

Factsheet 11 – 28th June 2018



On a not particularly nice summer's day at Beechgrove Carole, Jim and George were sitting in the shelter of the corner of the Rose Garden. There were however some really lovely highlights to see in the Rose Garden.



Astrantia minor 'Roma' with its lovely long lasting soft pink flowers has stood up to recent storms and doesn't need staking.



Although we have had winds over the last few days the beautiful Paeonia 'Shirley Temple' has been protected by the Centaurea in front of it.





This peony's flowers are double and rose pink which fade to an off-white colour, and it is extremely fragrant.



Rosa spinosissima 'William III' is a pimpinellifolia shrub rose with lovely small purple flowers which are deeply scented. This rose does very well in poor conditions and is a lovely combination with the centaurea.



Veronica 'Royal Candles'

Featured varieties

Astrantia minor 'Roma'

Paeonia 'Shirley Temple'

Centaurea

Veronica 'Royal Candles'

Full planting list:

Bare root 1 x of each

1. Blanc Double de Coubert
2. Braveheart
3. Buff Beauty
4. Centre Stage
5. Champagne Moment (aka Lions Rose)
6. Darcey Bussell (syn. Monferrato)
7. Jacques Cartier
8. Lady of Shalott
9. Munstead Wood
10. Old Blush China
11. Queen of Sweden
12. Peter Pan

13. Rose de Rescht
14. Roseraie de L'Hay
15. Simply the Best
16. Warm Wishes
17. Wildfire

Containerised

1. 4 x Kent
2. 4 x Surrey
3. 1 x Burgundy Ice

New Rose Additions

Rose 'Fru Dagmar Hastrup'

Rose 'Fantin Latour'

Clematis varieties

Clematis 'Black Prince'

Clematis 'Perle d'Azur'

Clematis 'Polish Spirit'

Clematis alpina 'Blue Dancer'

Herbaceous perennials

Aconitum carmichaelii

Agastache 'Blackadder'

Anthemis 'Sauce Hollandaise'

Geranium macrorrhizum 'Spessart'

Geranium psilostemon

Geranium x magnificum

Geranium x magnificum 'Rosemoor'

Hyssopus officinalis 'Roseus'

Lupin 'Masterpiece'

Lysimachia 'Beaujolais'

Nepeta 'Six Hills Giant'

Papaver Orientale 'Royal Chocolate'

Peony 'Nippon Beauty'

Salvia 'Caradonna'

Salvia 'Mainacht'

Stachys macrantha

Veronica 'Royal Candles'



Fruit progress.

Strawberries:

On the 1st of May we planted 6 new varieties of strawberries at Beechgrove, 2 rows of early fruiting, 2 rows of mid season and 2 late season fruiting varieties. Some were fruiting and ripening now at the end of June and have already produced a decent crop for their first year.



Vibrant was certainly a vibrant colour and had huge fruits, Christine also.



The mid-season varieties were also fruiting well but still to ripen.



Some of the plants of the variety Elegance were wilting whilst others were fine.



Jim concluded that the problem was not in the soil so the plants will be dug up and investigated.

Fenella and Malwina are the two late varieties, Fenella was starting to fruit.



Whilst Malwina was still in flower and should fruit much later to give us a nice succession.



We are using straw to mulch the fruits this year – the straw should be put in a deep layer under the fruit trusses to hold them up to the light to ripen

and protect against rain splash. Ideally the straw should cover the entire strawberry bed. In the olden days growers used to burn off the straw (and therefore old foliage and any pests), and this would encourage a second crop later on in the season/September time.

Strawberry varieties

Strawberry 'Christine' – early variety (Pomona Fruits)

Strawberry 'Vibrant' – early variety (Dobies)

Strawberry 'Malling Centenary' – mid-season variety (Dobies)

Strawberry 'Elegance' – mid-season variety (Pomona Fruits)

Strawberry 'Malwina' – late variety (Dobies)

Strawberry 'Fenella' – late variety (Pomona Fruits)

Fruit cage mini orchard



Three years ago George established a mini fruit orchard of apples on a range of different rootstocks which control the vigour of the plants. What this means for the gardeners is that fruit can be grown in a more compact space than if the plants were grown on their own vigorous roots.

