



National Botanic
Garden of Wales
Gardd Fotaneg
Genedlaethol Cymru



Top 50 East Asian



Plants for Pollinators



Oriental Garden plants you can grow in the UK
to help our pollinating insects

List Curated by Thomas McBride

From research data collected and collated at the
National Botanic Garden of Wales

NB: Butterflies and Moths are not studied at the NBGW so any data on nectar plants
beneficial for them is taken from Butterfly Conservation



Guide to using these pages:

Map

Maps depict the native area of the plant (in green)
They also show areas the plant is naturalised (in purple)

All maps shown are derived from 'Plants of the World Online'; courtesy of Kew Gardens

Flowering Period
(this is when it is good for pollinators!)

Plant Family

Growing habit and mature size of the plant

Latin Binomial Name

Aconitum carmichaeli

Common English Name

Chinese Wolfsbane

Photograph of the plant in flower

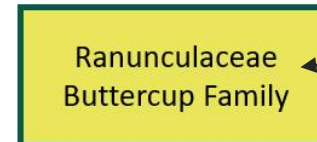


Insect groups known to favour the nectar of this plant

Useful knowledge or warnings about the plant

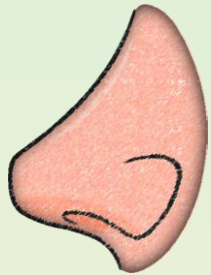


RHS AGM cultivars of this species (or a related species occasionally)



Key to these Pages

Additional information on these garden plants



The flowers and/or leaves have a Pleasant scent

This plant would be suitable for meadow-style planting



Plant is often used in traditional Herbal Remedies



The plant has edible parts that are commonly eaten or used in cooking



Warnings



Plant tissue is highly toxic if ingested



Sap may cause irritation (Wash hands after touching or avoid touching)

Pollinators

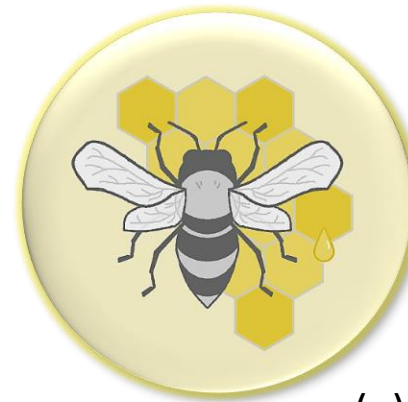
Our data on pollinators has been collected from studies spanning over a decade. Pollinator symbols appear when plants are proven to be good nectar plants for certain insects.

It should be noted that all bee and hoverfly data is ours but lepidoptera data is taken from Butterfly Conservation.

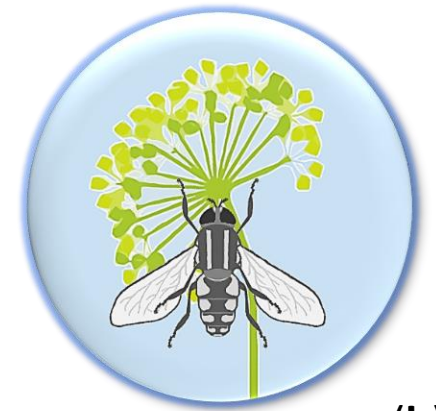
Our data spans a wide range of different insect species. For simplicity, these species have been condensed into six easy icons to represent them:

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| a) Honeybees | c) Bumblebees | e) Moths |
| b) Hoverflies | d) Butterflies
(Includes Moths) | f) Solitary Bees |

The next pages will describe each of the insect groups:



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)

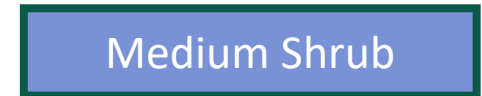


(f)

Abelia x grandiflora

Garden Abelia

Abelia chinensis x *Abelia uniflora*



Aconitum carmichaeli

Chinese Wolfsbane



Photograph from Mount Venus Nursery



Late Summer
- Early Autumn

Ranunculaceae
Buttercup Family

4ft Perennial

Actaea simplex

Baneberry



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Kerry Woods



'Brunette'
'James Compton'

Late Summer
- Early Autumn

Ranunculaceae
Buttercup Family

4ft Perennial

Actinidia chinensis

Golden Kiwi



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Manuel M. V. & Ting Chen (Flower)



