fail!**

#### **Daphne x susannae 'Cheriton'**

(D.arbuscula x D.collina) Hybrid vigour makes it grow away better for us than D.collina, yet it should not get quite as big eventually. Thus, we can have the ideal plant - one which won't get too big, but which will get on and do it quickly! Flower colour is darker than D.collina, more akin to the purple of D.arbuscula. Summer flowering. 45cm x 1m

#### **Daphne x susannae 'Tichborne'**

(D.collina x D.arbuscula) make this the reverse cross of D.Cheriton. The very fragrant pink flowers are paler and larger than those of Cheriton. Expect 30cm high by twice as wide.

#### **Daphne tangutica**

One of the best Daphnes for the beginner! The prolific and sweetly scented flowers are deep pink in bud opening to almost white. They generally start in April and continue right through until the frosts of November. Red berries. It is relatively tolerant of most sites (though here it prefers light shade) but it is at its very best in a west facing position, where the evening sun will really bring out the lovely perfume. Imagine it next to the patio in the peace of a summer's evening.....

#### **Daphne x transatlantica 'Beulah Cross'**

This is a fantastic plant! Essentially a variegated form of Daphne xtransatlantica 'Jim's Pride', the leaves are margined creamy white which does not detract from the pale pinky-white flowers. As a point of interest, 'Jim's Pride' is the name now given to the North American clone of an evergreen shrub long known, grown, and labelled as Daphne caucasica, but which was later discovered to be a hybrid between that species and Daphne collina. Our caucasica (even if we do struggle to propagate it!) is definitely the real thing!

#### **Daphne 'Valerie Hillier'**

(D.longilobata x D.cneorum) Originally created by the Hillier Nurseries propagator in the 1980s, this hybrid is very much intermediate between its disparate parents, inheriting their rather open, lax habit. Happily however, it produces its fragrant pink flowers for a long period throughout the summer. Tolerant of sun or semi-shade. 1-1.5m

#### **Davidia involucrata**

Known variously as "Pocket-handkerchief tree", "Dove tree" or "Ghost tree", this Chinese tree introduced by the venerable Wilson in 1904 (following discovery by Père David in 1869) is a true classic. A monotypic genus resembling Tilia, these deciduous trees are noted for their handkerchief like flowers. In fact, these apparent petals are a pair of large but not necessarily equal bracts which attend the globular head (up to 2.5cm across) of true, tiny flowers.

#### **Dipelta floribunda**

This is a wonderful genus. They are related to Weigela which gives an idea of how easily they are grown, yet they remain extremely scarce due to propagation difficulties. However, we seem to have solved the problem and now have all three species available. This beautiful and scarce plant makes a large, upright shrub to 3m. The flowers in May are quite gorgeous, being pink with a yellow flushed throat. It's fragrant too. Equally happy in sun or shade. Surprisingly easy to grow in any soil.

#### **Dipelta ventricosa**

The flower of this one are slightly different. They are more lilac rose in colour and have a curiously swollen base.

#### **Disanthus cercidifolius**

The crimson and claret autumn colours are quite superb, making this another of my favourites. It is particularly nice because it is a species, looking as nature intended it to look; not the garish result of a breeding program! It is slow growing to 2-3m with heart shaped leaves which are strongly flushed purple. Tiny purplish flowers are produced in October. A very desirable plant but only rarely available.

#### **Elaeagnus 'Quicksilver'**

Intoxicating scent fills the air in June from inconspicuous creamy-yellow flowers. A large suckering shrub or small tree with lovely long thin silver-grey leaves. Easy to grow in most normal conditions but thrives in full sun on poor, freely draining soil.

#### **Enkianthus campanulatus 'Tokyo Masquerade'**

A delightful variant with most attractively variegated leaves. The broad margins do dictate that it needs to be planted in shade.

#### **Epimedium**

These delightful woodland perennials are perfect for underplanting trees and shrubs. Although extremely shade tolerant, they need adequate summer moisture, so avoid planting in too dry a site. Where adequate summer moisture prevails however, they will remain in lush growth all summer, and often give a second flush of flowers in the autumn.

At first, it surprised me that *Epimedium* are in the same family as *Berberis*, but there is a family resemblance in the shape

of the flower. These are produced primarily in spring, and come in all shades of white, yellow, orange and purple. To add to the spring display, many have attractively coloured or mottled young leaves. These have a reputation for being vulnerable to late frosts. However, we are definitely in a frost pocket, yet have had no problem. If they are positioned within other planting, they will be protected.

Rich autumn colour further extends their season of interest. Many people cut off the old leaves in winter to better display the emerging young growth and flowers in

spring. Although effective, this is not necessary if time precludes such labour; indeed it can make that new growth more vulnerable to frost.

A great many of them are actually evergreen and will maintain a rich carpet of foliage even through the winter. And so they really are worthwhile plants to add interest to any garden; whether at the foot of a solitary shrub or through an entire woodland.

**These are substantial plants at £8.50 unless otherwise noted.**

#### **Epimedium acuminatum 'Galaxy' L1962**

This Roy Lancaster selection has white sepals whilst the creamy white petals are faintly tinged with pink. The pretty, pale green young leaves are delicately mottled with red.

#### **Epimedium 'Asiatic Hybrid'**

This is the slightly vague name under which we acquired this

pretty plant. The yellow flower seems to retain an almost claw like appearance. However, they are very freely produced and are held tidily above the foliage.

#### **Epimedium 'Black Sea'**

This hybrid from *E. pinnatum* subsp. *colchicum* has all the latter's vigour and ease of culture. The dark green, leathery leaves turn

a glossy purple-black through winter. Creamy yellow flowers.

#### **Epimedium brachyrrhizum**

Large pale pink flowers are held above the foliage in this elegant and compact species. Similar to *E. leptorrhizum*, differing in its clump forming habit (hence the name is derived from the word rhizome).

#### **Epimedium ealcaratum Og 93.082**

The large lemon-yellow flowers which are freely produced are distinctive in their lack of spurs - instead they are bell like. The low growing foliage is a deep blackish brown as it unfurls and is strongly spined and quite dense.

#### **Epimedium epsteinii CPC 94.0347**

A handsome species with large pale lilac and purple flowers. The young leaves are an unusual pale green.

#### **Epimedium franchetii 'Brimstone Butterfly'**

As with so many, the leaves themselves are worthy of a place in the garden. They are tough and leathery, being a very pale green delicately edged in pink when they emerge in spring. However, it is almost evergreen, maintaining a carpet all winter. The flowers are basically a two-tone yellow, with paler primrose sepals and bright lemon yellow spurs.

#### **Epimedium 'Golden Eagle'**

A wonderful selection from *E. rhizomatosum*, possibly of hybrid origin. The extravagant rich yellow flowers are even bigger and more beautiful.

#### **Epimedium grandiflorum 'Lilafee'**

This one may be low growing, but it is just as vigorous as some of its taller cousins. The foliage is flushed with purple whilst the flowers are also a deep purple. Wonderful with white flowered spring bulbs.....

#### **Epimedium grandiflorum 'Nanum'**

This species is typified by a distinctly deciduous and clump forming habit. This, as the name implies, is small of flower and stature, so be careful where you plant it. White flowers look wonderful against the dramatic dark edged young foliage.

#### **Epimedium grandiflorum 'Queen Esta'**

Superb recent selection with large, bold flowers of rich pink highlighted by white spurs. Very showy.

#### **Epimedium grandiflorum 'Saturn'**

A gorgeous selection in which the dark edges to the young leaves are held for a longer time. Wonderful contrast to the white flowers.

#### **Epimedium grandiflorum 'Violaceum'**

Large flowers of a delicious pale purple, tinged with white at the tips.

#### **Epimedium grandiflorum 'Yellow Princess'**

Typical grandiflorum in as much as it is clump forming and deciduous, with pretty heart shaped leaves. However, the flower colour really sets this one apart, being the most delicate shade of pale yellow. Wonderful!

#### **Epimedium latisepalum Og 91.002**

The flowers are held an amazing 30 cm above the leathery evergreen foliage. Not only that, but the flowers are some of the biggest in the genus, so the effect is quite remarkable. The flowers are creamy white, just touched with purple.

#### **Epimedium 'Little Shrimp'**

There is uncertainty as to the origin of this pretty hybrid. It is similar to a plant grown in the US under the name *E. alpinum* 'Shrimp Girl' but it is thought to probably be a dwarf form of *E. x cantabrigense*. The sepals are a coral pink, whilst the petals are yellow.

#### **Epimedium membranaceum Og 93.047**

I love these yellow flowered forms where the large, showy flowers are held on tall stems, well above the foliage. This is worthy of a place in the garden in its own right - with the wonderful bronze-purple mottling to the new leaves.

#### **Epimedium myrianthum**

Lovely red mottled young leaves below large panicle of tiny flowers. There can be as many as 210 flowers on a single spike which is completely outrageous! Simply described, these flowers are white with a yellow centre.

#### **Epimedium ogisui Og 91.001**

It was only fair that one of the loveliest should have been named after Mikinori Ogisu. The wide, spoon shaped sepals and long arching spurs are pure white, which contrasts so well with the rich red mottling on the new leaves.

#### **Epimedium pauciflorum Og 92.123**

A low growing, spreading form which is usefully evergreen. Although the new leaves are heavily spined, the individual leaflets are almost circular. Their deep red blotches contrast well with the large flowers which are a delightful combination of creamy, silvery pinks.

#### **Epimedium pinnatum subsp. colchicum**

If you are uncertain as to whether your site will support *Epimedium*, then start with this one! Another brilliant evergreen with yellow flowers which are extremely pretty being clearly visible, as well as bright and cheerful! We also have a very limited quantity of the specific collection number L321, collected by Roy Lancaster.

#### **Epimedium platypetalum Og 93.085**

This species was first introduced in 1922 and noticeably lacks the characteristic spurs of so many *Epimedium*. The lemon yellow flowers are held above the leaves with their heart shaped leaflets. These are attractively flushed purple in autumn and winter to give interest for such a long time.

#### **Epimedium pubescens Og 91.003**

The long arrow shaped leaves have a dense fur covering their underside. The tops are beautifully mottled with vivid crimson over a pale almost lime green as they emerge. The flowers are held in groups of as many as 30 or 40 to each stem up to 60cm above the leaves. The inevitably smaller flowers are white and orange and occur as early as February, but with repeat flowering until June this is perhaps the earliest and the latest!

#### **Epimedium pubigerum**

Whilst getting justifiably excited about all the new discoveries, I believe it is essential that the old favourites are not forgotten. Closely related to *E. alpinum*, this one is far more showy. The small but prolific creamy white, spurless, cup-shaped flowers are held above small bright green leaves.

#### **Epimedium rhizomatosum Og 92.114**

A remarkable plant where flower stems may be up to 1m tall. The drooping bunches of heavy cream and yellow flowers are produced in May, and continue until September. The long but

heart shaped leaves below these statuesque flowers are deep red when young but retain much of their mottling through the year.

#### **Epimedium sempervirens**

Simplest described as an evergreen equivalent of *E. grandiflorum*, this is a delightful species (yes, but aren't they all!!) Native of Japan, 2 varieties have been distinguished - var. *sempervirens* with white flowers, and var. *rugosum* with wonderful rich purple flowers. This is the white form!

#### **Epimedium 'Tama no genpei'**

A delightful form with a difficult name! The large flowers have lavender coloured inner sepals and creamy white petals also suffused with pale lavender.

#### **Epimedium wushanense 'Caramel' Og 92.009**

I have extolled the virtues of the foliage on several of the other *Epimedium*, but this one is my favourite (If you order it, suggest a substitute because they are sure to be popular!) with rich dramatic red mottling over long jagged leaves. The name 'Caramel' reflects the colour of the flowers, but doesn't really do them justice. This is such an impressive plant.

#### **Epimedium wushanense Og 93.019**

For those of you who associate *Epimedium* with unassuming little patches of growth, I say "think again" because this species is truly majestic in its proportions. Mature plants can boast leaves of up to 20cm long whilst the flower spikes can reach 1m, laden with over a hundred large flowers each 5cm across. It is almost too much to consider. This form is densely hairy, with yellow flowers on almost black stems over olive green leaves.

#### **Epimedium x omeiense 'Akame' Og 82.001**

(*E. acuminatum* x *E. fangii*) Although a hybrid, this one is naturally occurring and was named 'Emei Shan' after the location in Sichuan where it was found. So many of the flowers are amazing, but this is even more so. They are large but the sepals are red (not a common colour amongst *Epimediums*) above arching golden spurs which are also tinged with red. These are held above wonderful bronze young foliage.

#### **Epimedium x omeiense 'Pale Fire Sibling'**

(*E. acuminatum* x *E. fangii*) Again totally different from its siblings, having large primrose yellow and cream flowers.

#### **Epimedium x omeiense 'Stormcloud' Og 82.002**

(*E. acuminatum* x *E. fangii*) The large flowers are held high above the foliage but are hard to describe - essentially reminiscent of chocolate though with purple speckling and yellow tipped spurs. The new foliage is flushed red.

#### **Epimedium x rubrum**

(*E. alpinum* x *E. grandiflorum*) The heart shaped leaves are dramatically marked with bronzy red in spring. Particularly good autumn colour. The dark red flowers have a paler centre, and creamy yellow spurs.

#### **Epimedium x setosum**

(*E. diphyllum* x *E. sempervirens*) A naturally occurring hybrid found in Japan, very much intermediate between its parents. Abundant sprays of white flowers are held above evergreen leaves.

#### **Epimedium x versicolour 'Sulphurea'**

(*E. grandiflorum* x *E. pinnatum* subsp. *colchicum*) A justifiably well known hybrid with yellow and primrose flowers held with bronze veined foliage. Good autumn colour is a bonus.