M27 is the most dwarfing variety that we have at Beechgrove – and this produces a tree no taller than 5 – 6 feet and therefore means that all of the fruit can be easily picked.



M9 (An intermediate rootstock) is a little bit more vigorous than M27, but still ideal for growing in restricted spaces and again, most of the fruit will be produced below about 7ft in height.

MM106 is the most vigorous of the rootstocks we have and is the best rootstock for most garden and small orchards. Most of the apples can be picked from ground level, but some may be slightly higher than that.

The mini apples didn't have such a good start to life at Beechgrove, as there was a very hard winter the year they were planted, they were also attacked by rabbits.



The damage was considerable, but we managed to save the plants by wrapping the stems in clingfilm which protected the repairing cambium and bark. They are however, full of fruit this year perhaps accelerated by their difficult start George thought.



The most vigorous apples need some seasonal summer pruning shortly but not yet as it's a bit soon here in Scotland.

In the fruit clusters most of the fruit is well set, but there are some which can and should be rubbed off easily, these are immature fruits and have not been fertilised properly, so these can all be removed.





It's best to not be too greedy and remove some of the fruits in the clusters so that you get bigger fruits as 8 - 9 fruits on a tree this size is ideal.



Ficus 'Violetta' is perfectly hardy outside in Aberdeen, it is hardy down to -20C apparently and it is producing some lovely fruits now.



Full plant list:

M9 Apple 'Discovery' (Dessert)

Apple 'James Grieve' (Dessert)

Apple 'Lass o' Gowrie' (Dessert)

Apple 'Spartan' (Dessert)

Apple 'Sunset' (Dessert)

M27 Apple 'Discovery' (Dessert)

Apple 'James Grieve' (Dessert)

Apple 'Lass o' Gowrie' (Dessert)

Apple 'Spartan' (Dessert)

Apple 'Katy' (Cooking)

Apple 'Keswick Codlin' (Cooking)

Apple 'Stobo Castle' (Cooking)

Ficus 'Violetta'



Chris – Awkward half shady sloping Bank planting.



We set Chris a really awkward planting job this week on a steeply sloping bank next to the pond. Awkward primarily because there is a significant amount of shade up at the top of the bank, but at the bottom of the bank there is full sun till at least mid-day. What he wanted was a naturalistic informal shrub planting area. Before planting Chris investigated what the soil conditions were, by digging a trial soil pit. Slopes are usually

associated with a change in soil structure from the top to the bottom, but here we have a reasonable rooting depth of soil, and the soil was nice and crumbly which indicated that it had plenty of organic matter in it. Generally, under trees where the roots steal nutrients and moisture do make sure that you add additional organic matter and an extra helping of fertiliser, this will help the establishment of any new shrubs.



Choice of shrubs for dappled or full shade:

- *Kolkwitzia amabilis* 'Pink Cloud' a suckering deciduous shrub which likes full sun, with a lovely arching habit, and exotic looking bell shaped flowers.
- *Hydrangea aspera sargentiana*: will give interest through till autumn which will tolerate a real deep shade. It has flattened heads of bluish purple flowers.
- *Chimonanthus praecox* (*Calycanthus*) is a beautiful shrub which will tolerate shade an pretty much any soil conditions it give you flowers even on Christmas day – they are similar to *Hamamelis* with thin strap like petals and the most beautiful winter fragrance.
- *Rhododendron* 'Gomer Waterer' will give spring interest and grow in any soil conditions is fully hardy, and will tolerate deep shade too, a must have plant. Its is an older proven variety which flowers in June. The flowers are a lovely rosy colour in the bud then they open to pink white and

there is a distinctive yellow-brown flare on the petal

- *Amelanchier canadensis* is a must have hardy shrub too, giving interest in spring with its white star shaped flowers: in autumn with its fiery red foliage and black berries. It can be pruned really hard and is hardy as they come. It actually can thrive in damp boggy conditions. In full sun or partial shade. When planting these shrubs slightly overdig the holes – this means about twice the size of the rootball in the pot back fill with a mix of the garden soil and tree and shrub planting mix, some long term GP fertiliser and some mycorrhiza to aid root spread.