- None -

Spring 

Actinidiaceae
Kiwi Family

Large Tree

Actinidia tetramera

Rosy Crab-Apple Kiwi



Var. maloides



Spring 

Actinidiaceae
Kiwi Family

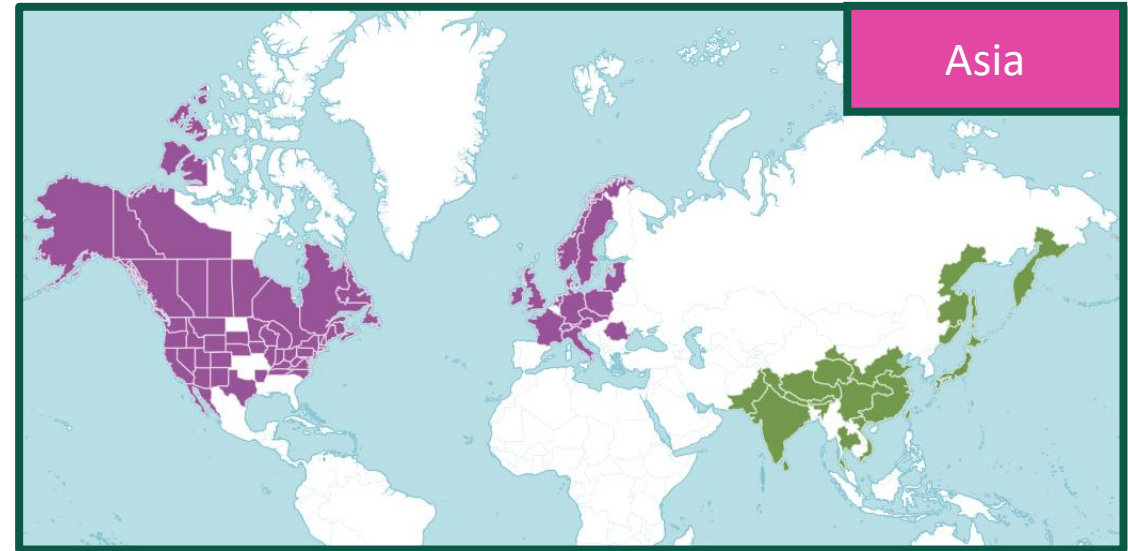
Small Tree

Anaphalis margaritacea

Pearly Everlasting



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Per Verdonk



Related species: *Anaphalis triplinervis*

'Sommerschnee'



Summer ☀

Asteraceae
Daisy Family

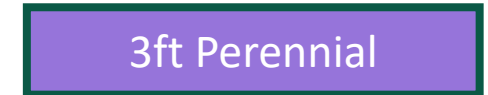
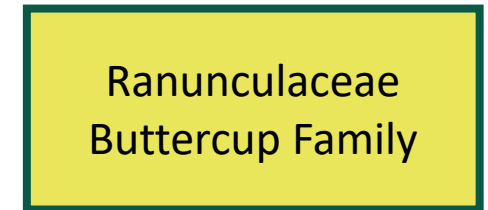
2ft Perennial

Anemone hupehensis var. *japonica*

Japanese Anemone



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Sen Ito



Astilbe chinensis

False Goat's-beard



'Purpurlanze'
'Superba'



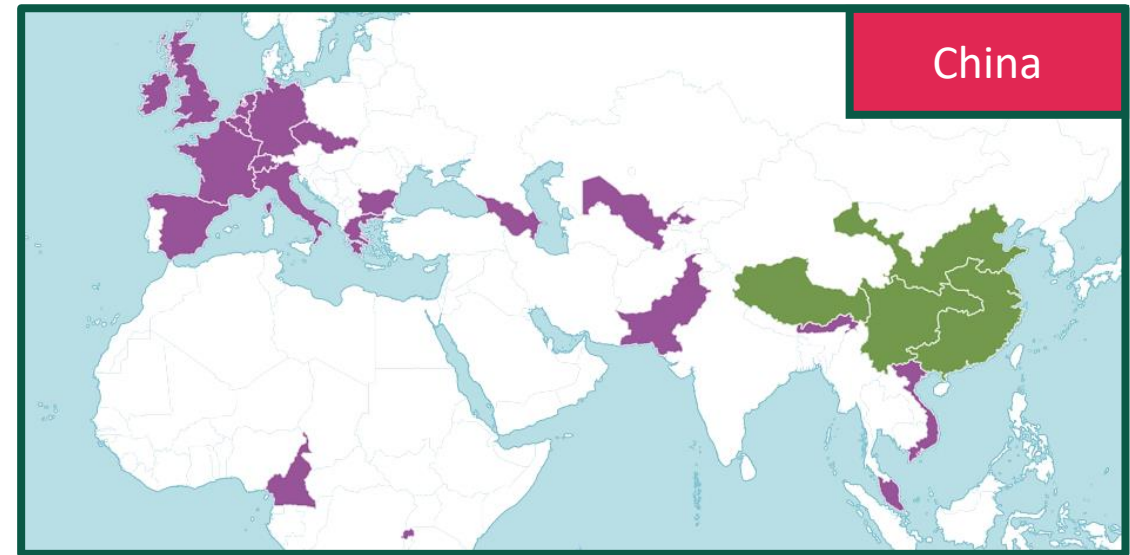
Summer ☀

Saxifragaceae
Saxifrage Family

3ft Perennial

Buddleja davidii

Common Butterfly Bush



'Black Knight'
'Dartmoor'