#### **Epimedium x warleyense**

(*E. alpinum* x *E. pinnatum* subsp. *colchicum*) Again the heart shaped leaves have a wonderful purple red flush in spring, particularly at the edges. In contrast, the flowers are bright orange with less pointed spurs and a bright yellow centre.

#### **Epimedium x warleyense 'Ellen Willmot'**

Selected by this renowned English plantswoman at her home Warley Place in Essex, the foliage is tinted with red in both spring and autumn. The flowers open red and fade to orange - perhaps the most colourful cultivar of *E. x warleyense*, and certainly something different in this lovely genus.

#### **Epimedium x youngianum 'Merlin'**

Another deciduous clump forming species. This selection has lovely dark purple flowers, which appear dainty due to their lack of spurs.

#### **Epimedium x youngianum 'Niveum'**

(*E. diphyllum* x *E. grandiflorum*) Not especially rare, just a jolly good little plant! Small in stature, but produces masses of pure white flowers, and is one of the best *Epimedium* for autumn colour (orange/scarlet).

#### **Epimedium x youngianum 'Shiki no mai'**

A delightful variation on this particular theme with the essentially white flowers suffused with the tiniest hint of pink. I think the leaves are also most attractive with silver veins radiating from an almost star-like beginning.

#### **Epimedium x youngianum 'Yenomoto'**

As above, but pale pinkish-white flowers.

#### **Eucomis vandermerwei 'Octopus'**

Quite a departure for us I admit, but I saw this gorgeous little South African bulb flowering in September in Keith Wiley's garden, and I had to grow it! The "Pineapple Lilies" are gaining in popularity, but this is one of the smallest. Typical of the genus, the long tongue-like leaves form flat rosettes; in this case crinkly edged and heavily mottled with dark maroon. The spikes of dark red flowers are reminiscent in shape of a pineapple (complete with little leaf-like tuft on the top) but reach just 20cm tall, and form even from small bulbs. The smaller stature of this one makes it vulnerable to adversity, so choose a warm sunny, well-drained site (perhaps on a scree bed) or treasure it in a pot.

#### **Deciduous Euonymus**

spectacular fruits or even both at the same time. Totally hardy and non-fussy, nothing could be easier to grow almost anywhere! There are some small bushy trees or large shrubs, but there are a few really superb examples at Westonbirt Arboretum, Gloucs. smaller growing varieties They grow very happily on better suited to the smaller garden.

They produce **utterly fantastic autumn colour**, or **Euonymus are priced from £18.40**

#### **Euonymus alatus 'Compactus'**

This dense, compact form to 1m, is one of the best small shrubs for vivid pinky-red autumn colour. The bright orange seeds hang within the pink capsules, often individually.

#### **Euonymus alatus 'Fireball'**

(syn. *E. alatus* 'Select') Compact habit and particularly spectacular red autumn colour.

**Euonymus alatus 'Rudy Haag'**

The smallest of our alatus cultivars. This one has the most subtle, pinkish rose autumn colour.

**Euonymus alatus 'Timber Creek'**

Another compact American selection, this time with rich crimson autumn colour. Reputedly the freest fruiting of them.

**Euonymus bungeanus 'Dart's Pride'**

Eventually a large shrub or small tree, of upright habit. As with all our deciduous Euonymus, it distinguishes itself in the autumn with lovely leaf colour and dramatic seed capsules.

**Euonymus bungeanus 'Fireflame'**

This version has particularly good red autumn colour.

**Euonymus bungeanus 'Pendulus'****Euonymus bungeanus var. semipersistens**

There is a magnificent plant of this at Wisley, which can only be described as a tree. The leaves are held long into the winter depending on the weather, in myriad shades of soft peachy-apricot whilst the seed capsules are large and prolific if not as brightly coloured as in some of the other species.

**Euonymus cornutus quinquecornutus**

A rare small shrub of open habit with smaller leaves than most deciduous Euonymus. The flowers however, are considerably larger and the remarkable fruits bear 5 or 6 slender horn-like extensions, giving them the appearance of jester's hats.

**Euonymus europeus 'Brilliant'**

Quite distinctive, this narrow upright selection has bright pink fruits in the autumn.

**Euonymus europeus 'Chrysophyllus'**

A slow growing variant of our native spindle with delightful golden leaves. Good light is needed for best colour, adequate summer moisture will prevent scorch.

**Euonymus europeus 'Intermedius'**

The leaves of this cultivar are broader and more rounded at the base than is typical of the species. However, that distinction is of little relevance compared to the beauty of the profusion of coral-red fruit.

**Euonymus europeus 'Red Cascade'**

A striking form with orange fruits within red capsules. Excellent deep purple autumn colour as you would expect. Always reliable, whatever the weather.

**Euonymus fimbriatus**

Upright in habit, with bright green leaves. The small, yellowish-white flowers in June are followed by light-pink winged fruits in August-September. The bark of older branches is grey and exfoliating.

**Euonymus grandiflorus**

This looks more like a Camellia than a Euonymus! The leaves are huge on this erect semi-evergreen to 4m. Large straw-yellow flowers and yellow capsules with scarlet seeds. Rich wine-purple autumn colour. A very majestic plant, and very rare! At some times of year, the leaves can hang and appear slightly rolled - this is perfectly natural and not a sign that the plant is wilting or sick.

**Euonymus grandiflorus f. salicifolius**

A lovely graceful form with narrower leaves than the type.

**Euonymus grandiflorus 'Red Wine'**

Previously listed as *E. atropurpurea* *cheatumii*, this recent introduction has been re-classified and given a cultivar name as it is such a good plant. It differs from the species by its narrower leaves and lower, bushier habit. Autumn colour is the most incredible deep bronzy purple with showy yellow and pink fruit capsules. Leaf characteristics as per the species - see above.

**Euonymus hamiltonianus 'Calocarpus'**

This one stood out here last autumn, with a magnificent crop of fruit contrasting well against foliage that was still green.

**Euonymus hamiltonianus 'Coral Charm'**

This selection originated at the Hillier Arboretum with pale coral coloured bark on the younger shoots. It freely produces pale pink seed pods opening to show red seeds. A fantastic autumn plant, also having pretty pale yellow foliage colour.

**Euonymus hamiltonianus 'Den Haag'**

Particular selection. This selection typically doesn't flower until August, to then be followed by pink fruits which ripen from October to December. Once established, it can produce stout branches each more than 1m long in a single season and when happy, these branches will be covered in fruit the following season.

**Euonymus hamiltonianus 'Indian Summer'**

The virtues of this recent selection have been extolled as giving the best and most reliable autumn colours in its group. It certainly was spectacular last autumn, developing shades of fiery red and deep purple. Vigorous to 3-4m and easy to grow, this should be considered if an Acer is really out of contention.

**Euonymus hamiltonianus 'Koi Boy'**

The white fruits are produced in late summer/early autumn, splitting to reveal striking bright red seeds resembling the contrasting colours of Japanese Koi carp - hence the name! The fruits persist into late autumn when the foliage turns to a pure lemon yellow.

**Euonymus hamiltonianus 'Miss Pinkie'**

A small, strong growing tree with beautiful pink fruit containing contrasting red-orange seeds. The heavy clusters are retained from September through to November. The large green leaves develop soft yellow autumn colour.

**Euonymus hamiltonianus 'Pink Delight'**

Beautiful autumn colour and masses of bright pink seed capsules.

**Euonymus hamiltonianus 'Poort Bulten'**

Selected in the Dutch arboretum of the same name, for prolific pink fruits.

**Euonymus hamiltonianus 'Popcorn'**

A spectacular large shrub selected in Japan. The fruit capsules are white which contrast dramatically with the orange seeds hanging within.

**Euonymus hamiltonianus 'Rainbow'**

Bold golden variegation makes this one really stand out in summer as well as autumn.

**Euonymus hamiltonianus 'Red Chief'**

Another variation on the theme; this one is a little more

vigorous, but still prolific in its fruiting.

#### **Euonymus hamiltonianus 'Red Elf'**

Similar in principle to the others in the group, but smaller growing. Red autumn colour whilst the typical seed pods are pale pink opening to show orange seeds.

#### **Euonymus hamiltonianus 'Rising Sun'**

For me, the best of the species; the red fruits were so densely packed. I find the contrast with the green foliage to be most effective, more than compensating for any deficiency in their autumn colour.

#### **Euonymus hamiltonianus 'Snow'**

Beautiful selection from Japan with white margined leaves. Shady site required.

#### **Euonymus hamiltonianus 'Winter Glory'**

Selected for reliable seed production.

#### **Euonymus latifolius**

Large shrub of upright habit to 3-4.5m. Large scarlet fruits and brilliant scarlet autumn colour are some of the best of all shrubs grown for their beauty at that time of year.

#### **Euonymus macropterus**

Larger leaves than our other offerings in this genus. The fruits ripen very early, in great quantities, in July-August, thus extending the season. Typical with four winged capsules, each wing is remarkably long.

#### **Euonymus myrianthus**

I have high hopes for this one. It is evergreen so will give useful protection. However, it is closer in its characteristics to its deciduous cousins than its often variegated evergreen relations. The greenish yellow flowers occur in dense heads of up to 7 cm across in spring before giving way to orange-scarlet seeds nestled in orange-yellow fruits.

#### **Euonymus nanus**

A contrast to most of the others, this semi evergreen species is a dwarf, spreading character with neat small leaves. Tiny red flowers. Difficult to do justice to with a mere description, I originally rejected it as not worth having. However, when I saw it, I liked it so much, we had to grow it!

#### **Euonymus oxyphyllus 'Waasland'**

Named after the Belgian Arboretum of the same name where it was recently selected this selection is even better fruiting than the species. The marble sized fruit ripen early, at the end of September, before the autumn colour which makes them more visual. The fruit last for a month, to be followed by shining yellow autumn colour. Upright habit.

#### **Euonymus phellomanus 'Silver Surprise'**

This Dutch selection is unique with dramatic white margined foliage and almost pink stems, particularly when young. Inevitably the variegation keeps the size down and beware of scorch in too sunnier a site. Otherwise easy to grow. Good autumn colour.

#### **Euonymus planipes 'Dart's August Flame'**

This Dutch selection fruits abundantly early in the season, in August.

#### **Euonymus sacrosanctus**

I like this little chap! Superficially very similar to a diminutive

form of *E. alatus*, the corky wings are even more pronounced and the leaves smaller. Leaves and branches are flushed with copper whilst the autumn colour is glowing orange.

#### **Exochorda serratifolia 'Snow White'**

This is a fantastic selection. It is vigorous, with larger leaves and most importantly, larger flowers! We were amazed last year by the stunning butter yellow autumn colour. This plant is worthy of a place in every garden! Very early into leaf and flower, it seems untouched by late frosts. For me, those wonderful white flowers herald the start of spring.

#### **Forsythia 'Fiesta'**

A very pretty small shrub with bright cream and gold central splash to the leaf and pink petioles. Gorgeous red stems in winter. The leaves are held well into the winter, making it a superb foliage plant although it is shy to flower.

#### **Fothergilla x intermedia 'Blue Shadow'**

A fantastic new introduction from Gary Handy in the USA. Honey-scented, bottlebrush-shaped white flowers are borne in profusion in spring, whilst the foliage is a gorgeous grey-blue through summer before turning dramatically red in autumn. Similar in principle to the better known 'Blue Mist' but a more vigorous plant of stronger constitution. It has the potential to reach 5' tall by almost as wide where conditions suit. As with all *Fothergilla*, the soil needs to be of good structure and well drained to provide adequate moisture in summer without being too wet in winter. Acid soil is perfect though the structure is more important than the precise pH. This plant is protected by a plant patent and propagation without a licence is illegal.

#### **Fothergilla x intermedia 'Windy City'**

This recent introduction from the American mid-west shows particular cold-hardiness (defined as hardiness zone 4) whilst maintaining the typical features of highly scented white flowers in spring and wonderful red autumn colours.

#### **Garrya x issaquahensis 'Glasnevin Wine'**

(*G. elliptica* x *G. fremontii*) A handsome evergreen producing long, rich coloured catkins with red bases to the green bracts and yellow anthers, in January-February. The extra colour gives the plant another dimension! Shelter of a wall is beneficial in cold or windier areas. This lovely plant is smaller in all its parts than the more commonly available forms of *elliptica*.

#### **Halesia carolina 'UConn Wedding Bells'**

This is a superb selection from the University of Connecticut, with significantly larger flowers.

#### **HAMAMELIS**

We are developing (with grateful thanks to Chris Lane with his National Collection) an irresistible collection of these exquisite winter-flowering shrubs. Their fragrance is legendary, with their beauty at such a dull time of year almost unrivalled. We have a range of species and colours (from yellows through oranges to reds),

though as yet available in extremely limited quantities. Therefore please do not be afraid to ask.

**2 year old plants will be £24.50**

There will also be a handful of larger plants for instant gratification.

#### **Hamamelis mollis 'Iwado'**

yellow

#### **Hamamelis mollis 'Kort's Yellow'**

yellow

#### **Hamamelis x intermedia 'Aphrodite'**

The beauty of this recently selected Hamamelis is as seductive as the goddess herself! It has been in flower for several weeks as I write, with the promise of more to come. The flowers are a wonderful, almost apricot orange (a delightful change from the classic yellow, but a lot brighter and more cheerful than most of the oranges) and are sweetly scented.

**Hamamelis x intermedia 'Bernstein'**

orange

**Hamamelis x intermedia 'Diane'**

red

**Hamamelis x intermedia 'Heinrich Bruns'**

dark orange-red

**Hamamelis x intermedia 'Limelight'**

yellow

**Hamamelis x intermedia 'Livia'**

red

**Hamamelis x intermedia 'Ostergold'**

golden yellow

**Hamamelis x intermedia 'Vesna'**

orange

**Helleborus niger 'Potters Wheel'**

The foliage is a deep glossy green and the white flowers are large. H.niger is always popular as the Christmas rose. These are a seed strain which is considered to come true.