Don't allow these shrubs to be out-competed by underplanting them with herbaceous plants or meadows in their first season otherwise they will shoot for the sky. And new shrub plantings need to be well watered to aid establishment. You can sink a perforated pipe down by the side of the newly planted shrub and so when it comes to watering you can drop the hose pipe into the pipe and this will ensure that water is delivered directly to the roots.

And as a final flourish Chris suggested doubling your money with flowers by adding a Clematis to the newly planed shrubs. In this case it was

Clematis viticella 'Little Nell'. Plant on the shaded side of the plant and allow it to find the light. In March you can trim the Clematis back to about 25cm and there will be plenty of fresh growth for the following season.

Plant list:

Kolkwitzia amabilis 'Pink Cloud'

Hydrangea aspera subsp *sargentiana*

Chimonanthus praecox (Calycanthus)

Amelanchier canadensis

Rhododendron 'Gomer Waterer'

Clematis viticella 'Little Nell'



Carole's 6x8 greenhouse

In her 6x8 greenhouse, Carole has been creating a colourful display, with red or ruby as the main colour to celebrate our ruby anniversary.



She was watering the new collection of Asiatic lilies planted in a succession to give us successional flowering.



The variety 'Red Power' is budding up nicely and to make sure there are lots of flowers, water regularly and fertilise with a product high in Potassium, i.e. a tomato fertiliser.



The Amaryllis had virtually finished flowering, so the advice now was to give them good light and cut back the flowering spikes, and every 10 – 14 days give a feed with a high Potassium feed to encourage next years flowers.



Carole has added some new plants to this display this year. Calceolaria 'Kentish Hero' (the slipper flower) is a tender perennial and new to Carole, this variety is very striking with its orange/red oddly shaped flowers. We will take cuttings of this plant for next year.



Carole was particularly taken with Begonia 'Santa Cruz' which had elongated foliage and bright cascading scarlet red flowers



Celosia 'Dragons Breath' was attractive too, with its red foliage and feathery red flower spikes.



Verbena samira 'Deep Red Star' looks to be a really interesting plant with ruby red flowers with a bright white central star.

Once plants have finished flowering remember to dead head them to keep them flowering continuously.





Carole's tip was to use an upturned plant pot to create a tiered display.

Featured varieties

Basil 'Pesto'

Basil 'Round Midnight'

Basil 'Siam Queen'

Begonia 'Santa Cruz Sunset'

Calceolaria 'Kentish Pride'

Calceolaria 'Sunset Mix'

Celosia 'Dragon's Breath'

Chilli 'Hot Thai'

Coleus 'Black Dragon'

Lilium Asiatic 'Happy Sun'

Lilium Asiatic 'Red Power'

Mina lobata 'Jungle Queen'

Verbena samira 'Deep Red Star'