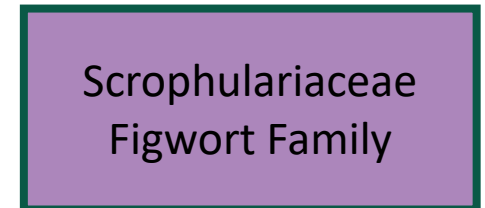
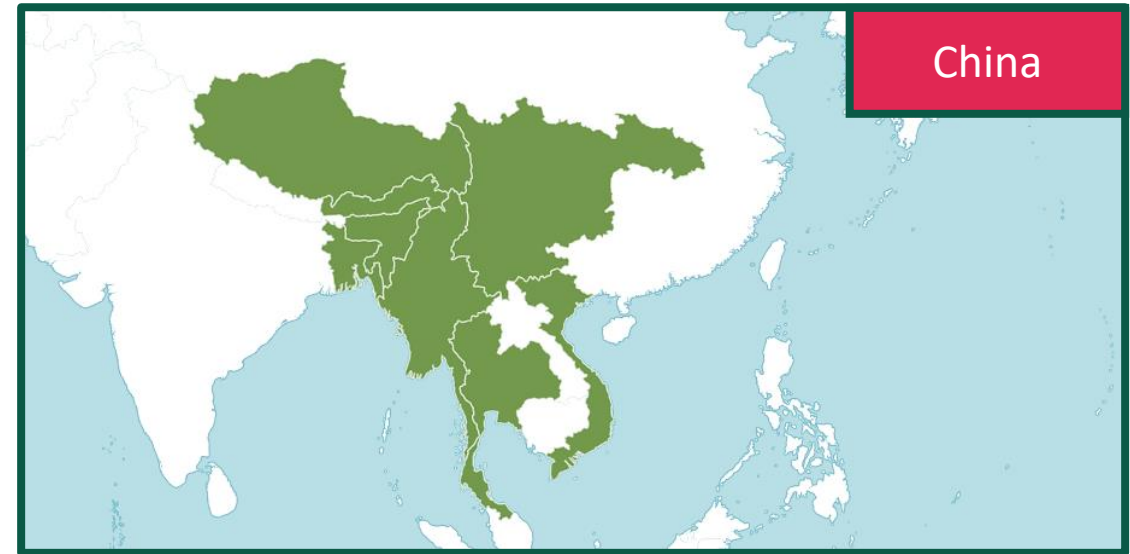
Summer ☀

Scrophulariaceae
Figwort Family

Large Shrub

Buddleja macrostachya

Tibetan Butterfly Bush



Callicarpa bodinieri

Bodinier's Beautyberry



'Profusion'



Summer ☀️

Autumn 🍁 (Berries)

Lamiaceae
Mint Family

Medium Shrub

Camellia japonica

Japanese Camellia



‘Hagoromo’
‘Pink Perfection*’

RHS AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT

Spring

Theaceae
Tea Family

Medium Shrub

* Fully double flowered cultivars are not good for pollinating insects so try to buy single flowers (see photo) when possible.

Caryopteris incana

Common Bluebeard



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Hen Magonza



Related Hybrid: *Caryopteris x clandonensis*

'Heavenly Blue'
'Summer Sorbet'