**Helleborus 'White Magic'**

(H.niger x H.orientalis) This hybrid resembles H.niger in leaf shape, but has the better constitution of H.orientalis. The huge white flowers are pure white with prominent yellow stamens, and deepen to dark pink as they mature. A truly magnificent form and very floriferous.

**Heptacodium miconioides**

A stunning plant giving a wonderful display of scented white flowers in September, often a difficult time for colour. This plant impresses me more every year! It is so easy to grow even on heavy clay. Introduced from China as recently as 1981, this large shrub is very hardy. It develops peeling bark and the glossy leaves are retained well into the autumn. The season is extended by the pink bracts which remain after the flowers have faded. Can even be grown as an unusual small tree by removing the lower side growth.

**Hoheria 'Borde Hill'**

As my appreciation of this genus increases, so I find myself searching out alternative cultivars. This one has even smaller leaves, but is still more or less evergreen. As I write this, the foliage has taken on a bronzy colour as a result of several cold snaps this winter when we have gone as low as minus 12. Clearly it needs a sensible site, but they really are a lot tougher than you might think. Lots of small white flowers through the summer.

**Hoheria sexstylosa 'Stardust'**

This selection was named by Roy Lancaster and flowers at an early age, producing dense clusters of star shaped white flowers during late summer. Will perform best in a well-drained sunny spot. Potentially large. Indeed Hoherias can very successfully be grown as trees, by cleaning off the lower growth progressively to give a clean stem. Alternatively, they could be planted in a row to give a wonderful evergreen hedge, a backdrop that will be covered in flower for the summer barbecue season, and clipped to about 2m high perhaps.

**Hydrangea quercifolia**

Known as "Oak-leaved Hydrangeas" on account of their wonderful leaf shape, these are gorgeous plants. There are some extra cultivars available this season, with more to follow for next year.

They all produce great conical panicles of flower bracts in June, usually becoming creamy white in colour. They may benefit from staking when young to prevent the weight of the flower-head demolishing the plant. These flower heads

dry and remain on the plant through the winter for impressive effect. To complete a long and spectacular season, they give wonderful autumn colours too.

They prefer well drained soil and thrive in full sun so don't confuse them with the woodland growers. If mulching, avoid mounding it against the base of the stem as they dislike excessive wetness in winter.

**All are priced at £16.50**

**Hydrangea quercifolia 'Burgundy'**

A lovely form in which the tendency of the bracts to mature to dusky pink is enhanced to the point that it almost resembles a deep burgundy flower spike at maturity.

**Hydrangea quercifolia 'Pee Wee'**

This is a very compact selection, growing to approx. 1m in all dimensions with proportionally smaller flowers and leaves to match. Other than its size, it is typical of the species, with the mostly sterile flowers lasting for 6-8 weeks through early summer. They emerge white before fading to pink and finally brown in late summer, to be held as brown seed panicles through the winter. The year-round appeal of this species is completed by the mature stems which exfoliate to reveal a rich brown inner bark, attractive even in winter.

**Hydrangea quercifolia 'Sikes Dwarf'**

This is also a smaller growing cultivar. To be totally honest, I haven't yet quite got to the bottom of how these two differ...

**Hydrangea quercifolia 'Tennessee Clone'**

Introduced in 1974 by Belgian "plantspeople" Jelena and Robert de Belder from seed collected in Tennessee, the flowers are huge – potentially 25cm long by nearly as wide. The abundant pale green fertile flowers turn copper red with a hint of green at maturity. More vigorous growth than many, to 2m.

**Hydrangea seemanii**

Similar to H.petiolaris, this rarer species is a little more refined. A strong growing evergreen climber which is ideal for a north wall and other "difficult" sites. The large white lace-cap flowers are freely produced in June.

**Ilex - classic hollies**

We are now really understanding the problems of developing new beds in large open areas, and are looking to hollies to generate an evergreen framework to aid the establishment of young plants and create something to look at in the winter.

I'm sure these classic plants

need no introduction, but I will remind you that male and female plants are needed to maximise berrying. However, they need not be side-by-side.

**Most will be available in 3 litre pots at £16.50, but there are also some larger specimens available. Please ask for details.**

**Ilex aquifolium 'Alaska' (f)**

This recently selected female holly is reputedly the hardiest of all (though whether it would survive in deepest Alaska is a moot point!) It is also more compact (which undoubtedly contributes towards its hardiness) with typically shaped glossy green leaves.

Female. so bright red berries are borne in abundance.

#### **Ilex aquifolium 'Elegantissima' (m)**

'Elegantissima' is a male holly, so doesn't berry. Instead it's grown for its foliage...and what gorgeous foliage it is! Dating back to the mid 19th century it just goes to show that newer is not always better. The slightly smaller than typical leaves are dramatically edged with cream, whilst the youngest growth is kissed with pink. Perfect for cutting for arrangements or for topiary.

#### **Ilex aquifolium 'Ferox Argentea' (m)**

The "hedgehog hollies" are such fun! As well as the usual spines around the edge of the leaf, there are even more on the top! A compact, bushy plant, this form has creamy-white margined leaves which contrast beautifully with the purple stems. Male.

#### **Ilex aquifolium 'Ferox Aurea' (m)**

This variant of the "hedgehog holly" has a central golden splash to each deep green spiky leaf. Male.

#### **Ilex aquifolium 'Handsworth New Silver' (f)**

The creamy white margin defines the longer than average leaf, which contrast well with the purple stems. Female and free fruiting.

#### **Ilex aquifolium 'J.C van Tol' (m/f)**

As a mature plant the habit of this is wonderful. Tall and relatively narrow, but distinctly pyramidal with gently drooping branches, the rich green leaves provide a dramatic foil for other plants. It is self fertile so the red berries are reliably produced in great profusion.

#### **Ilex aquifolium 'Myrtifolia Aurea Maculata' (m)**

This has long been one of my favourite hollies. Another older cultivar from the 19th century; this one makes a small shrub of pyramidal habit. The leaves show wonderful contrast, being bright gold in the centre within a broad margin of rich deep green. Such a versatile little chap; try it in the border, in a container for year round colour in a difficult corner, for a low hedge perhaps or even for more delicate topiary. Male.

#### **Ilex aquifolium 'Silver van Tol' (m/f)**

The original green 'J.C van Tol' is such a brilliant plant that this sport from it can't fail to be a winner! The typical glossy green leaves have lovely clear cream margins, set against purplish stems. Happily it is also self-fertile and fruits well all by itself. (I've got the gold variegated version too, but he's not in production yet...)

#### **Ilex aquifolium 'Somerset Cream' (f)**

A delightful selection as well as being geographically appropriate for us! The foliage is boldly variegated with shades of cream and yellow; splendid with a prolific crop of red berries. Female.

#### **Ilex verticillata 'Maryland Beauty' (f)**

These deciduous hollies are not well known in this country. Yet they should be! For sheer "berry-power" they are hard to beat! They are easily grown shrubs which are tolerant of most soils and conditions, including areas which waterlog, although they are not brilliant on chalk. The bright red berries are clustered right up the stems, ripen in August to September and reliably persist until Christmas, or even March-April, dependant on weather and bird populations! They look magnificent against a snowy landscape but are equally fantastic for cutting. The cut stems will keep for months indoors, but only if they are not in water. This particular cultivar is more compact, reaching approx 2m.

#### **Ilex verticillata 'Southern Gentleman' (m)**

The male pollinator, required for berry production.

#### **Ilex verticillata 'Winter Gold' (f)**

This distinctive selection produces a wonderful display of golden berries.

#### **Ilex verticillata 'Winter Red' (f)**

This is one of the best cultivars. It is larger growing than 'Maryland Beauty' and can reach 3m tall given time. Also red berries, produced in profusion.

#### **Iris lazica 'Richard Nutt'**

I. lazica is closely related to I. unguicularis though coming from the coast of the Black Sea, it prefers a cooler more shaded environment so is perfect at the foot of a north wall or beneath other planting. In common with its Mediterranean counterpart, it flowers all through the winter. The rich violet-purple flowers are larger and deeper in colour than the species.

#### **Iris unguicularis 'Abington Purple'**

This was introduced by Rev Richard Blakeway-Phillips and named after the village in which he found it growing. It is one of the smallest growers but has perhaps the darkest flowers; a luxurious velvety purple.

#### **Iris unguicularis 'Mary Barnard'**

Deservedly popular, the rich violet-purple flowers have with large, flared petals whilst the falls are strongly marked with a central gold bar and white feathering. A robust and floriferous plant.

#### **Itea virginica 'Henry's Garnet'**

I cannot begin to do justice to the fantastic autumn colour! It is semi-evergreen but turns the most amazing deep purple which is held until after Christmas, according to the weather. 15cm long racemes of fragrant white flowers are produced in early summer. Prefers a sunny site with moist, fertile soil. Only growing to 4' or so, every garden has room for it. I love it!

#### **Itea virginica 'Long Spire'**

I am so captivated by this species that I feel another collection coming on...! this variant has longer flower spikes, the weight of which make them droop rather than being upright as the others we have. Although we have not grown them side by side for long enough to be sure, I suspect that this one will be the largest of the three.

#### **Juniperus chinensis 'Blue Alps'**

I fell in love with this conifer a few years ago when I was searching for some tough evergreens to plant within our mixed borders to give some structure and protection. Pleasantly vigorous, with upright but gently arching habit and wonderful steely-blue needles. Mine is less than 2m tall after 10 years. I should also mention that my son rooted these cuttings (and conifers are not the easiest things to root!)

#### **Libertia peregrinans 'Goldleaf'**

Another eclectic addition this year! This one is harder to categorise though. Bred in New Zealand, it is a perennial with sword-like foliage akin to that of Iris in some ways. However, the foliage itself is highly ornamental, having a central stripe to the leaf that is sufficiently dominant that the whole plant appears almost orange. This is topped off by pretty white flowers in early summer. Easily grown in sun or part shade, I think this associates brilliantly with grasses, but I can't wait to try it with Betula ermanii and Cornus sanguinea cultivars.



### **Ligustrum lucidum 'Excelsum Superbum'**

Large shrub or even a small tree with glossy green leaves margined cream. Although very shade tolerant, the contrast between the green portions and the cream will be better in good light. White scented flowers in summer. A great shelter plant that is worthy of a place in its own right.

### **Ligustrum lucidum 'Tricolour'**

Similar to 'Excelsum Superbum', but even better! The leaves are narrower and more pointed, the young growth is distinctly pinker, developing a broad cream margin. We have found it to be less vigorous when young.

### **Liquidambar styraciflua and its cultivars**

The species itself of *Liquidambar styraciflua* is generally only available grown from seed. Thus you encounter the usual problem of variability. It might have good autumn colour or it might not! To remove this element of chance, we vegetatively propagate all our Liquidambar, so that we can maintain certain features.

Autumn colour is obviously important, but there are a surprisingly wide range of options to extend the interest further through the summer; perhaps by foliage variegation, or more subtly by leaf shape and growth habit. Most of the green forms will make big trees, but the variegated derivatives at approximately 4m are suited to all but the tiniest garden.

Hilliers advises Liquidambar to be unsuitable to grow on chalk, but one of my customers was telling me how well theirs was doing there. So give it a try and see!

As with so many plants, the soil structure is all important: they will tolerate quite a degree of winter wet, but they hate to dry out in summer, particularly when

newly planted. Chalky soils are notoriously free draining, so this is the greater problem. The alkalinity can influence the autumn colour however.

Don't forget that autumn colours can vary from one year to the next, as well as with the fertility of the soil. They develop as the plant starts to shut down for the winter, which is triggered by the reduction in light levels and temperature. Liquidambar tend to be much later to show their autumn colours than most other trees, which is great because it extends the autumn display in the garden by several weeks. Indeed it is common for our trees to still be retaining their autumn-coloured leaves at Christmas.

Liquidambar autumn colours have to be some of the very best!

**Young (2 year old) plants are £32.00 where available. Many are also available in larger sizes (pot-grown or root-balled) for quicker effect.**

Please ask for size options, or if you need help with your decision.

### **Liquidambar acalycina 'Burgundy Flush'**

This superb American selection really makes the most of the rich burgundy coloured young growth. Larger leaves than most styraciflua cultivars enhance the dramatic effect of this medium sized deciduous tree.

### **Liquidambar styraciflua 'Andrew Hewson'**

Eventually a large tree of striking habit. Fantastic deep red-purple autumn colour. Fast growing when young so quickly gives a good effect.

### **Liquidambar styraciflua 'Anja'**

A recent Dutch selection, with a noticeable longer central lobe and horizontal branching structure. Purple autumn colours.

### **Liquidambar styraciflua 'Aurora'**

A useful selection being more compact in habit, forming a tidy conical shaped tree. Less vigorous, but the leaves are closer together, so the tree is denser when young.

### **Liquidambar styraciflua 'Festival'**

A handsome tree, which is more upright and narrow than the species. Ideal for accent planting, or for screening when height without too much width is required. However, it is not thin enough to be called fastigate. Beautiful autumn colours work through the complete spectrum of colours from yellows and oranges through peach to red.

### **Liquidambar styraciflua 'Parasol'**

The leaf shape is particularly attractive here, having more divided lobes which are themselves more serrated. It develops a central leader, but the side branches weep daintily at the tips. Pretty pinky orange autumn colour.

### **Liquidambar styraciflua 'Pendula'**

More pendulous than 'Parasol', it also has a larger, more complete leaf. The autumn colours are some of the brightest and most vivid reds.