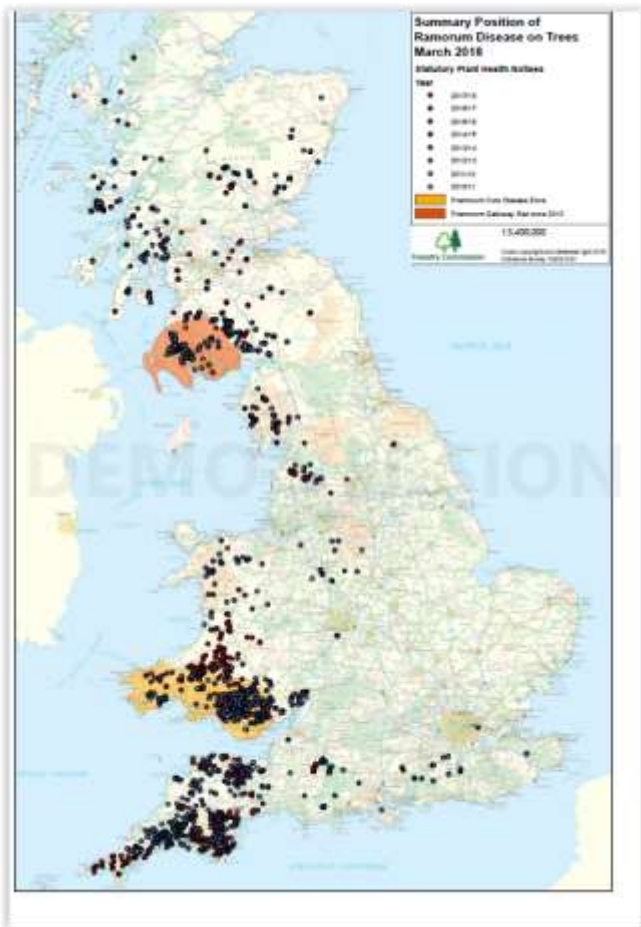
Plant Biosecurity



Jim felt that at this time of year prior to people going on holiday to foreign countries, he had a duty to give a warning: and that was that you should not bring **ANY** plant material back from your holiday destination. The reason for that is that this plant material could be infected with unknown pests and diseases. Programme guest Professor Ian Toth from the newly set up Plant Health Centre of Expertise was with Jim this week at the garden to explain a bit more. This Plant Health Centre is a centre of expertise funded by Scottish Government through RESAS (Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services Division) to help tackle plant health challenges for Scotland.

In the garden we have an example of just this kind of problem as the hedging variety *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Stardust', has been infected with the fungus *Phytophthora ramorum* which has killed the plants. When this fungus first arrived in this country rhododendrons were affected, then the disease caused sudden oak death, and it has now spread onto larch trees (and other coniferous species). At the moment in Britain there are many areas with diseased larch trees, mostly on the west coast. Since it was originally found in 2009 its spread has been very rapid. The scale and

consequences of this disease could be equivalent to the Dutch Elm disease of the 1970's.



We gardeners have a very important part to play in this, as many diseases and pests will be brought back in various bits of luggage from holiday destinations.

But it is not just from countries abroad that the dangers lie, Fuchsia gall mite has reached the south of England but is not yet in Scotland, so we have to be careful also about bringing plants back even from England.



Xylella fastidiosa is a very nasty bacterial disease which originated in south America but in 2013 it was found for the first time in Europe in olive trees in southern Italy.



In South America it is harmful to coffee and citrus varieties. Within 18 months it had affected and killed over 1million olive trees in Italy and it is spreading. Plant material currently being affected by it are olives, lavender, grape vines, rosemary etc semi hardy shrubs. The point is that there is no known cure for this disease and all plant material affected by it has to be destroyed.

The message again: do not bring plant material back from abroad, in fact the shorter distance that you can import plants from to your garden the better. Prof Toth suggested using this as a general rule.



Cowden Castle Japanese Garden

Cowden Castle is a unique horticultural attraction just about to be opened in Clackmananashire.



The history: At the turn of the 20th century Scottish adventurer Ella Christie came home from a trip to the orient and was inspired to build a Japanese garden in Scotland. She chose a female Japanese garden designer Taki Handa to create the 7 acre Japanese garden in the grounds of Cowden Castle. This garden became the first and only garden of its size and scale to be designed by a woman. Sadly, it was vandalised in the 1960's but has now been brought back to life by a team of experts – again led by a Japanese architect and garden designer Professor Masao Fukuhara.

This garden opens for the first time on the 6th July to members of the public.

<http://cowdengarden.com/>



Handy Hints



Carole: The silver garden pond waterlilies were flowering well as were the newly added water forget me nots. One of our viewers had emailed us to ask why his dwarf water lily had not flowered. Carole's advice was first of all to be patient as it was a relatively young plant and the plant would need to build up the crown first. Also, to look at its planting depth and not have it too deep, and look to feeding it as they are gross feeders. There are proprietary pond plant fertiliser tablets available. Finally, water lilies do not like moving water so don't put them near a fountain or a waterfall.





Jim: As a result of the recent storm Hector, the only serious bit of damage at Beechgrove was to a newly planted *Betula pendula* 'Fastigiata' which had snapped off at the level of the stake. This stake should have been perhaps a bit higher to protect this stem, so we will have to buy a new tree. We can of course also cut the damaged section off, and see if it will sprout from lower down.



George: In the fruit cage George had spotted currant blister aphid on the tips of some shoots. The solution to it, Prune off the affected tips and destroy them, this will have the added affect of some summer pruning.





Meconopsis can be grown all over the length and breadth of the UK, however the best Meconopsis are grown in Scotland and are ideal for a woodland garden.