Midsummer
- Early Autumn

Lamiaceae
Mint Family

Small Shrub

Ceratostigma plumbaginoides

Hardy Blue Leadwort



Photograph from Wikipedia (CC) David J Stang



-Species-

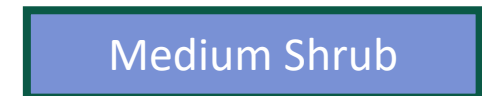
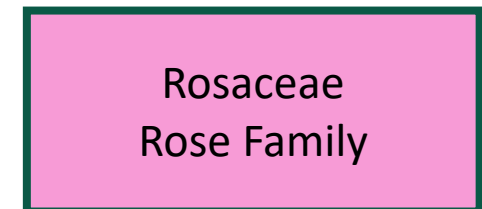
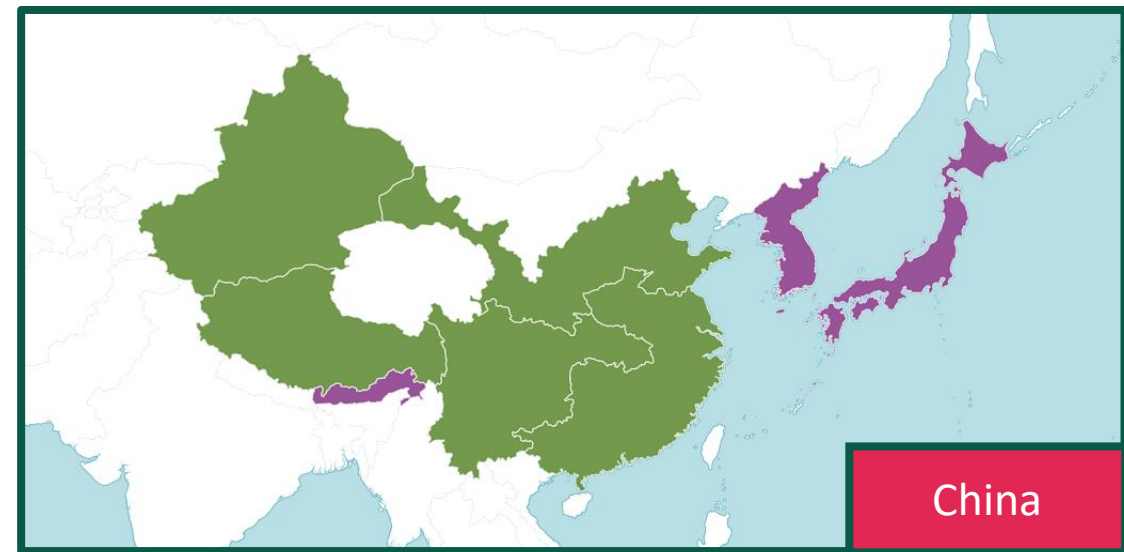
Midsummer
- Early Autumn

Plumbaginaceae
Leadwort Family

2ft Perennial

Chaenomeles speciosa

Chinese Quince



Deutzia gracilis

Japanese Snow Flower



'Nikko'

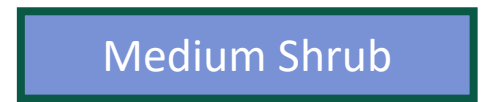
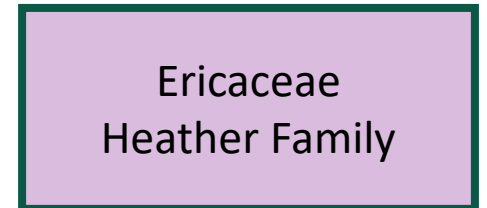
Mid Spring
- Early Summer

Hydrangeaceae
Hydrangea Family

Medium Shrub

Enkianthus perulatus

Dodan-tsutsuji



Geranium wlassovianum

Siberian Cranesbill



Photograph from Wikipedia (CC) Jamain

None



Midsummer
- Early Autumn

Geraniaceae
Cranesbill Family

2ft Perennial

Hamamelis mollis

Chinese Witch-hazel



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Wendy Cutler



'Jermyns Gold'
'Wisley Supreme'



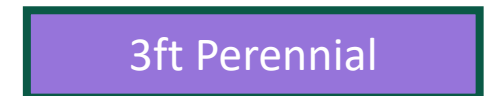
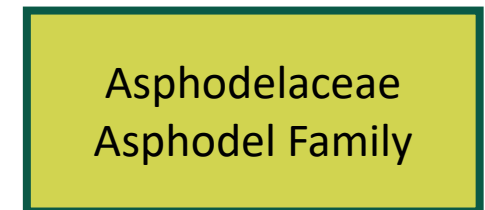
Mid Winter
- Early Spring

