



April 2020: Special Edition 5

Dear Members,

Finally, a little rain today – just as my water butt was nearing empty and the patio pots were crying out for water. But we have been very lucky with the weather enabling us to enjoy our gardens whilst having to stay at home.

Thank you for all your photos – there are some wonderful gardens hidden away in Long Ashton, so thank you for sharing.

We have another quiz this week, the answers to last week's wordsearch and some new plant facts. Please send me any contributions to kateawilkinson@hotmail.co.uk

Keep well and safe.

Kate Anthony Wilkinson (Chair)

MEMBERS GARDENS

A wonderful Acer in Sharon's garden, complete with two small self-seeded saplings underneath – probably in need of digging out and planting on in the autumn - and masses of white flowers on the shrub – can anyone identify it?



FUSHIAS

Fuchsias are versatile plants. The large-flowering hybrids are generally not hardy and require the protection of a heated glasshouse or conservatory where they can be protected from late September round until early June. These more tender ones are ideal for summer bedding schemes, pots, urns, troughs, window boxes and hanging baskets. But the smaller, much hardier outdoor kinds have their merits and there are many varieties to choose from. The traditional "fuchsia flowers" colour combination of scarlet sepals and violet petals can be found in *Mrs Poppo* (photo below).



Smaller flowered, but reliably hardy is *Fuchsia Magellanica* (photo next page) and its variegated form *Variegata*, which displays creamy-white and rose-pink markings in the foliage. *Fuchsia Riccartonii* is hardy, often becoming quite large in mild districts, with



deeper coloured calyx and broader petals. Two good dwarf varieties for rock gardens are *Peter Pan* and *Tom Thumb*.

In even relatively mild winters, the top growth of these hardy outdoor species will almost certainly be killed, nearly down to ground level. Therefore, at the end of March or early in April, prune away all the old, dead shoots, very low down so that the new growth will allow the plant to recover.



AUBRIETAS

The Aubrietias are now flowering at their very best, being most useful when planted in rock gardens, on well drained sunny banks and in particular for planting along the tops of dwarf walls, so that they can be allowed to trail not only along the tops of the walls but also to cascade down over the fronts in a riot of rich colour.



The *Bengal Mixed Hybrids* come in a mixture of blue, mauve, lilac, pink, purple, violet, white and crimson – something for everyone (below).

Many will be semi-double; others singles. The plants are very easy to grow from seed, sown in the open in May-June and transplanted into rows for growing on until final planting in October, where we are to flower, so now is a good time to be trying to get some seeds so as to have flowering plants for next year.

From time to time you may spot a special one which you may wish to propagate, and cuttings inserted in boxes containing a sandy compost will root quite easily in mid-summer. A golden, variegated form is available with very bright, striking foliage. This should be purchased from the “alpine plant” section of your garden centre and should never be clipped back as hard as other varieties.

MALUS (Crab Apples)

The Malus are the flowering Crab Apples, grown both for their spring blossom and autumn fruits. As an extra bonus, many will also produce good autumn colours in the foliage before leaf-fall. These small-to-medium sized trees are flowering at their best just now, and, as they don't grow too large, are ideal for the smaller gardens.



Malus Floribunda, the “Japanese crab” has striking, crimson buds, opening to pink and fading to almost white just before petal-fall.



They are always absolutely smothered in blossom and are a great asset to any garden in Springtime (photo below). The fruits are red and yellow, but very small.



If you require larger fruits in Autumn, consider the *Malus "John Downie"*, which is the best fruiting of all the crabs with large, bright orange-red fruits in Autumn, while flowering in Spring. *Malus "Golden Hornet"* carries large crops of bright yellow fruits and "Red Glow" (previous page) has such spectacular red, waxy fruits that people feel the need to squeeze them to see if they are real!

Thanks to Chris Young for Fuchsia, Aubrietia and Malus facts. More plant facts in next week.

MORE MEMBERS GARDENS



Following on from the article on Tulips, here are some amazing tulips and other flowers in Annie's garden.



We have received some wonderful photographs; perhaps we will see some of them in the Photographic section of the Flower Show in September.

More photos next week!



LAST WEEKS QUIZ

MISSING TOOLS WORDSEARCH

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
R	E	D	E	E	W		S							
					S	P	R	I	N	K	L	E	R	
T					R		O				A			
	R	E	K	A	R		S		R	E	W	O	L	B
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		E	W				I	A			M			S
	R			E	O	H	C		W		O			R
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		O					I				E			P
	H		W	H	E	E	L	B	A	R	R	O	W	P
			D					B						O
			A					K		L				L
		P	R	U	N	E	R	E	G	D	E			
	S					O								
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THIS WEEK'S QUIZ:

SPLIT FLOWERS

Combine the split words in the grid to form thirty whole words of two fragments.

The words are all flowers or shrubs.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ROSE	TA	WEST	DRAGON	TER	PY	DAI	MONE	CUS	CAME
TU	PET	CLEM	CK	AZA	UNIA	CHID	VIO	LLIA	ONY
CARN	SY	CRO	PHL	SIA	AS	SNAP	MARI	ONIA	I
MYR	Y	STO	ANE	SE	ILBE	LEA	HOS	PRIM	ROW
PAN	AST	LET	POP	ATION	TLE	GOLD	LIL	OX	BEG
YAR	ERIA	SY	OR	LIP	FREE	RO	PE	ATIS	RIS