### **Liquidambar styraciflua 'Penwood'**

An excellent form selected by Doug Harris, whose judgment I trust completely. Wonderful deep reddish purple autumn colour. The leaves are distinctly smaller than the majority, and the plant is bushier at a young age. It is likely to be one of the smaller growers of the green leaved (as opposed to variegated) cultivars.

### **Liquidambar styraciflua 'Stared'**

(Pronounced "Star Red") This is a fantastic recent selection with large deeply cut star shaped leaves. Habit is stiffly upright and vase shaped. The red autumn colour is unequalled!

### **Liquidambar styraciflua 'Thea'**

Another recent Dutch selection - actually rather similar to 'Anja'.

### **Liquidambar styraciflua 'Worplesdon'**

A popular form originating in Surrey; the leaves have long, narrow lobes and orange-yellow autumn colour.

### **Lonicera periclymenum 'Honeybush'**

I have planted this wonderful shrub all round the garden in strategic places near to paths. It is distinct from the majority of the species by its none climbing habit. However, the flowers are the familiar red and cream, whilst the scent is seemingly better than ever. Easy to grow anywhere and no pruning is essential, though I tend to tidy them up in the winter.

### **Lonicera x purpusii 'Winter Beauty'**

Large semi evergreen shrub. Masses of fragrant cream flowers all winter. Well known so needs little description, but a jolly good plant nevertheless.

### **Loropetalum chinense 'Fire Dance'**

A handsome deciduous shrub to 2m that is related to Hamamelis (it therefore does not require acid soil so much as good drainage in the winter but adequate moisture retention in summer). The long-lasting, fragrant strap-like flowers open in April and are dark pink which contrast wonderfully with the rich maroon foliage. As with so many purple leaved plants, it needs enough light to maintain good foliage colour, but not so much as to bake it in summer. I am really excited about this one - they were utterly gorgeous last year.

### **Luma apiculata**

I'm told that it shows my age, but I just can't get used to calling this evergreen shrub Luma - to me it will always be a Myrtus! Never mind, whatever you want to call it, it's a great plant; whether you have the site (and patience) to grow them into trees (the beauty of the bark always makes me do a double take) as you see down at Abbotsbury Sub-Tropical Gardens or whether your ambitions are more modest. I find it invaluable to have a

range of tidy evergreens to mix into new planting to give some structure and protection to bulbs and early perennials. The pretty flowers in early summer are almost a bonus. Of course, this isn't the hardiest plant in the world, but it's usually pretty well behaved if you choose a sensible site. No good trying to use it in the Pennines as the first line of defence for example!

## MAGNOLIA

The majority of the deciduous Magnolias listed here are grafted plants of the more recent hybrids. These have been bred (particularly in America and New Zealand) for large flowers, reliability of flowering and most importantly, to flower from a young age. This is enhanced because they are vegetatively propagated. Most commercially produced Magnolia are grafted or budded, but we are propagation as many as possible from cuttings. This has all the early flowering benefits of a graft, but being on their own roots is much better in the long term; removing the scope for any compatibility weaknesses in the future.

Thus it is no longer necessary to

wait over 25 years for your Magnolia to flower; indeed many of our larger offerings have flowered on the nursery. It is possible that once planted, they will grow strongly for a season or two and not flower as result. However, they have the capability to flower and will do so profusely as soon as they settle down to their new site!

Magnolias are totally cold hardy and foliage blackened by a late frost will soon sprout again in an incredibly resilient manner. However, the flowers can be spoilt by frost. Thus, in colder areas choose the later flowering varieties. I would suggest that the *M. campbellii* forms are best considered only in Cornwall and favoured Western locations.

Traditionally considered to have a preference for acid soil, we have concluded that the structure of the soil is more important than the pH. They hate to dry out in the summer. This fact alone will damage them more than anything else.

A range of larger plants is also available, many of which have already flowered. We also have many other even more exciting cultivars are in small quantities. See our website for details. Please contact me for prices and availability.

**Young plants start at £32.00 with Specimens from £68.00 and £78.00**

### Magnolia 'Alex'

(M. x soulangeana 'Lennei' x M. sprengeri 'Diva') A delightful pink magnolia from the garden of Maurice Foster in Kent. Of very upright habit, the small soulangeana-shaped flowers are crowded on every spur up the stems. When the plant is grown in shade, the flowers are a noticeably deeper pink at the base.

### Magnolia 'Amber'

(M. 'Yellow Bird' x M. x brooklynensis) From Ian Baldick in New Zealand this very recent selection has essentially yellow large flowers, but these have more of an orange tint, being of a wonderful honey-amber colour. Blooming late spring (May) the flowers are seldom damaged by frost.

### Magnolia 'Ambrosia'

(M. x brooklynensis 'Eva Maria' x M. x brooklynensis #143) This most unusual selection originated in the hands on David Clulow in Surrey, having multi-coloured cup-shaped blooms of barium yellow shaded with chartreuse green, centrally striped and stippled throughout with purple. These are produced freely from an early age. It forms a tree of vigorous, pyramidal habit to 7m.

### Magnolia 'Anna'

([M. acuminata x M. x soulangeana 'Picture'] x [M. acuminata x M. x sargentiana var. robusta]) There is a certain amount of uncertainty surrounding the precise parentage, but it becomes almost irrelevant when one sees how beautiful the flowers are. Essentially white, there is just the faintest flush of pink at the base of the broad petals.

### Magnolia 'Archangel'

(M. sprengeri 'Diva' x M. soul. 'Brozzoni') This superb Phil Savage selection displays huge, heavy textured, white flowers.

### Magnolia 'Athene'

(M. 'Mark Jury' x M. x soulangeana 'Lennei Alba') Another Jury hybrid. The large cup and saucer shaped flowers are white-rimmed, shading in to rosy purple with an ivory white cup to give a bicolor effect. Richly fragrant, they appear in mid-spring. Upright and vase shaped when young, it matures into a rounded small tree of 6-8m.

### Magnolia 'Aurora'

(M. 'Star Wars' x M. sargentiana var. robusta) A superb recent selection from Blumhardt in New Zealand, the gorgeous flowers are similar in shape to those of 'Starwars', but in a delightful clear pink. It forms a tidy tree of upright habit; expect 4m x 1.5m in 10 years.

### Magnolia 'Big Dude'

(M. sprengeri 'Diva' x M. x soulangeana 'Picture') Although completely unrelated, it is reminiscent of M. sargentiana var. robusta, with an upright but spreading growth habit and very large nodding flowers, up to 35cm across, with 9-12 tepals which are fragrant and rose pink outside, white within.

### Magnolia 'Brenda'

This selection from M. acuminata var. subcordata has amazing brilliant golden flowers; they make up for their size deficit (7-8cm) by the intensity of their colour. A slow growing, compact tree.

### Magnolia 'Butterbowl'

([M. 'Yellow Bird' x M. 'Sundance'] x M. 'Yellow Dance') A Belgian selection, having small but fleshy, broad-tepalled flowers of a unique orange-yellow colour which retain their shape for a long period. A tidy, handsome small tree.

### Magnolia campbellii 'Lanarth'

Absolutely one of the classic magnolias, it was raised from seed sent from Yunnan Province in China in 1924 by the renowned plant hunter George Forrest. The cup and saucer shaped flowers, so typical of the species, are a unique shade, variously described as "cyclamen pink", "vintage port" or "lilac-purple-red".

### Magnolia 'Candy Cane'

Nine erect tepals in three whorls, make up the flowers of this Gresham hybrid of unknown parentage, where each whorl has a distinct coloration. The outer whorl is also somewhat reduced. Outer tepals are rose at base fading to white at tip, with a rose stripe running from base to tip. The middle whorl of tepals has similar coloration, but slightly darker. The inner whorl is even deeper rose-purple at the base.

**Magnolia**  
**2 year old plants start at £32.00 with**  
**Specimens from £68.00 and £78.00**

#### **Magnolia 'Carlos'**

Another fabulous yellow; an Eisenhut seedling selected by Philippe de Spoelberch. It flowers very late in the spring, just as the leaves are unfurling, thus avoiding the frosts.

#### **Magnolia 'Chameleon'**

Correctly called M.'Chang Hua'. This has an upright flower which is almost tulip shaped. Predominantly white, the outside is prettily flushed with pink, particularly at the base and mid-rib. Lightly fragrant too.

#### **Magnolia 'Charles Coates'**

(M.sieboldii x M.tripetala) A superb hybrid between 2 summer flowering species. The creamy white flowers in May-June have distinctive crumpled petals and a conspicuous boss of red stamens in the centre, so typical of the group. Deliciously scented too.

#### **Magnolia 'Columbus'**

(M.denudata x M.x veitchii 'Peter Veitch') Potentially a large tree, this Magnolia has a lovely history. Although bred at the US National Arboretum, it was selected by the late John Bond, then Keeper of the Gardens at Windsor. He named it to mark the 500th Anniversary of Columbus' voyage, with oblique reference to the magnolia's cross Atlantic journey also! It freely produces large cup-shaped white flowers. Our original material was kindly given to us by John Bond from the original plant.

#### **Magnolia 'Crystal Chalice'**

(M. x soulangeana 'Lennei' x M. sprengeri 'Diva') The white flowers of this Maurice Foster selection have a very elegant form, opening into a shapely bowl.

#### **Magnolia 'Cup Cake'**

(M. x soulangeana 'Lennei Alba' x M.x veitchii) Another Gresham hybrid; this one has fragrant creamy white flowers 30cm across, each highlighted by an inner pink disc and a prominent boss of stamens.

#### **Magnolia cylindrica 'Bjuv'**

Originally collected in China by Arnold Arboretum staff, this is presumed to be a cultivar of M. cylindrica, though debate surrounds the identity of the various M. cylindrica forms in cultivation. Whatever the case, the flowers are delightful. Small and compact, the essentially white petals are richly striped from the base with purple. The foliage also has a notable bluish tone.

#### **Magnolia 'Daphne'**

(M.acuminata ssp. subcordata. 'Miss Honeybee' x M.'Gold Crown') Bred in the late 1990s by the esteemed magnolia hybridiser A. Kehr raised and named (2000) by Philippe de Spoelberch, this is arguably one of the best yellow flowered magnolias to date. Late flowering, as all this group, thus avoiding the worst of the frost.

#### **Magnolia 'Darrell Dean'**

(M.x soulangeana 'Rustica Rubra' x M.x veitchii ) Gresham hybrid with huge, outward facing blooms, up to 30cm across in an opulent shade of wine-red. Vigorous, forming a rounded small tree. Usefully late flowering.

#### **Magnolia 'David Clulow'**

(M.x soulangeana 'Lennei Alba' x M.x veitchii) Excellent large white bowl shaped flowers which are produced from an early

age. Vigorous upright branched habit to 6m. Selected in the States and introduced to this country in 1985, it is considered by some to be one of the best white Magnolias in cultivation.

#### **Magnolia 'Daybreak'**

(M.x brooklynensis 'Woodsman' x M.'Tina Durio') Intensely fragrant rose pink flowers late in the season escape most of the frosts.

#### **Magnolia 'Deborah'**

(M. 'First Flush' x M. campbellii) Ian Baldick has become one of the most respected magnolia breeder's in New Zealand and this recent selection is another beauty. The flowers display the cup and saucer form typical of M. campbellii, being predominantly white but with a red base.

#### **Magnolia denudata 'Gere'**

This beautiful white flowered selection flowers 2-3 weeks later than either typical M. denudata or M.x soulangeana, thus avoiding the worst of the frosts. This beautiful white flowered selection flowers 2-3 weeks later than either typical M. denudata or M. x soulangeana, thus avoiding the worst of the frosts.

#### **Magnolia 'Elegance'**

(M.sprengeri 'Diva' x M.stellata 'Waterlily') This Phil Savage hybrid produces gorgeous pure pink multi-tepal flowers – very much intermediate between its parents.

#### **Magnolia 'Elizabeth'**

(M.acuminata x M.denudata) A lovely magnolia from the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. The cross was made in 1956, but it was not selected until 1977. The primrose yellow flowers with their red stamens are produced from an early age and make it a winner in any garden. It has done particularly well here in difficult conditions.

#### **Magnolia 'Felicity'**

(M.sprengeri 'Diva' x M.x soulangeana 'Wada's Picture') Such a new cultivar that information is still sketchy. The pale pink flowers look delightful though.

#### **Magnolia 'Flamingo'**

(M.acuminata 'Fertile Myrtle' x M.sprengeri 'Diva') The tulip-shaped flowers are a brilliant unfading flamingo pink and are borne slightly before the leaves unfurl. Extremely cold hardy, it forms a densely foliated, very symmetrical, pyramidal tree.

#### **Magnolia 'Galaxy'**

(M. liliiflora 'Nigra' x M. sprengeri var. diva) A pyramidal tree to 7m. The strongly fragrant flowers have 12 tepals which are dark reddish purple in bud, becoming lighter as they open. Happily it generally flowers late enough in the spring to avoid the worst of the frosts.

#### **Magnolia 'Gladys Carlson'**

I am struggling to find information about this one. I do know that Mr Carlson, a magnolia enthusiast in South Wales, has carried out a lot of breeding within the loebneri group particularly. I can only assume that this is one of his. (Mr Carlson - if you should be reading this, please get in touch with me; I'd love to find out more about your work.) Mine flowered for the first time this spring and was delightful (Yes, I know...aren't they all!) It would appear to sit in the middle of the group shape-wise ie not as strappy a petal as the most stellata influenced clones, but not as substantial a flower as the likes of 'Pirouette' and 'Donna'. Early colour indications suggest the palest possible pink (almost white) but I do find that many of them darken on an

annual basis as the plant matures.