Hamamelidaceae
Witch-hazel Family

Large Shrub

Hemerocallis fulva

Orange Daylily



Heptacodium miconioides

Seven Son Flower Tree



Photograph from Flickr (CC) F. D. Richards



- Species -

Late Summer
- Late Autumn

Caprifoliaceae
Honeysuckle Family

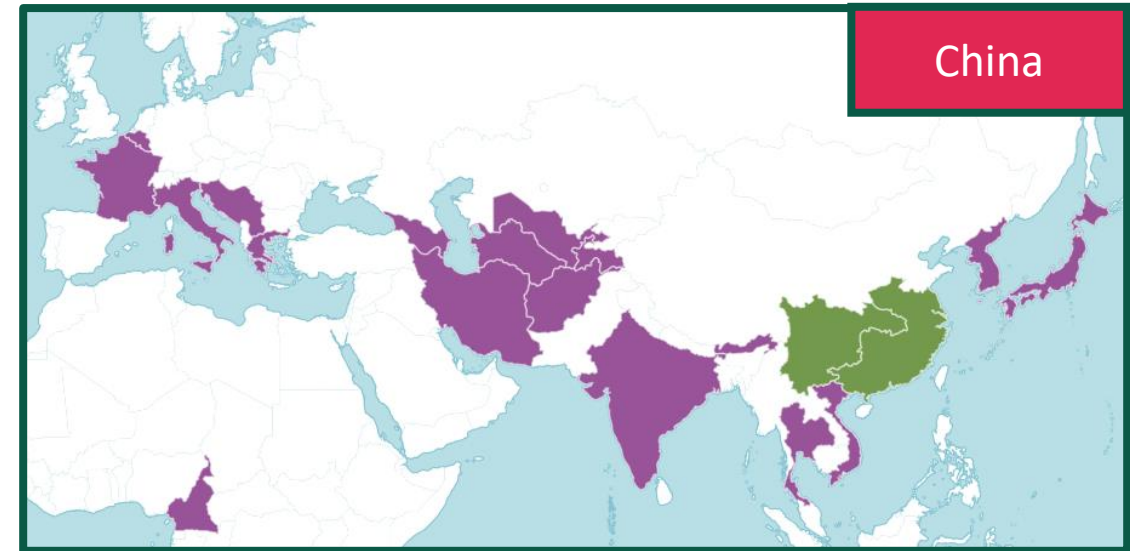
Medium Tree

Hibiscus syriacus

Rose Mallow



Photograph from Flickr by Toshikiro Gamo



'Hamabo'
'Woodbridge'



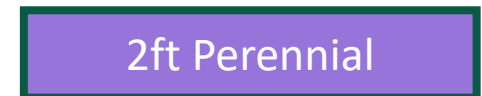
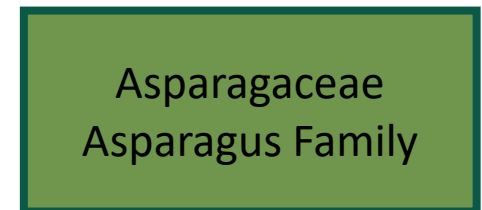
Midsummer
- Early Autumn

Malvaceae
Mallow Family

Medium Shrub

Hosta sieboldiana Syn. *H. fortunei*

Giant Blue Plantain-lily



Hosta ventricosa

Blue Plantain-lily



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Gary Lerude



- Species -
'Aureomarginata'



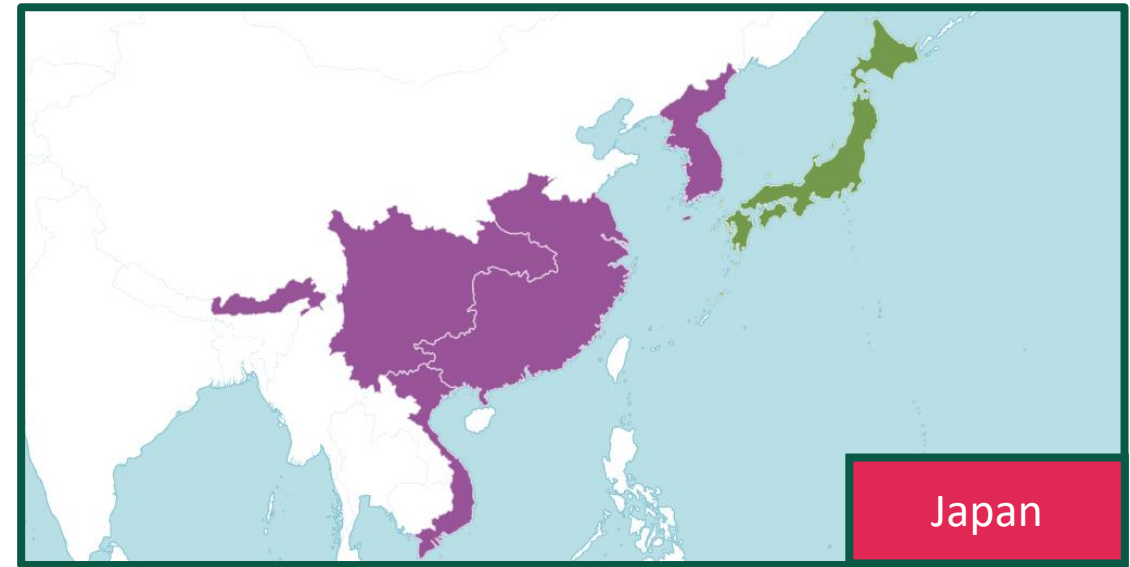
Summer ☀️

Asparagaceae
Asparagus Family

2ft Perennial

Hydrangea macrophylla

Large-leaf Hydrangea



'Europa' 'Zorro'
'Quadricolour'