The goodbye this week came from the continuing stunning display of Meconopsis in the driveway garden. Meconopsis 'Susan's Reward' was one picked out by George who planted these in 2016.



Finally Carole's poor tree fern, it's just hanging on by a few fronds this year.



Another stunning plant was Meconopsis napaulensis which was grown from seed at Beechgrove sown in the summer of 2014. Because they are monocarpic, they die after setting seed. Propagate by saving and sowing seed.



Full plant list: (supplied by MacPlants –
<http://www.macplants.co.uk>) •

Meconopsis 'Dalemain'

Meconopsis 'Lingholm' – The best known seed raised cultivar. A good plant which can be variable in gardens. Some are good garden plants and can be fairly short lived although sometimes if happy will flourish. •

Meconopsis 'Willie Duncan' – A plant found by Willie in his garden in Fife. A tall, fine, palish blue, not the easiest to maintain. •

Meconopsis 'Barneys Blue' – A vigorous hybrid that comes into flower with deep purplish to lavender blue and eventually flowers that turn through to a good blue, so that when the plant comes into full flower there are all these colours on the one plant. •

Meconopsis 'Marit' – A good white cultivar that is strong growing that came from Denmark

• Meconopsis 'Mildred' – A new cultivar selected for its superb turquoise blue and is available this year commercially. One of the earliest to flower •

Meconopsis 'Mophead' – Earliest to flower for us in East Lothian with huge downward facing flowers just above the foliage. Persistent and beautiful. •

Meconopsis 'Slieve Donard' – The wellknown big blue poppy that has been acknowledged for many years. With excellent bright sky blue flowers with overlapping petals •

Meconopsis 'Susan's Reward' – along with M. Huntfield are part of the named clones from the George Sherriff group which flower slightly later, are very tall and upright and vigorous. They have dark marked leaves as they emerge in spring. There are 4 named cultivars and are straight forward garden plants •

Meconopsis x cookei 'Old Rose' – hybrid plant from quintriplinervis x. Not always easy to establish. Flowers early with harebell like flowers on 1–1.5 ft. stems of a dusky pink colour.

Meconopsis napaulensis



We are off air for the next two weeks for Wimbledon and will be back on your screens on Thursday 19th July on BBC2 Scotland and on Sunday 22nd July on BBC network.



ELDERFLOWER CORDIAL



Makes 3 bottles

What to find:

20–25 elderflower heads (depending on size)

1.5 kg granulated sugar

1.2 litres water

2 unwaxed lemons

One orange

75g (pack) of citric acid

What to do:

- Put the elderflowers into a clean bucket (or large bowl).
- Put the sugar and water into a pan and heat over a low heat to dissolve the sugar.
- Carefully peel and then slice the lemons and orange thinly. Add the peel and slices to the syrup (sugar and water) and simmer for 2–3 minutes.

- Dissolve the citric acid into the sugar syrup and remove the pan from the heat.
- Carefully pour the hot syrup and fruit into the bucket (or bowl) over the elderflowers. Cover with a cloth and leave for 2–3 days.
- Strain the cordial through a sieve lined with muslin into a large jug and put the cordial into clean bottles.

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29th June – 12th July

Aberdeenshire

Leith Hall Garden

The National Trust for Scotland

Huntly AB54 4NQ

01464 831148 www.nts.org.uk/leithhall

Thursday 28 June & Thursday 26 July

Parkvillia

Andy and Kim Leonard

47 Schoolhill, Ellon AB41 9AJ

Saturday 30 June & Sunday 1 July

Cruickshank Botanic Gardens

Cruickshank Botanic Garden Trust, Aberdeen University

23 St Machar Drive, Aberdeen AB24 3UU

Wednesday 11 July

Angus & Dundee

Hospitalfield Gardens

Hospitalfield Arts

Hospitalfield House, Westway, Arbroath DD11 2NH

info@hospitalfield.org.uk

Saturday 7 July

Ayrshire & Arran

Netherthird Community Garden

Netherthird Community Development Group

Craigens Road, Netherthird, Cumnock KA18 3AR

jamielorr@aol.com

Saturday 30 June

Glendoune House Walled Garden

Mr and Mrs WJ Briggs
Coalpots Road, Girvan KA26 0HN
07870 919505 kilhenzie@aol.com
Sunday 1 July