### **Magnolia 'Gold Star'**

(*M.acuminata* var.*subcordata* 'Miss Honeybee' x *M.stellata* 'Rosea') This magnolia is unique. The yellow flowers are stellata-like, being 10cm across and consisting of 13-15 relatively narrow tepals. The larger, more rounded leaves are attractively bronze flushed when young whilst in summer they appear almost silvery thanks to a fine indumentum. Lovely autumn colours are an unexpected bonus. It also seems extremely robust and is thriving here, even in our difficult conditions. This is fast becoming my favourite magnolia, if only because it never disappoints me with damaged flowers and dieback. All in all this large shrub or small bushy tree is an exciting addition to our collection.

### **Magnolia 'Golden Gala'**

(*M. acuminata* x *M. denudata*) This excellent David Leach selection is later flowering than its sister seedling *M. 'Golden Sun'*. Abundant lemon yellow flowers, with over-lapping tepals, are produced before the leaves.

### **Magnolia 'Golden Gift'**

(*M.acuminata* var. *subcordata* 'Miss Honeybee' x [*M.acuminata* x *M.denudata*]) Named in 1997, of complicated parentage, but a wonderful result! It produces a mass of buds which open progressively to give a display for over a month. The rich yellow flowers, flushed green at the base, are over 10cm tall. At little more than 2m in 10 years, this one is small enough for any garden.

### **Magnolia 'Golden Joy'**

(*M. 'Yellow Bird'* x *M. x brooklynensis*) This superb cultivar from Ian Baldick in New Zealand flowers late in the season, just as the leaves are emerging. The rich golden-yellow flowers are held in an upright manner and are larger than those of 'Yellow Bird' for example.

### **Magnolia 'Golden Sun'**

(*M.acuminata* x *M.denudata*) The heavily textured, 6-petalled flowers are a deep yellow and open flat to 10cm across. A wonderfully robust and floriferous tree. Typically for this parentage, flowering is late season (mid-May) thus avoiding the frosts. However, this cultivar rarely comes into leaf until after flowering, allowing the glorious golden blooms to be admired in all their splendour.

### **Evergreen Magnolias**

choose your characteristics.

The cultivars of *Magnolia grandiflora* provide the archetypal evergreen Magnolia. For hundreds of years these have been planted against stately homes, but you don't need a mansion! Modern breeding has largely concentrated on three attributes - cold hardiness, smaller stature and flowering from a young age. As is so often the case, seed derived plants can take many years to flower and then disappoint - these cultivars are propagated from cuttings or tissue culture techniques and will flower after very few years. And you can

The classical features however, remain common to all - glossy green leaves with a rich brown felting beneath (more pronounced in some cultivars than others) and glorious white lemon scented flowers all summer. Happiest in a sunny site to ripen the wood for maximum flowering these Magnolias can be grown as free-standing trees as well as against a wall. Acid soil is not essential but inevitably they will grow better in fertile soil with a good structure.

### **Magnolia**

**2 year old plants start at £32.00 with Specimens from £68.00 and £78.00**

### **Magnolia grandiflora 'Little Gem'**

A dwarf selection suitable for small gardens. The glossy green leaves are bronzy when young with beautiful brown felting to the underside. Lemon scented creamy white flowers through the summer until the first frost. Due to its less vigorous growth, this cultivar flowers from the earliest age. It is expected to reach 2-3m in height.

### **Magnolia grandiflora 'Main Street'**

The name alludes to the habit of this one - being upright and compact almost to the point of fastigate. Ideal where space is limited. The highly perfumed creamy white flowers are complemented by mid-green glossy foliage. Tolerant of most normal soils and conditions, but generally flowers best when grown against a sunny wall, sheltered from cold winds in the winter. Surprisingly tolerant of wind. 8m.

### **Magnolia grandiflora 'Monlia'**

A vigorous grower of pyramidal habit which is more tolerant of wind, so a good choice if you wish to grow it free-standing rather than against a wall in the traditional manner. The thick leathery green leaves are richly felted beneath, whilst the creamy white flowers in summer are also larger than average. 8m.

### **Magnolia grandiflora 'Samuel Sommer'**

An excellent selection noted for its extreme hardiness. Fortuitously, that is not at the expense of flower - in either profusion or beauty. As with all the modern selections, it flowers from a relatively young age and doesn't get excessively large.

### **Magnolia grandiflora 'St Mary'**

This selection flowers from an extremely early age and is very hardy. I would recommend it as the best choice where a free standing specimen is required (as opposed to wall training) partly due to its toughness, but also because as it develops a wonderful symmetrical and tree-like shape without pruning.

### **Magnolia 'Helen Fogg'**

(*M.denudata* 'Sawada's Cream' x *M.x veitchii* 'Peter Veitch') The flowers are white with the lower half being clean pink. This is a particularly hardy selection becoming a vigorous, symmetrical tree.

### **Magnolia 'Hot Flash'**

(*M.'Elizabeth'* x *M.x brooklynensis* 'Woodsman') This American selection by the renowned breeder August Kehr has large narrow, erect flowers, approx 12cm long. Deep yellow with a purple flush at the base, they are produced freely from an early age. Of ascending habit, it forms a slim, upright deciduous tree to 8m.

### **Magnolia 'Ian's Red'**

(*M.'Vulcan'* x *M.x soulangeana* 'Burgundy') Bred in New Zealand, the large heavily textured flowers (up to 20 cm across) are a rich claret colour which holds well. The blooms are produced from a young age. It forms a small deciduous tree of upright but bushy habit to 5m.

### **Magnolia 'Iolanthe'**

(*M.'Mark Jury'* x *M.x soulangeana* 'Lennei') Deservedly one of the best known modern hybrids raised by Felix Jury in New Zealand. Long flowering period and starts flowering from an early age. Enormous soft mauve-pink cup shaped blooms, paler within. 5-6m.

**Magnolia**  
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**Specimens from £68.00 and £78.00**

Definitely a worthwhile addition to our collection.

**Magnolia macrophylla ssp. ashei x virginiana**

A fabulous hybrid, combining to give large leaves with cream flowers blotched wine-purple within, up to 30 cm across. Valuable because it is summer flowering.

**Magnolia 'Manchu Fan'**

(M.x soulangeana 'Lennei Alba' x M.x veitchii) This recent introduction produces medium sized white goblets with purplish staining at the base. Flowers are freely produced on this strong upright hybrid to 5m.

**Magnolia 'Margaret Helen'**

(M.liliiflora 'Nigra' x M. campbellii var. mollicomata) Combining 2 of my favourite species, this cultivar must surely have the best of both worlds. The rose red campbellii type bowl shaped blooms are freely produced from a young age. I am hopeful that the liliiflora Nigra influence will overcome some of the traditional campbellii difficulties, making this wonderful hybrid grow able by those of us with "difficult" sites. 6m.

**Magnolia 'Maryland'**

This is a wonderful evergreen hybrid between M. grandiflora and M. virginiana. The leaves are a brighter, lighter green and it flowers from a very young age. Perfect grown against a sunny wall or free-standing in a moderately sheltered garden.

**Magnolia 'Maxine Merrill'**

(M acuminata 'Miss Honeybee' x M.x loebneri 'Merrill') I mentally classify this one aesthetically within the x loebneri group, although technically that is not the case. However, the sturdy, 6-petalled yellow flowers reflect its parentage.

**Magnolia 'Moondance'**

(M. x soulangeana x M. x veitchii) A splendid Gresham hybrid producing masses of huge white flowers, delicately flushed with pink at the base of each tepal. A tidy tree of upright pyramidal habit.

**Magnolia 'Nimbus'**

(M.hypoleuca x M.virginiana) I am excited by this unusual and extremely valuable addition to our collection. Intermediate between its parents, being as it is semi-evergreen. It also inherits later flowering (May) so should avoid all but the unluckiest frost. The creamy white flowers with reddish purple stamens are sweetly scented. Also vigorous and hardy, what more could we want?

**Magnolia 'Olivia'**

(M.acuminata var. subcordata 'Miss Honeybee' x M.'Gold Crown') This is actually the sister seedling to the highly rated M.'Daphne' and looks just as good. If anything the flowers are bigger and the plant more fastigiate.

**Magnolia 'Peachy'**

(M. acuminata 'Fertile Myrtle' x M. sprengeri var. diva) The large, somewhat floppy flowers, with a pleasant fragrance have 9 tepals. They are a delicious orange/red on the outside and creamy white inside. Fastigiate habit.

**Magnolia 'Peter Smithers'**

(M.x soulangeana 'Rustica Rubra' x M.x veitchii) A dark rose red flowered Gresham hybrid named in honour of Sir Peter Smithers.

**Magnolia 'Jane'**

(M.liliiflora 'Reflorescens' x M.stellata 'Waterlily') The smaller, more "tulip shaped" flowers are red purple outside, white inside. It is the latest flowering of the hybrid group of resilient shrubby Magnolias known as 'the girls'.

**Magnolia 'Joe McDaniel'**

(M.x soulangeana 'Rustica Rubra' x M.x veitchii) Reputedly the darkest purple flower of all the Gresham hybrids; tulip shaped, deep purple buds open into well formed, bowl shaped flowers.

**Magnolia 'Joli Pompom'**

(M. 'David Clulow' x M. sprengeri var. elongata) This unusual Belgian cultivar from 2003 produces elegant white flowers which are noticeable for their tepaloid stamens, giving a semi-double, chrysanthemum-like appearance.

**Magnolia kobus 'Octopus'**

Originally named M. kobus 'Edward E Kehr' after August Kehr's father. Subsequently he was unhappy about that, so the name was changed to 'Octopus' since it is an octoploid selection of M. kobus. Thus the gorgeous pure white flowers are much more substantial.

**Magnolia kobus 'White Elegance'**

Another delightful selection...an elegant tree with white flowers. Obvious really!

**Magnolia 'Legacy'**

(M.sprengeri 'Diva' x M.denudata) This exceptionally hardy tree produces large flowers to nearly 25cm across in mid-to late April. They are red-purple at the base, paling towards the tip of each tepal, and white within. The overall soft pink effect is enhanced by pink and ivory stamens.

**Magnolia 'Lennarth Jonsson'**

(M. acuminata 'Fertile Myrtle' x M. campbellii 'Queen Caroline') The perfectly rounded tepals are a classical pink colour with a darker flush staining from their base, whilst inside they are a pristine white. Such classical elegance.

**Magnolia liliiflora 'Darkest Purple'**

Dating back to 1948, although listed as a sprengeri cultivar, many authorities consider this lovely plant to be a hybrid. Whatever its origin, it is perhaps the best, largest and broadest tepalled form of M. liliiflora. The fragrant flowers are dark red in and out. It also has the advantage of being very late flowering, thus extending the season as well as avoiding the frost.

**Magnolia 'Lois'**

(M.acuminata x [M.acuminata x M.denudata]) Another of the new generation of precocious yellow flowering hybrids. By comparison with the well-known 'Elizabeth', this one is more intensely coloured, but the flowers are slightly smaller. However, they are held for a tremendously long time – four or 5 weeks – and fall without discolouring rather than fading with age. Definitely a worthwhile addition to our collection.

(M.acuminata x [M.acuminata x M.denudata]) Another of the new generation of precocious yellow flowering hybrids. By comparison with the well-known 'Elizabeth', this one is more intensely coloured, but the flowers are slightly smaller. However, they are held for a tremendously long time – four or 5 weeks – and fall without discolouring rather than fading with age.

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**Specimens from £68.00 and £78.00**

### **Magnolia 'Pink Surprise'**

[(*M. liliiflora* x *M. sprengeri* 'Diva') x (*M. acuminata* x *M. x soulangeana* 'Picture')] I suppose it is inevitable as time moves on that the parentage of new Magnolias will become increasingly complex as the best hybrids are themselves hybridised. The "surprise" element of this cultivar is that the flower buds are very tiny (and extremely frost tolerant), yet open to great big flowers, with secondary buds prolonging the bloom period for up to a month. The flowers themselves are gorgeous; bright reddish pink at the base suffusing up through the otherwise baby-pink tepals. Beautifully shaped too.

### **Magnolia 'Princess Margaret'**

(*M. campbellii* var. *alba* x *M. sargentiana* *Robusta*) A chance seedling at Caerhays Castle now planted at Windsor. Beautiful subtle colouration of the large flowers is basically rose coloured outside and cream inside.

### **Magnolia 'Purple Globe'**

(*M. liliiflora* 'Nigra' x *M. x veitchii*) I love the look of this one. Possibly a sister seedling to *M. 'Star Wars'*, but certainly exhibiting similar characteristics. Here the long-lasting flowers are a darker purple, particularly on the outside of the tepals.

### **Magnolia 'Red Lion'**

(*M. liliiflora* x *M. campbellii*) A sister seedling of *M. 'Star Wars'*, this exciting Blumhardt selection is a darker red.

### **Magnolia 'Roseanne'**

(*M. liliiflora* 'O'Neill' x *M. kobus* 'Norman Gould') This tetraploid hybrid from Dennis Ledvina boasts six or seven tepals which are rich lavender pink on the outside and a lighter pink on the inside. The broad tepals are almost scoop-like and retain their upright form. A real beauty.

### **Magnolia salicifolia 'Jermyns'**

The broader leaves of this superior clone are conspicuously glaucous beneath. The flowers are larger than is typical for the species, and they appear later in the spring., making it a showy and desirable plant. The growth habit is rather shrubby and it is slow growing.

### **Magnolia salicifolia 'Rosea'**

This *salicifolia* selection has delightful pink striped flowers.

### **Magnolia salicifolia 'Wada's Memory'**

A hybrid from *M. x kewensis*, I love the grace of this tree. Eventually a broad headed large tree producing masses of very fragrant, white flowers in April. The petals are narrower than those of most of our other Magnolias.

### **Magnolia sieboldii**

The summer flowering magnolias should be more widely planted as the beautiful flowers rarely suffer from frost damage! It is just a shame that they are all so similar! This makes a wide-spreading shrub with strongly lemon scented nodding flowers, 10-13cm wide, appearing with the leaves in June. The paper-white petals contrast strikingly with the cone of red stamens in the centre.