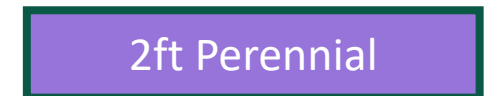
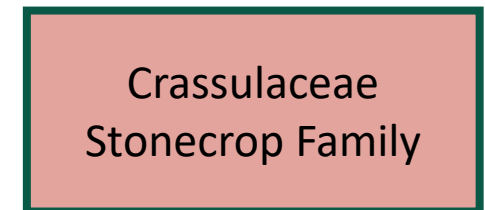
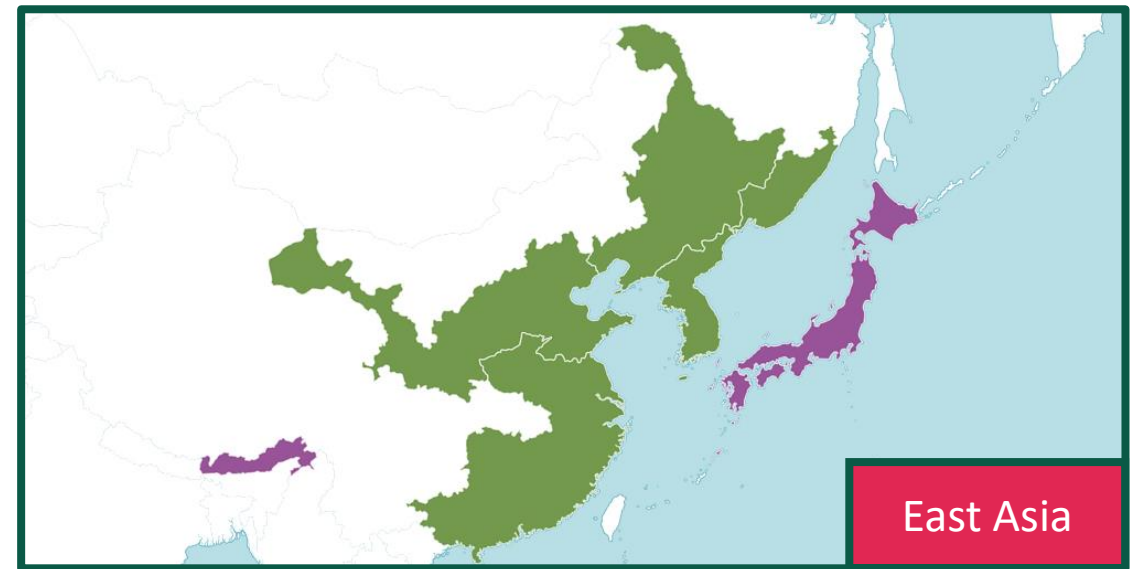
Summer ☀

Hydrangeaceae
Hydrangea Family

Medium Shrub

Hylotelephium spectabile

Showy Stonecrop, Sedum



Kerria japonica

Japanese Marigold-bush



Photograph from Flickr (CC) A. Qiao



'Golden Guinea'
'Pleniflora*'