Dougarie

Mrs S C Gibbs
Isle of Arran KA27 8EB
office@dougarie.com
Tuesday 3 July

Berwickshire**Lennel Bank**

Mrs Honor Brown
Coldstream TD12 4EX
01890 882297
Sunday 1 July

Coldstream Open Gardens

The Gardeners of Coldstream
Coldstream Community Centre, High Street,
Coldstream TD12 4AP
01890 840700
Sunday 8 July

Dumfriesshire**Whiteside**

John and Hilary Craig
Dunscore DG2 0UU
01387 820501 hjcraig19@gmail.com
Sunday 8 July

East Lothian**Gifford Village and Broadwoodside**

The Gardeners of Gifford and Mr & Mrs Dalrymple
Gifford EH41 4QY
Sunday 8 July

Fife**Backhouse at Rossie Estate**

Caroline Thomson and Andrew Thomson
By Collessie KY15 7UZ
caroline.thomson@rofsie-estate.com
Sunday 1 July

Lathrisk Gardens

Fiona Skinner, Elspeth Skinner and Tober & Vera Reilly
Lathrisk KY15 7HX
01337 857419 N/A

Sunday 8 July

Glasgow & District**Strathbungo Garden**

Frank Burns
March Street G41 2PX
Sunday 1 July

Inverness, Ross, Cromarty & Skye**Torcroft**

Barbara Craig
Balnain, Glenurquhart IV63 6TJ
Saturday/Sunday, 7/8 July

Kincardine & Deeside**Drum Castle Garden**

The National Trust for Scotland
Drumoak, by Banchory AB31 5EY
01330 700334 drumcastle@nts.org.uk
Wednesday 4 July , Wednesday 11 July , Wednesday
18 July & Wednesday 25 July

Kirkcudbrightshire**Broughton House Garden**

The National Trust for Scotland
12 High Street, Kirkcudbright DG6 4JX
01557 330437 broughtonhouse@nts.org.uk
Thursday 28 June

Southwick House

Mr and Mrs R H L Thomas
Southwick DG2 8AH
Sunday 1 July

Seabank

Julian and Theodora Stanning
The Merse, Rockcliffe DG5 4QH
01556 630244 N/A
Sunday 8 July

Symington House

Mr and Mrs James Dawnay
By Biggar ML12 6LW
Sunday 8 July

Moray & Nairn**10 Pilmuir Road West**

Mrs Lorraine Dingwall
Forres IV36 2HL
01309 674634 fixandig@aol.com
Sunday 8 July

Peeblesshire & Tweeddale

Glen House

The Tennant Family
Glen Estate, Innerleithen EH44 6PX
01896 830210 info@glenhouse.com
Sunday 1 July

West Linton Village Gardens

West Linton Village Gardeners
West Linton EH46 7EL
01968 660669 j.bracken101@gmail.com
Sunday 8 July

Perth & Kinross

The Bield at Blackruthven

The Bield Christian Co Ltd
Blackruthven House, Tibbermore PH1 1PY
01738 583238 info@bieldatblackruthven.org.uk
Saturday 30 June

Wester Cloquhat

Brigadier and Mrs Christopher Dunphie
Bridge of Cally PH10 7JP
Sunday 1 July

Errol Park

Jamie Herriot-Maitland
Errol PH2 7RA
enquiries@errolpark.co.uk
Wednesday 11 July , Wednesday 18 July & Wednesday
25 July

Roxburgshire

Corbet Tower

Simon and Bridget Fraser
Morebattle, Near Kelso TD5 8AQ
Saturday 30 June

Yetholm Village Gardens

The Gardeners of Yetholm Village
Town Yetholm TD5 8RL
Sunday 8 July

Wigtownshire

Woodfall Gardens

Ross and Liz Muir
Glasserton DG8 8LY
woodfallgardens@btinternet.com
Sunday 8 July

You can find more information on gardens involved in Scotland's Garden Scheme on their website, here:

<http://www.scotlandsgardens.org/>



The Beechgrove Garden is produced for BBC by Tern – www.terntv.com

73 Crown Street
Aberdeen
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HAPPY GARDENING!