### **Magnolia sieboldii 'Colossus'**

Essentially a larger flowered form of the species, this August Kehr selection is remarkable. Very fragrant white flowers are freely produced in June and are large - with 10 to 17 heavy-textured

tepals. The leaves are also larger, though the tree itself seems to retain its modest, multi-stemmed habit.

### **Magnolia sieboldii 'Genesis' x virginiana**

I don't know much about the origin of this one, but I just love this whole group. Although essentially variations on a theme, this one has narrower leaves reminiscent of its virginiana parent. The creamy white flowers in summer with their prominent red stamens are a real joy.

### **Magnolia sieboldii 'Ming Pyong Gal'**

The leaves are a little narrower than is typical of *M. sieboldii*, but more importantly the flowers are flushed with pink.

### **Magnolia 'Solar Flair'**

(*M. x brooklynensis* 'Woodsman' x *M. 'Gold Star'*) Dating from the late 1990's, this American cultivar produces heavily textured flowers of a rich yellow, late in the season. Its growth rate is fast, and the habit upright.

### **Magnolia sprengeri 'Copeland Court'**

A seedling from *M. sprengeri* 'Diva' which was named in Cornwall around 1973. It forms a small to medium-sized tree with a symmetrical habit and prolific, uniformly deep, clear-pink flowers which are darker and brighter than those of its parent.

### **Magnolia sprengeri 'Lanhydrock'**

Although this glorious seedling from *M. sprengeri* 'Diva' was registered by the Head Gardener at Lanhydrock in 1992, it actually originated at Trewithen (another famous Cornish garden) in 1969, having taken 11 years to flower. It has deeper flower colour than its parent, having been described as "cyclamen purple".

### **Magnolia 'Star Wars'**

(*M. campbellii* x *M. liliiflora*) This one is (probably still) my favourite magnolia! The outside of the flower is pink, but somehow a different pink to all the others - more apricot pink than purple - and creamy white within. The flowers are more star-shaped than most and last for about a month. Although large, they do not give the "blowzy" feel of some. It branches freely to make a broad headed small tree. 4m. We have found it to be a more reliable flowerer for us than its *campbellii* parentage led us to expect. Starting mid season, it flowers for a long period. Wonderful.

### **Magnolia stellata**

I have developed a keen interest in the Star Magnolia of late, inspired by its potentially greater tolerance of difficult sites (remember our heavy wet alkaline clay in a frost pocket!) than many of the larger flowered cultivars.

Typified by narrower strap-like petals in shades of pink and white, these more shrubby growers are happiest in a sunny site, though they are more shade tolerant than many and can therefore be supremely effective in open woodland glades. Interestingly, the exact colour will be determined by temperature, with deeper pinks being displayed

in a mild spring.

*M. stellata* cultivars have wonderful potential in the garden: as specimens in a small garden, in the border or even in a large pot. Typical growth rates are 30cm per year for the first 5 years, slowing subsequently. As with all magnolias, they like a moisture retentive soil, so a surface mulch after planting will be invaluable. We are developing an extensive range of these, as well as their allied cousins (selections of *M. x loebneri*). Additional selections will become available, initially in small number, over the next few years. Watch the website for details.

**Magnolia**  
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**Magnolia stellata 'Dawn'**

Each flower can potentially have more than 50 pink petals.

**Magnolia stellata 'Jane Platt'**

This garden selection from Oregon produces gorgeous flowers which are dark pink in bud, maturing to a pink-blushed white. The floral display is enhanced by the fact that the flowers have 20-30 petals.

**Magnolia stellata 'Kikuzaki'**

The small light pink flowers boast up to 30 petals and are produced abundantly, even on very young plants.

**Magnolia stellata 'King Rose'**

The pretty flowers are white flushed pink.

**Magnolia stellata 'Water Lily'**

Unfortunately there is an element of confusion surrounding this one. The typical American clone ('Waterlily') has pink flowers whilst that prevalent in Europe ('Water Lily') has white. Perhaps the most vigorous cultivar, the petals have great substance, making this a robust but beautiful choice.

**Magnolia 'Sunburst'**

(M.'Woodsman' x M.'Gold Star') flowers. Narrow buds open into upright, narrow, very deep canary yellow flowers as much as 13cm tall. The beautiful foliage is heavy textured and quilted, with wavy margins. A vigorous tree of upright habit to 10m.

**Magnolia 'Sunsation'**

(M. x brooklynensis 'Woodsman' x M. 'Elizabeth') Undoubtedly one of the best yellow magnolias to date, this August Kehr selection flowers very late in the season, producing an abundance of very deep yellow flowers, highlighted by a conspicuous blob of pink floating in the centre of each one. Vigorous and, unusually, somewhat spreading in habit.

**Magnolia 'Suntown'**

(M.acuminata x [M.acuminata 'Fertile Myrtle' x M.x soulangeana 'Picture']) Intense yellow flowers.

**Magnolia 'Susannah van Veen'**

Thought to be a hybrid between M. sargentiana and M. sprengeri 'Diva', it is easiest described as being similar to 'Caerhays Belle', only darker. Thus, the large flowers are a brilliant rose-red and lack purple shading. Eisenhut notes that it has large furry decorative buds in wintertime, but I should add that is not unique to this cultivar.

**Magnolia 'Swedish Star'**

(syn. 'Swedish Star') (M.acuminata x M.kobus 'Norman Gould') The best of seven seedlings, this August Kehr hybrid, which flowered for the first time at Wespelaar Arboretum, Belgium in 2000, has exciting potential. Intermediate between its parents, the fragrant flowers are greenish yellow at first, becoming pale later, and have been described as resembling "lemon ice-cream". The 6 tepals are quite narrow, giving the plant a light and airy feel when in flower. Peaking in late April, you can expect to enjoy the floral display for about a month. Surprisingly good autumn colour is an unexpected bonus. This first-rate introduction should prove to have excellent hardiness and tolerance too.

**Magnolia 'Sweet Merlot'**

(M. 'Sweet Simplicity' x M. 'Black Tulip') A recent hybrid from Vance Hooper producing rich red flowers; although not large by the standards of some magnolias, they are freely produced, a fabulous colour and a very neat and tidy, almost globular, shape. I'm told that this cultivar lasts particularly well as a cut flower.

**Magnolia 'Sweet Valentine'**

(M.'Sweet Simplicity' x M.'Black Tulip') Wonderful rich burgundy red globular flowers are paler within. Compact habit and smaller stature.

**Magnolia 'Sweetheart'**

(M.sprengeri 'Diva' x M.sargentiana 'Robusta') The broadly petalled flowers are a deep rich pink, outside and a pale pink inside.

**Magnolia 'Todd Gresham'**

(M.x soulangeana 'Rustica Rubra' x M.x veitchii) A fast-growing, robust tree with large bowl-shaped fragrant flowers, opening to 10" across. Deep pinky red in colour.

**Magnolia 'Todd's Forty Niner'**

(M. 'Rouged Alabaster' x M. 'Royal Crown') This 49th cross from Todd Gresham, made in 1964 between two of his hybrids, was not selected until after his death and was not named until 1986. The flowers have 12 tepals and are dark purple in bud opening lighter. The red-purple outer 4 tepals reflex at maturity, to emphasize the 8 erect inner tepals, the insides of which are translucent white.

**Magnolia virginiana 'Moonglow'**

This exciting selection has been micropropogated, so will flower from a much younger age than a comparative seedling. It blooms over a long period in late spring - early summer with a delightful citric fragrance.

**Magnolia 'Vulcan'**

(M.campbellii mollicomata 'Lanarth' x M. liliiflora hybrid) Declared as the finest Jury hybrid to date, this stunning selection from New Zealand has heavy textured, rounded blooms of the most amazing ruby red. Although it flowers from a very young age, the full richness of the colour will develop as the plant matures. Erect in habit, to 6m.

**Magnolia x loebneri**

I want to come back to this and tell you about this brilliant group. They are hybrids between M. kobus and M. stellata. In the past some authorities have lumped M. stellata into M. kobus as a subspecies, so they are clearly closely related. Some of these hybrids have the narrow strap-like leaf typical of the stellata parent, whilst at the other end of the

scale some are closer to M. kobus. Anyway, I want to tell you how beautiful, but how downright useful these guys are: that they will tolerate a much wider range of soil conditions than many Magnolias, and how hardy they are. That even though they flower early in the season, they are remarkably frost hardy. I've got quite a collection now, though not all are in production yet.

**Magnolia x loebneri 'Lucy Carlson'**

(M.x loebneri 'Leonard Messel' x M.salicifolia) I love this group of magnolias. This upright growing small tree has proportionally smaller leaves, which inherit the aroma of aniseed from M.salicifolia. In bud the flowers are deep pink, but they lighten in colour as they open to become flushed pink on the outside and almost white within.

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#### **Magnolia x loebneri 'Pirouette'**

Unusually, the outer tepals of this white flowered seedling from 'Ballerina' are shorter than the inner ones, resulting in a smaller flower which rarely exceeds 10cm across. Nevertheless, they have good substance and are delightful in their citrus-scented abundance. Compact habit to perhaps 3m tall.

#### **Magnolia x loebneri 'Star Bright'**

There is confusion as to whether this pretty cultivar should be attributed to *M. x loebneri* or *M. stellata*. Either way, the white flowers do resemble those of the latter. It appears to have originated on the Tom Dodd Nursery, Alabama, USA.

#### **Magnolia x loebneri 'White Stardust'**

Strong growing selection with a more tree-like form than some within this group, that has white flowers with 14-15 tepals. Excellent dark green foliage.

#### **Magnolia x loebneri 'Willowood'**

A lovely selection, the resplendent white flowers have 11-14 petals and it is very free flowering.

#### **Magnolia x wieseneri**

(syn. *watsonii*) (*M. hypoleuca* x *M. sieboldii*) The most strongly scented of all magnolias. It becomes a small tree, the upward facing flowers open in June-July. Rounded white buds open to creamy white flowers with prominent rosy crimson stamens. Unfortunately this tree has a reputation for being difficult to establish, for no evident reason - you have been warned!

#### **Magnolia 'Yaeko'**

(*M. 'Ann Rosse'* x *M. liliiflora*) This forms a rather elegant, slender tree. The large red-purple flowers have 9-12 tepals, and open flat before reflexing later.

#### **Magnolia 'Yellow Lantern'**

(*M. acuminata* ssp. *subcordata* 'Miss Honeybee' x *M. x soulangeana* 'Big Pink') Huge lemon-yellow flowers maintain their tulip-like shape, lasting a particularly long time.

#### **Magnolia 'Yellow River' ('Fei Huang')**

(syn. 'Fei Huang') Originally imported from China under the name 'Fei Huang', this sensational magnolia has been given the anglicised marketing name 'Yellow River'. Definitely derived from *M. denudata*, its exact parentage is uncertain, though there is talk of it being a hybrid from *M. acuminata* ssp. *subcordata*. Whatever the case, it's a beauty. The large (to 15cm) flowers open from deep golden-yellow to a perfect shade of mid-yellow and are blessed with rich fruity fragrance. Best of all, like most yellow magnolias, it flowers in May, late enough to avoid the frosts.

#### **Magnolia 'Yellow Sea'**

(*M. acuminata* x *M. denudata*) Another wonderful yellow-flowered selection, this time from Ferris Miller of the Cholipo Arboretum in Korea.

#### **Magnolia zenii 'Pink Parchment'**

*M. zenii* itself is a rare new species from China introduced in the early 1980's. This, the first named clone was grown and named by Mike Dirr from Arnold Arboretum seed, to first bloom in 1997. Flowers are about 10cm across, with purple-pink striping on the outside, white on the inside, and very fragrant. Our

experience so far is that it makes a wonderfully tidy, symmetrical tree, that is weather resilient and prolific in its flower.

#### **Onoclea sensibilis Copper Form**

In some ways, this fern is not your typical fern! It's deciduous, but the fronds come up in a thicket of vertical stems rather than all emerging from a single crown. Each one is lighter and more elegant than many ferns, but what really makes it unique is the lovely copper colour. I like this one very much and it makes a wonderful splash of colour in a very green shady area.

#### **Osmanthus delavayi**

Similar in principle to *O. x burkwoodii* except that the leaves are toothed like miniature holly leaves. Masses of highly scented small white flowers are produced in April. Shame it is slow to get going though it eventually makes a rounded dense bush of 2m and is actually one of my favourite classic shrubs.

#### **Osmanthus delavayi 'Latifolius'**

This variant is rekarbably little-known and poorly documented. I can discover nothing of its origin, which frustrates me! However, I can tell you that it's a fabulous plant. Essentially the same as the species, just a little bigger in all its parts, making for a really outstanding floral display in spring, complemented by a wonderful perfume. Definitely one of my favourite evergreens. Of course the greater stature gives it improved vigour so it's faster growing too, which makes it an easy winner for me.

#### **Osmanthus x burkwoodii**

Very much a classic shrub, but definitely worth having for the fragrance of the dainty white flowers in March-April. Evergreen too, so a really useful plant for winter protection and structures. It also picks well.

#### **Pachysandra terminalis 'Variegata'**

A suckering sub-shrub which makes excellent ground cover with attractive leaves margined creamy white. It is shade tolerant and will exist in the most appalling conditions, but will do better in better conditions!

#### **Paeonia tenuifolium**

Something of a departure from our normal range, but I adore this small herbaceous paeony. One of the hardiest of the species paeonies, which grows wild in the dry grasslands of Eastern Europe, the new growth can be seen from mid March with the flowers following shortly after. These are bright red and single, dainty and under-stated, but it is the foliage that often catches people's attention; being finely cut and fern-like. Easily grown in well-drained soil (remember not to plant it too deep). These are multi-noded plants in 2 litre pots. Just shooting as I write, they should even flower this year.