Late Spring
- Midsummer

Rosaceae
Rose Family

Medium Shrub

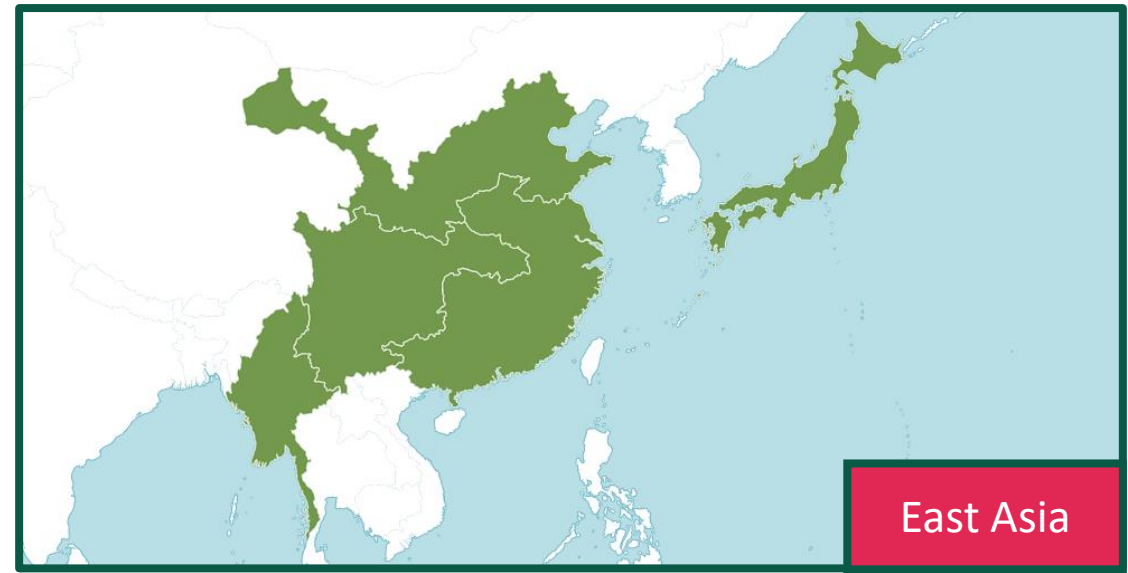
* Double flowered cultivars are not good for most pollinating insects so try to buy single flowers when possible

Ligularia dentata

Leopardplant



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Lotus Johnson



'Britt Marie Crawford'

Midsummer
- Early Autumn

Asteraceae
Daisy Family

4ft Perennial

Ligustrum sinense

Chinese Privet Bush



Photograph from Flickr (CC) A. Qiao



Related species: *L. lucidum*

'Tricolor'
'Excelsum Superbum'

The RHS Award of Garden Merit logo, featuring a trophy cup and the text "RHS AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT", is positioned next to a stylized tree icon.

Midsummer
- Early Autumn

Oleaceae
Olive Family

Medium Shrub

Magnolia Kobus

Kobus Magnolia



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Mark Kent



None



The logo for the RHS Award of Garden Merit, featuring a green trophy cup inside a circular border with the text "RHS AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT" and a registered trademark symbol. To the right of the logo is a stylized white tree icon.

Spring 

Magnoliaceae
Magnolia Family

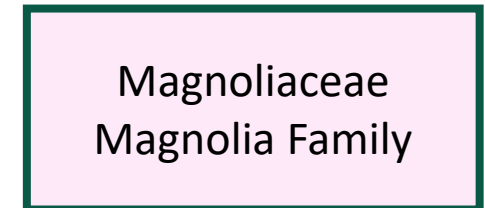
Small Tree

Magnolia stellata

Star Magnolia



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Ting Chen



Malus floribunda

Japanese Crab Apple



-Species-



Spring 

Autumn  (Fruits)

Rosaceae
Rose Family

Small Tree

Meconopsis betonicifolia

Himalayan Blue Poppy *Syn. M. baileyi*



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Tim Waters

-Species-
'Mop Head'

RHS AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT

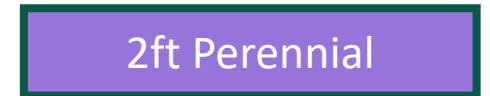
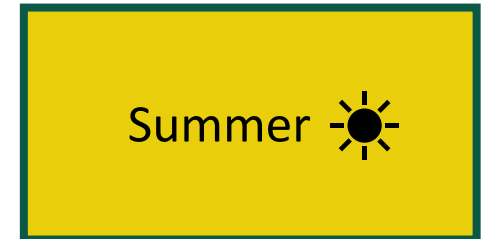
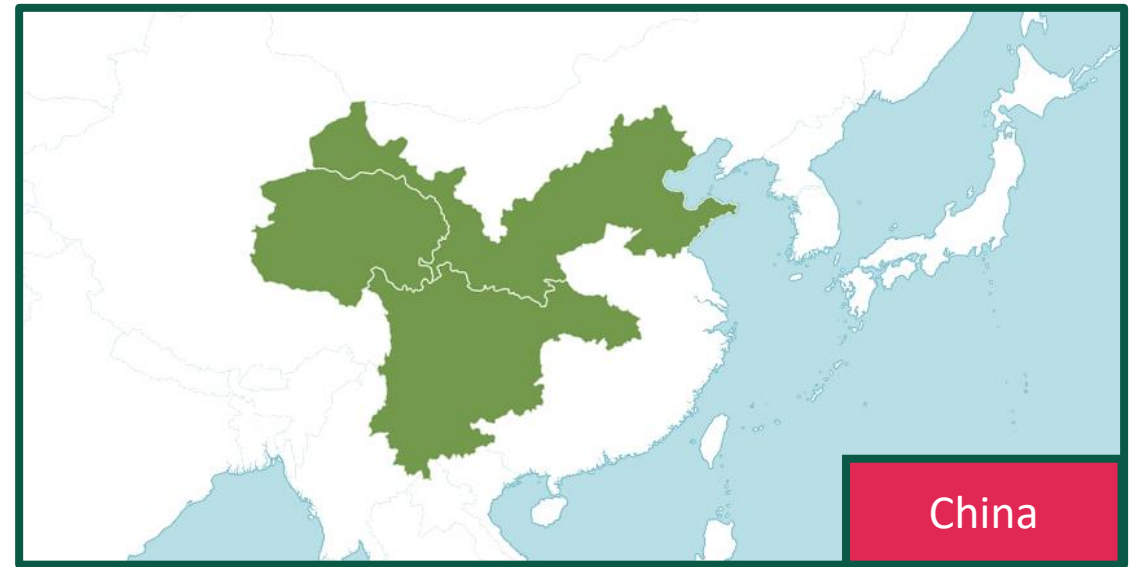
Summer ☀

