



June 2020: Special Edition 10

Dear Members,

More lovely weather to spend tending and enjoying our gardens. Lockdown is easing: we can go out, the National Trust is beginning to open its grounds and I understand the Rose Garden at Ashton Court is looking lovely.

Sadly no LA Hort Soc trip to the Botanic Gardens this month, but I hope you enjoyed the alternative Chelsea Flower Show on line and some of the other virtual garden tours.

Thanks for your garden photos. Enjoy the articles, photos and quiz in this week's Newsletter. Contributions to kateawilkinson@hotmail.co.uk

Keep safe!

Kate Anthony Wilkinson (Chair)

MEMBERS GARDENS



A wonderful clematis in Deryll's garden – it loves a shady corner. Some Clematis facts are included later in this Newsletter.



Angela and David have some super Red Hot Pokers in their garden – the wall obviously gives them the warmth as well as protection from wind.





PLANT FACTS: CLEMATIS

Most Clematis (but not quite all) are vigorous, climbing plants, producing plenty of long growths which will scramble anywhere a little support can be provided or found, such as against a wall, fence, trellis-work or pergolas; it is even happy to grow up through old trees and shrubs. Some of the large flowered named hybrids can sometimes be difficult for some people to establish.



Many of the species however are much easier to grow, being generally stronger growers, providing more and even rampant growths of up to 20 or 30 feet in length. *Clematis Montana* is one of the easiest of all to grow. White flowers appear in their masses during May. *Elizabeth* (photo above) is a pink variety, whilst *Montana Rubens* (photo below) is of a darker rose-pink. *Tetrarose* is a lilac-rose shade.



The roots prefer to be kept cool and moist, whilst the top-growth prefers full sunshine. People therefore sometimes plant the roots round the shady corner of the house, leading the shoots round to the sunny side, as they grow and develop. Others may place a slab of stone on the surface to keep the roots cool or an upturned pot, or plant a low shrub in front to shade the sunshine from the soil.

By combining different varieties in different places, you can enjoy flowers from early spring through to late summer. Dwarf clematis like *Bijou* (photo below) and *Ansley* grow well in patio pots. The dainty flowers of the alpine clematis introduce a splash of colour as early as March while vibrant late-flowering varieties can still be in bloom in September. You can grow clematis in borders using a metal or wooden obelisk; the other plants in the border providing the shade to the roots.



Good planting partners for clematis include shrub roses, honeysuckle, lavender and ornamental grasses. You can also train a summer flowering clematis to grow through a cherry or crab apple tree to continue the show long after the tree's summer blossom has ended.



Avalanche - an evergreen variety with white spring flowers March-May (photo below).



Montana Elizabeth - pale pink flowers May-June (photo previous page).

Montana Miss Christine - fragrant white flowers May-June.

Ansley – perfect for patio pots with large scarlet flowers May-June/Sept.

Bijou - very compact variety ideal for patio containers June-Aug (photo previous page).

Montana Pink Perfection – fragrant with bronze leaves May-June.

Blue Angel – masses of large pale lilac flowers June-Oct.



Montana Rubens Superba – scented pale-pink flowers May-June.

Charmaine – compact variety with ruffled scarlet flowers June-Sept (photo below)



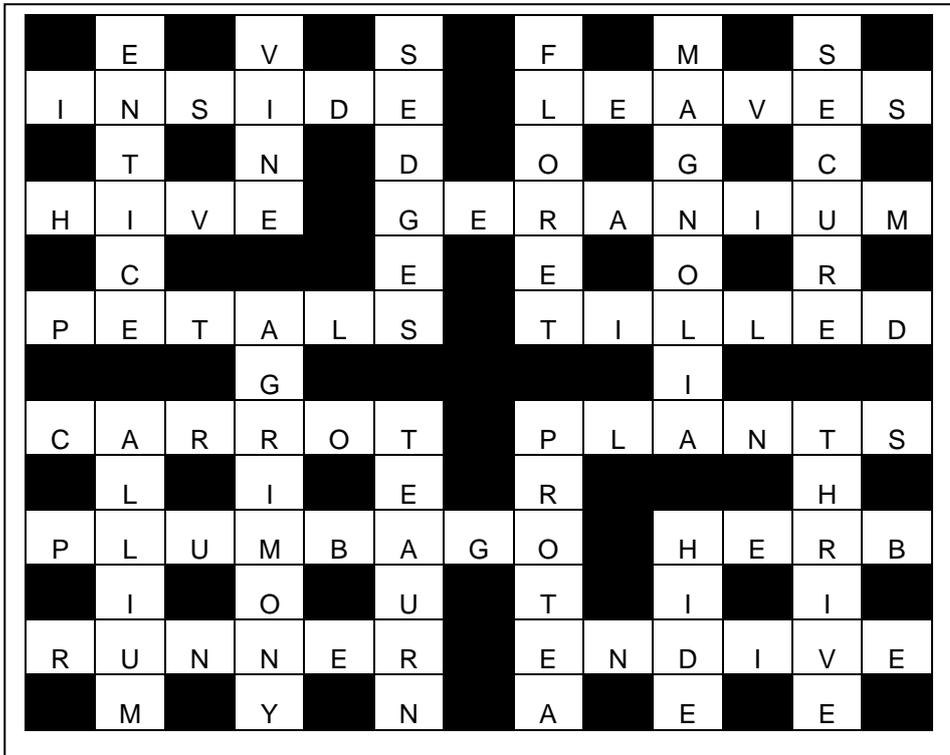
Meghan – a new variety named after the Duchess of Sussex with large dark pink flowers May-June/Sept (photo below).



Keep well-watered during dry spells and watch out for the trouble known as “Clematis Wilt”. Study carefully the pruning requirements of the clematis you have and prune accordingly.



LAST WEEK'S QUIZ – HORTICULTURAL CROSSWORD



THIS WEEK'S QUIZ - Famous Gardens : Name the famous UK gardens from the descriptions.

1	Based in Richmond, London it is home to over 50,000 living plants. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site.
2	This Welsh garden is owned by the National Trust. It is in the Conwy Valley and its name means dwelling by a stream in Welsh.
3	The National Trust describe this garden near Cranbrook in Kent as "historic, poetic, iconic; a refuge dedicated to beauty". The place has a long history and was bought by Vita Sackville West and Harold Nicholson in 1930 who created this world renowned garden.
4	These sub-tropical gardens off the coast of Cornwall are in the ruins of a Benedictine Abbey and are home to over 20,000 plants from more than 80 countries.
5	This Essex garden is named after a visionary lady who oversaw its development into her 90s. There are five sub gardens showing what can be done with challenging soils and conditions but it's the gravel garden which is never watered that is probably the most famous.
6	This South West garden now owned by the National Trust was described as "a living work of art" when it was opened in the 1740s. It gives an 18 th century view of a magical garden with temples and follies surrounding a beautiful lake.