#### **Parrotia persica**

Stunning autumn colour - one of the best, even on chalk. The wood of *Parrotia* is so hard that back in Medieval times it acquired the common name of "Ironwood". It forms a small tree of eventually wide habit, showing distinct layers when young. The flowers consist of clusters of crimson stamens in late winter, which look absolutely beautiful with the low winter sun on them. However, it is the fabulous autumn colour for which it is renowned.

#### **Parrotia persica 'Burgundy'**

Our own selection of this wonderful tree. The young growth is distinctly flushed purple and the autumn colour is even better



## Parrotia

more spectacular colour.

Fabulous autumn colour - one of the best, even on chalk. The wood of *Parrotia* is so hard that it acquired the common name of "Ironwood". It forms a small tree of eventually wide habit, showing distinct layers when young. The unusual flowers consist of clusters of crimson stamens in late winter, which look absolutely beautiful with the low winter sun on them. However, it is the dramatic autumn colour for which *Parrotia* is renowned.

We grow a number of named forms which have been selected in different places at different times either for specific growth habits or for even

Although related to *Hamelis*, they do not need acid soil. They do surprisingly well on our heavy clay. If your soil is chalky, incorporate lots of organic matter to prevent them drying out in summer.

### Parrotia start at £27.50 for 2 year olds.

Other cultivars may be available in small numbers - please see the website or ask for details. In addition, we also have some larger specimens for more instant effect. Some will be pot-grown whilst others have been growing in the open ground and will be supplied root-wrapped.

than normal!

### Parrotia persica 'Felicie'

A selected form of this wonderful tree for autumn colour.

### Parrotia persica 'Pendula'

Our stock plant looks magnificent and we now have excellent plants available. If left to its own devices, it will form a low mound. Alternatively, support it initially until it reaches the desired height, then leave it to cascade! Magnificent autumn colours.

### Parrotia persica 'Vanessa'

This form was selected for its more upright habit, but still with the same gorgeous autumn colours.

### Philadelphus 'Belle Etoile'

A superb shrub, growing to approx 2m'. I love the large (up to 5cm across) single white flowers with their basal maroon blotch. The scent is of course intoxicating. My favourite of the genus!

### Philadelphus coronarius 'Bowles Variegated'

A pretty little shrub to 1.5m. The leaves are strongly margined creamy white, with richly scented double white flowers in summer. Plant in dappled shade to prevent leaf scorch.

### Polygonatum x hybridum 'Striatum'

Not a totally radical departure for us, since we've been growing it in the gardens with great success for many years. However, we've rarely offered it for sale. Often known as "Solomon's Seal" it is a wonderful spring flowering perennial, producing a thicket of elegantly arching stems each spring. These are clothed with conspicuously cream variegated leaves, whilst fragrant bell-like flowers hang from the tips. It also makes a splendid cut-flower. Naturally a woodland plant, it does like a little shade; amongst shrubs in the border perhaps. Although it will tolerate typically dry woodland amongst tree roots, the stems will remain colourful and leafy for longer into late-summer if a good moisture reserve is available to it.

### Prunus incisa 'February Pink'

Large shrub or small tree of most attractive and graceful habit. Ideal where dense shade is not required. The pale pink flowers on this early flowering form grace the naked branches in February.

The small almost serrated leaves colour well in autumn.

### Prunus incisa 'Kojo no mi'

This sought-after cultivar is much smaller growing, being very dense and almost contorted in its habit. The zigzag stems give a wonderful architectural feel in winter. The relatively large white flowers open from pinky buds in March, and you even get fantastic autumn colours. This is a great plant in the front of the border, as a specimen in a pot, or in Japanese style planting.

### Prunus laurocerasus 'Miky'

Laurel is often dismissed as a boring plant only fit for unimaginative amenity car parks, but I would have to agree. For sure it can get a bit out of control if left to its own devices for too long, but it can be an amazingly useful plant for those struggling with new, open and exposed gardens on poor or heavy soil. Simply put, it will grow just about anywhere and create a rapid screen. This can be a visual screen or as a windbreak or as a background to show off other plants like our wonderful silver birch. However, I cannot argue that it is sometimes too big and aggressive. So choose a smaller form like this one. This is our smallest, growing only to 1m or so with comparatively small and narrow, rich deep glossy green leaves and a tidy compact habit. Perfect for giving low down winter protection in the border or woodland without risk of it taking over. The spikes of white flowers in summer are an added bonus.

### Prunus laurocerasus 'Reynvaanii'

This is a large growing cultivar, but of dense and tidy habit, forming a very symmetrical conical shape without the need for clipping. Excellent in both formal gardens for accent or again in woodlands and borders for protection without excess. To 2.5m.

### Prunus laurocerasus 'van Nes'

Another low grower, this one a little taller to 1.5m but broader in habit and extremely free flowering. What a contrast between the dense spikes of white flowers and deep green leaves.

### Prunus rufa

This "Himalayan Cherry" forms a small tree giving clusters of pale pink flowers in spring. Its surprising feature is its wonderful amber-brown peeling bark.

### Prunus serrula

### Ptelea trifoliata 'Aurea'

The popular golden leaved form whose virtues Roy Lancaster extolled in an issue of The Garden. Given a sunny site it creates a lovely bright highlight all summer. The largest one I've seen was 2-3m tall with a very rounded head.

### Pterostyrax corymbosa

Pterostyrax are great all year round trees! Related to *Styrax* but considerably easier to grow, these small trees will succeed on any good deep soil, even over chalk. Nodding panicles of fragrant white flowers are produced in May-June. Interesting five winged fruit.

### Quercus ilex

Another fruit of our quest for evergreen screen planting. This will of course make a large tree (if you care to wait 100 years) or you can clip it into a tight ball. I am doing something in between - I want it in my Mediterranean garden to recreate the scrub Oak, so I will prune it carefully to appear craggy and full of character. Bonsai on a large scale really. These are still small plants.

### **Quercus palustris 'Silhouette'**

"Pin Oak" Another of my much loved American oaks which grow satisfying rapidly. This one has slender branches, gracefully drooping at the tips. The relatively large leaves develop spectacular red autumn colours. Supposedly prefers acid soil, but doesn't seem to mind our alkaline clay. This one was selected for its symmetry of habit.

### **Quercus rubra**

The "red oak" is eventually a seriously big tree, but if you have the space it is a wonderful thing to plant for the future. Although the same basic shape as our native oak, the leaves are much larger and it grows away faster to give pleasingly rapid effect. It is spectacular in the autumn when it turns brilliant scarlet.

### **Quercus velutina 'Albertsii'**

### **Quercus velutina 'Rubrifolia'**

Most of these North American Oaks have large leaves, indeed it is one of their primary attractions, but this variant is amazing. There are references to it from 1893 stating that the leaves were "as much as 15 in. in length" (W.J.Bean) which is nearly 40cm in new money! Quite remarkable. The bark is dark, giving rise to the common name "Black Oak" though it has a yellow underlying pigment which was used for dye. Spectacular autumn colour is almost taken for granted. A large tree though eventually.

### **Ribes x gordonianum**

(*R.odoratum* x *R.sanguineum*) The flower on this *Ribes* is spectacular. It is intermediate between its parents in most respects and extremely hardy. The drooping racemes of flowers in spring bronze red on the outside and yellow within. Expect most of 2m high. Easy to grow almost anywhere.

### **Sambucus nigra 'Pyramidalis'**

Weird and wonderful, this eclectic Elderberry is very upright growing with tufty side shoots. However, early last summer, each one bore a huge panicle of creamy white flowers and it really did look superb.

### **Sarcococca**

A wonderful genus of small evergreen shrubs. Those offered below all flower in the **winter**, from December through to March, when the **delicious fragrance** and pretty cream flowers are most welcome. They will grow in almost any soil and will tolerate heavy shade or part sun. Try them as a low hedge or in the border. They can also be extremely effective grown in a large pot for winter scent.

No garden should be without them! Last years fruit remain as the new flowers begin. Lovely.

**All are £12.00**

### **Sarcococca confusa**

Small shrub of dense suckering habit. White flowers with prominent cream stamens in winter contrast dramatically with the deep glossy green leaves. The fragrance on a mild day is second to none! Black fruits. Very shade tolerant.

### **Sarcococca hookeriana var. digyna 'Purple Stem'**

Slender erect and dense habit with purplish stems and narrow leaves. The lovely fragrant flowers are also tinged pink, making this one quite distinct. Black fruits.

### **Sarcococca hookeriana var. digyna 'Schillingii'**

Collected by Tony Schilling in Nepal, this narrow leaved clone is particularly floriferous. The highly scented white flowers in Feb-April (later than most of the genus) are prettily tipped with red-purple. Roy Lancaster kindly gave me this one when sorting out our naming.

### **Sarcococca hookeriana var. hookeriana**

My thanks to Roy Lancaster for sorting out the naming on this one for me! It is a superb small shrub with longer, narrower leaves than many and a wonderful dense, tidy habit. Flowers and fragrance just after Christmas as per the norm.

### **Sarcococca hookeriana var. humilis**

This one is suckering in habit, but dwarf and densely branched. Pink tinged flowers and superb scent.

### **Sarcococca orientalis**

Discovered in China as recently as 1980 by Roy Lancaster, this is a strong upright small shrub with stout green shoots. Leaves to 9cm long. White flowers sometimes tinged pink and equally fragrant. Black berries. An impressive and extremely robust addition to this superb genus. I find it quite remarkable that there are still new plants to be discovered. This one also flowers earlier than most of the other species, thus extending your season of interest.

### **Sarcococca ruscifolia**

A surprisingly uncommon form, with broader, thick leaves. Flowers as the others. Bright red berries.

### **Sarcococca ruscifolia 'Dragon Gate'**

I am really taken by this recent addition to our range of this "must have" genus! It has a much smaller leaf than even *S.hookeriana* var. *humilis* and grows accordingly into a very compact little shrub. Still the same wonderful scented flowers though. Roy Lancaster described to me how he collected it in 1980 in the Western Hills above Yunnan in China, where it was growing close by the Dragon Gate; an ornamental entrance to an ancient temple complex.

### **Sarcococca ruscifolia var. chinensis**

Although a variety of *S.ruscifolia*, this delightful evergreen is low growing; but it covers the ground by virtue of almost horizontal branches rather by suckering. Red berries follow the typical richly scented flowers.

### **Sarcococca saligna**

A small shrub with erect stems and very long (to 13cm) narrow leaves which have an almost glaucous bloom. Greenish flowers are the earliest of the genus in November-December. Definitely worthwhile to grow in addition to some of the others to extend the season.

### **Sarcococca wallichii BSWJ2291**

Collected from Northern India on the border with Sikkim by the Wynn-Jones', this is a taller grower, potentially to 1.8m. Small clusters of highly fragrant greenish-white flowers appear amid relatively large elliptic long-pointed bright green glossy leaves in mid-late winter, followed by ovoid black fruits. Good on chalk provided adequate moisture is retained.

### **Schizostylis coccinea**

A member of the Iris family, this little perennial is delightfully easy to grow, spreading gently to form a tidy patch of broad grass-like leaves. The flowers remind me of a small gladioli, but these are a beautiful red in colour, produced over a long season

from mid summer through August - which is fantastic because there are never many flowers around at that stage.

#### **Semiarundinaria fastuosa**

The substantial upright, straight stems clustered with short branches give a neat, columnar appearance though this wonderful clump forming bamboo is one of the tallest, most majestic species. It is extremely hardy so is perfect both as an exceptional specimen plant or as screening to 5m.

#### **Sinocalycanthus raulstonii 'Hartlage Wine**

(*Sinocalycanthus chinensis* x *Calycanthus floridus*) This cross was made by a student at North Carolina State University in 1991, to flower in 1996. Giving the best of both parents, it produces masses of showy large, smoky wine-red flowers that open widely (almost like a camellia) with a subtle fragrance. It seems to be tolerant of most conditions, flowering equally profusely in sun or shade.

#### **Sinocalycanthus chinensis**

My joy in this plant does not diminish with time! It first flowered in this country in 1989 in the garden of Roy Lancaster. Deciduous, it is related to *Calycanthus* and reaches 3m tall. It has large glossy green leaves which turn bright yellow in the autumn. The flowers are absolutely beautiful, being 7cm across and borne singly at the end of the shoots. The outer petals are pure white, with an inner group of yellow ones, white at the base with maroon markings. Sun or shade. However, I would avoid a windy site, simply because of the potential size of the foliage.

#### **Sorbus folgeri**

A beautiful but almost unlikely member of this surprising genus. A small tree of graceful arching habit, the small leaves are grey and felted. White flowers are followed by dark pinky-red berries. Grafted for younger flowering.

#### **Sorbus megalacarpa**

This amazing small tree has so many unique features that it is difficult to know where to start! The young leaves and buds are bright red and form a "shuttlecock" around the large corymbs of creamy flowers in early spring. These are followed by bunches of small, hard brown fruits (similar to Oak Apples) which last until the next flowers the following spring. The seed came from the beautiful tree at Knightshayes Court, Devon which featured in an article in *The Garden*.

#### **Stachyurus chinensis**

Medium to large shrub of spreading habit, with purplish branchlets. The flower racemes in April are over 10cm long and consist of up to 35 soft yellow cup-shaped flowers. Lovely autumn colour too.

#### **Stachyurus 'Magpie'**

This beautiful form has grey green leaves with an irregular creamy white margin and strongly tinged pink. Flowers as the species. It is difficult to grow however - it is so variegated that it does not have much chlorophyll to allow it to produce energy. The problem is merely in establishment, since the bigger it gets, the stronger and hardier it will become.

#### **Stachyurus praecox**

The flowers are basically the same as *S.chinensis* but occur 2 weeks earlier.

#### **Stachyurus praecox 'Petra'**

This is a splendid selection.

#### **Stachyurus salicifolius**

This is a fabulous species with very narrow leaves. The flowers are typical of the genus. Although we have not yet grown it to maturity, I would expect it to be less vigorous than the norm due to the reduced amount of leaf, particularly when young. Worthy of a special site in the garden to give it a good start. Few only.

#### **Staphylea bumalda**

The three-lobed leaves of this lovely spreading shrub (to less than 2m) are typical of the genus, but it has wonderful bark, gorgeous in winter when the white striations sparkle against the greyish-purple background. The white flowers are borne in panicles in May-June. Lovely red autumn colours. Easily grown in most soils and positions.

#### **Staphylea holocarpa**

A beautiful species which flowers a little earlier in the year than *S. bumalda*. The white flowers in April-May are tinged pink in bud. Equally easy to grow.

#### **Staphylea pinnata**

This makes a large shrub, and has more leaflets to each leaf. Otherwise, the flowers in their drooping panicles in May-June are similar.

#### **Stewartia pseudocamellia**

A small tree with attractive cinnamon coloured flaking bark. The huge (5-6cm) cup-shaped white flowers in July have conspicuous yellow stamens. Lovely yellow and red autumn colour. Although deciduous, *Stewartia* is related to *Camellia* which is reflected in the flower. They also thrive in a woodland type situation - semi-shaded on moist (preferably acid) loam. Such an outstanding all-year-round tree if you have the right site.

#### **Stewartia rostrata**

A more recently introduced Chinese species (not named until 1974, though introduced into the US in 1936!), similar in most respects, but with particularly distinctive "beaked" seed capsules. The bark is slightly greyer in colour.

#### **Stewartia serrata**

Another Japanese species, and indeed similar in principle to the better-known *S. pseudocamellia*, though flowering earlier - in June. Well-proportioned white flowers, attractively stained red from the base on the outside may be as much as 6cm across with prominent bright yellow stamens. The leaves are rather more leathery in texture, lending the tree a more resilient feel.

#### **Styrax japonicus 'Fargesii'**

A lovely small tree, this form has larger leaves and best of all, larger flowers. These beautiful white bells, with bright yellow stamens in the middle, are produced in June. It does not need acid soil, but the structure of the soil needs to be good. One of my favourite summer flowering small trees.

#### **Styrax japonicus 'Pink Chimes'**

Wonderful bell-like clear pink flowers are produced in abundance in June. Beware of cheaper plants grown from seed which may or may not have pink flowers! These are the real thing!

#### **Sycoparrotia semi-decidua**

A choice bi-generic hybrid between *Parrotia* and *Sycopsis*, this broad semi-evergreen shrub develops wonderful yellow autumn colour. Amazing orange-red staminoid flowers clothe the branches in winter.

### **Syringa laciniata**

This is a super smaller growing species with distinctly dissected leaves. The small panicles of lilac flowers in May make the whole plant so much daintier than the traditional lilacs! 4' x 4'

### **Syringa persica 'Alba'**

An unusual and charming white flowered form of the above.

## **Viburnum**

Viburnums must be one of the most varied genus of all. Some are evergreen, others deciduous. Some flower in winter, others in summer.

**Most of ours are winter or early spring flowering. These tend to have the best scent and give a welcome splash of colour at an often dismal time of year.**

Viburnums are so easy to please. They will grow on any soil, even the heaviest of clay (though deciduous species particularly tend to dislike excessive winter wet). However, most will happily tolerate sun or shade and they flower so reliably. The flowerheads are made up of lots of small tubular flowers and some of them are huge! Their fragrance is wonderful too.

If you have struggled with Daphnes and have finally given up in despair, then look no further - Viburnums are the plant for you!

**All are priced from £18.40**

### **Viburnum bithiuense**

Large open shrub similar to *V. x juddii*. Trumpet shaped flesh-pink flowers in April-May are sweetly scented and held in more open clusters than is seen in *V. carlesii*. A very pretty, graceful shrub.

### **Viburnum carlesii 'Aurora'**

A popular medium rounded shrub. Red flower buds open to pale pink in April-May. The fragrance is nearly as good as that of Daphne! Rich autumn colour.

### **Viburnum carlesii 'Compactum'**

*V. carlesii* is always popular but the usual forms will get reasonably big. This one however, is ideal for that smaller space! Still featuring large heads of gorgeous pink flushed creamy-white flowers in spring with an intoxicating scent. Indeed, in relation to the size of the plant, the flowers seem even larger.

### **Viburnum carlesii 'Diane'**

Although strong growing, this superb form is more compact than the more common 'Aurora'. Flower buds open red, changing to pinky white and deliciously fragrant. There was a lovely mature specimen of this against Lady Ann's house at Rosemoor. It was about 5' tall and a solid block of flower in the spring. Imagine that under a window!

### **Viburnum carlesii 'Marlou'**

I love this group, with their fantastic fragrant flowers in April-May. Still new to us, so I can't yet say what makes it different to the others we grow. So either try it for yourself, or watch this space!

### **Viburnum chingii**

This is an adorable medium shrub to 2m, found by Roy Lancaster on the Cangshan (Dali Range) above Dali in Western Yunnan, China in 1981. Having smaller leaves gives it a more graceful appearance than the density of most large leaved Viburnums. Typical clusters of tubular Viburnum flowers are pale pink tipped with richer pink, though smaller than most, are

produced in April-May. Fragrant when it's warm enough! I like this one very much.

### **Viburnum 'Chippewa'**

This handsome plant was the product of a breeding programme at the US National Arboretum in 1968. Evergreen *V. japonicum* was crossed with the deciduous, red-fruited *V. dilatatum* 'Catskill' and 'Chippewa' was selected from the resultant seedlings 5 years later. Thus we can enjoy dark green, heavy-textured foliage that takes on fabulous rich red autumn colour late in the season. The huge creamy white flower-heads in May can contain 250-400 florets (no, I haven't counted them to check) before giving way to a potentially heavy set of glossy red fruits in August. Fruiting will be best with a pollinator (like 'Huron') but I grow it for its late autumn colour which extends the season in spectacular manner.

### **Viburnum erubescens**

An unusual species with particularly lovely foliage. The fragrant white flowers in July are flushed with pink and are held in panicles, which is unusual for a Viburnum. Sometimes considered to be tender, it has survived minus 12 on our heavy clay and is still smiling. Plant it sympathetically amongst other shrubs and don't use it as a windbreak!

### **Viburnum erubescens var. gracilipes**

This tough medium sized shrub is upright in habit. Long, open panicles of fragrant pinky white flowers are freely produced in July. It readily sets fruit which start red and ripen to black.

### **Viburnum farreri 'December Dwarf'**

Our stock plant of this recent selection is still young, but it seems to be more upright and less spreading than our plant of 'Nanum', so may actually take up less room. I love to add sprigs of the pinky-white pom-pom flowers to a Christmas table centre, where its rich fragrance evokes promises of the season to come. 1m.

### **Viburnum farreri 'Nanum'**

If your garden is too small for the other Viburnums, then this could be the answer, with its dense mounded habit to less than 1m high by a little wider. The flowers are pink in bud opening white and deliciously scented. They start in November and continue all winter, but will flower best in a sunny site. They pick well too.

### **Viburnum grandiflorum**

Related to *V. farreri* and resembling it in habit, this is a handsome large shrub. The fragrant flowers are larger, and are carmine red in bud, opening to deep pink before fading to blush, giving a wonderful variation in colour through the flowers.

### **Viburnum grandiflorum f. foetens**

There are botanical details distinguishing this forms from the species of course, but for me the most marked aesthetic difference is the fact that the flowers are almost pure white and held in a laxer panicle.

### **Viburnum henryi**

Another addition in our quest for worthy evergreens. It was introduced from China by the famous Victorian plant hunter E.H.Wilson in 1901. Upright in habit, it has glossy green, leathery leaves. The white flowers are fragrant and are held in pyramidal panicles in June, followed by red berries which ripen to black.

### **Viburnum ichangense**

Almost "un-Viburnum-like" this compact plant has tiny leaves and clusters of pink flowers in May-June. Best in a sunny well drained site. Delightful.

### **Viburnum macrocephalum 'Sterile'**

The largest flowered of all Viburnum, it looks more like a large Hydrangea! The flowers are all sterile, in globular heads up to 15cm across! In colder areas, both forms are best against a wall.

### **Viburnum nudum 'Pink Beauty'**

Medium shrub of upright habit. The large glossy leaves are rather bronzy developing superb red and purple autumn colour. The flowers are white, tinged pink in June followed by amazing berries which turn from pink to blue-black as they ripen. Very easy and rewarding, it should be planted more widely.

### **Viburnum nudum 'Winterthur'**

Native of eastern USA, this cultivar was selected in 1961. Although the rich green summer foliage is very handsome, it is the berries that it is grown for. From late September, as they ripen, they progress through a series of colour changes: green to white, then blushing pink, and finally blue to bluish black giving a kaleidoscopic effect with lots of berries at different stages of colour. The nice thing about having 2 clones now, is that by planting them together, the cross pollination will result in a much heavier crop of fruit. And I nearly forgot to mention that all those berries are spectacularly displayed against handsome reddish-purple autumn colour.

### **Viburnum plicatum f. tomentosum 'Pink Beauty'**

Medium shrub of distinctive layered habit. Cream flowers in flat panicles quickly mature to pink, covering the upper sides of the branches in May-June. Red fruits freely produced. We find this form is a little taller and not as wide as *Mariesii*.

### **Viburnum plicatum 'Popcorn'**

A more compact selection with rounded heads of white flower-bracts.

### **Viburnum prunifolium 'Mrs Henry Large'**

I "discovered" this one whilst researching my book, immediately realising that it had great possibilities. With the potential to reach 5m tall by 2/3 width, this can be cleaned up to make a wonderful small tree or left bushy as a large shrub. The name alludes to the plum-like foliage which takes on wonderful autumn colours in a sunny position. Wildlife love the multi-coloured fruits which ripen to blue-black or blue-pink, having developed from long-lasting large creamy-white late spring inflorescences. However, I have yet to discover the exact identity of Mrs Henry!

### **Viburnum rhytidophyllum 'Variegatum'**

An unusual form of this impressive evergreen, it is much smaller growing due to the dramatic cream and gold variegation. Creamy white flowers in flat heads in May. Best in light shade.

### **Viburnum sargentii 'Onondago'**

The leaf shape is similar to that of *V.opulus*, but deep maroon when young turning red-purple in the autumn. A wonderful contrast for the fertile flowers which are deep red in bud, circled by a ring of sterile florets. Vigorous upright habit.

### **Viburnum tinus 'Lucidum'**

An outstanding evergreen with larger leaves than the usual *tinus* forms. This makes it excellent for screening, hedging or to give vital winter protection through woodland or border planting.

The flowers are a delightful rich pink in bud before opening white. Very tolerant of shade, even dry shade and also of pruning or clipping.

### **Viburnum tinus 'Lucidum Variegatum'**

Another choice and rare form of a common species. This should not be confused with the more common *V.tinus* 'Variegatum'. It is more vigorous and hardier. The larger glossy green leaves are variably marked with gold. The dark pink buds contrast well, then open to white flowers (larger than the type) in March-April. Another example of how we have maximised the colour and reliability of variegation by careful propagation.

### **Viburnum x burkwoodii 'Anne Russell'**

This lovely hybrid was the result of a backcross with *V.carlesii*. It is more compact than the type with clustered fragrant white flowers produced from January to May.

### **Viburnum x burkwoodii 'Compact Beauty'**

Much as I love *V. 'Anne Russell'*, it was first introduced to me as a smaller selection; but 20 years later, our original plant is over 3m tall, albeit of wonderfully dense, tidy habit! This clone however, genuinely seems to have all the requisites to live up to its name. The gorgeous flowers are as scented as its cousins.

### **Viburnum x burkwoodii 'Conoy'**

Superb recent American selection of more compact habit than most of the *x burkwoodii* forms to which it is similar. Small, dark glossy green leaves take on a maroon tinge in winter. Dark pink flower buds open to pleasantly fragrant creamy white flowers in April. The glossy red fruit can persist for 6-8 weeks in the autumn.

### **Viburnum x burkwoodii 'Park Farm Hybrid'**

Another plant doing so well in the garden that I couldn't resist propagating it and putting it back in the catalogue. Not everything we grow can be rare or difficult. Sometimes we need a good easy plant to give almost guaranteed splendour - whether as a present to a new gardener or to brighten up a particularly difficult site. Wonderful scented typical Viburnum like flowers, white tinted with pink in spring.

### **Viburnum x hillieri 'Winton'**

(*V.erubescens* x *V. henryi*) *V. erubescens* has become one of my favourite Viburnums, so it seemed only natural to add this hybrid from it to our collection. A medium sized semi-evergreen, it will keep most of its leaves for most of the winter, weather and location permitting. The attractive foliage is copper tinted when young and again through winter. Panicles of creamy-white flowers are profusely borne in June, followed by red berries which ripen to black.

### **Weigela middendorffiana**

This is such a variable species that it has taken us ages to find a clone with the quality flower we knew existed; so we're rather proud of this one. Typical *Weigela* in shape, the colour makes this shrub stand out - the foxglove-like flowers are yellow with beautiful pink markings within the tubular throat. Gorgeous. Potentially a good sized shrub, but slow to get going.

### **Weigela 'Tango'**

A personal recommendation from a nurseryman in America. Forget the traditional large straggly plant, for this is a tidy small shrub with wonderful deep purple foliage which is held well through the summer when planted in good light. The large pink flowers occur in clusters in mid summer and look superb against the leaves. A very useful little chap.