Papaveraceae
Poppy Family

3ft Perennial

Meconopsis punicea

Sichuan Red Poppy

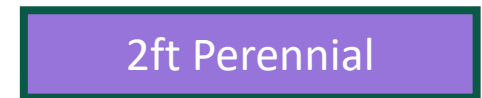


Meconopsis quintuplinervia

Harebell Poppy



Photograph from Flickr (CC) T. Ma



Paeonia lactiflora

Chinese Paeony



'Bowl of Beauty'
'Miss America'



Late Spring
- Early Summer

Paeoniaceae
Paeony Family

3ft Perennial

Pieris japonica

Japanese Andromeda Bush



'Blush' 'Purity'
'Mountain Fire'



Spring 

Ericaceae
Heather Family

Small Shrub

Prunus campanulata

Taiwan Cherry



Related Species: *P. pendula*

'Stellata' 'Rosea'
'Pendula Rubra'

RHS AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT

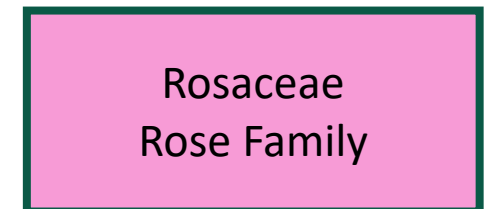
Spring

Rosaceae
Rose Family

Small Tree

Prunus incisa

Fuji Cherry



Rheum palmatum

Ornamental Rhubarb



'Bowles Crimson'
'Savill'



Summer ☀

Polygonaceae
Knotweed Family

6ft Large Perennial

Rhododendron yakushimanum

Yakushima Rhododendron



Photograph from Flickr (CC) A Qiao



'Koichiro Wada'
'Hachmann's Polaris'



Spring 

Ericaceae
Heather Family

Medium Shrub

Rhododendron hippophaeoides

Sichuan Blue Rhododendron



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Plant Image Library



'Haba Shan'



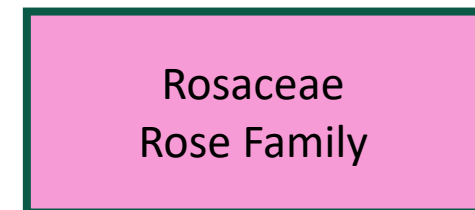
Spring 

Ericaceae
Heather Family

Medium Shrub

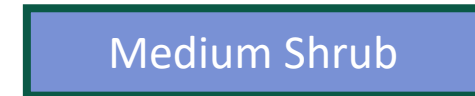
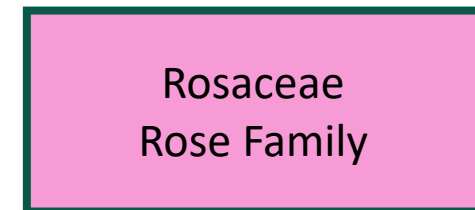
Rosa odorata

Scented Tea Rose



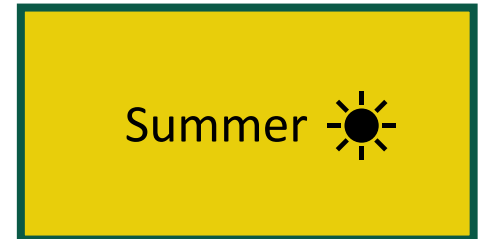
Rosa xanthina

Yellow Manchu Rose



Sanguisorba hakusanensis

Lilac Squirrel Flower



Skimmia japonica

Japanese Skimmia



Photograph from Wikipedia (CC) Wilhelm Zimmerling



'Fragans' 'Rubella'
'Nymans'



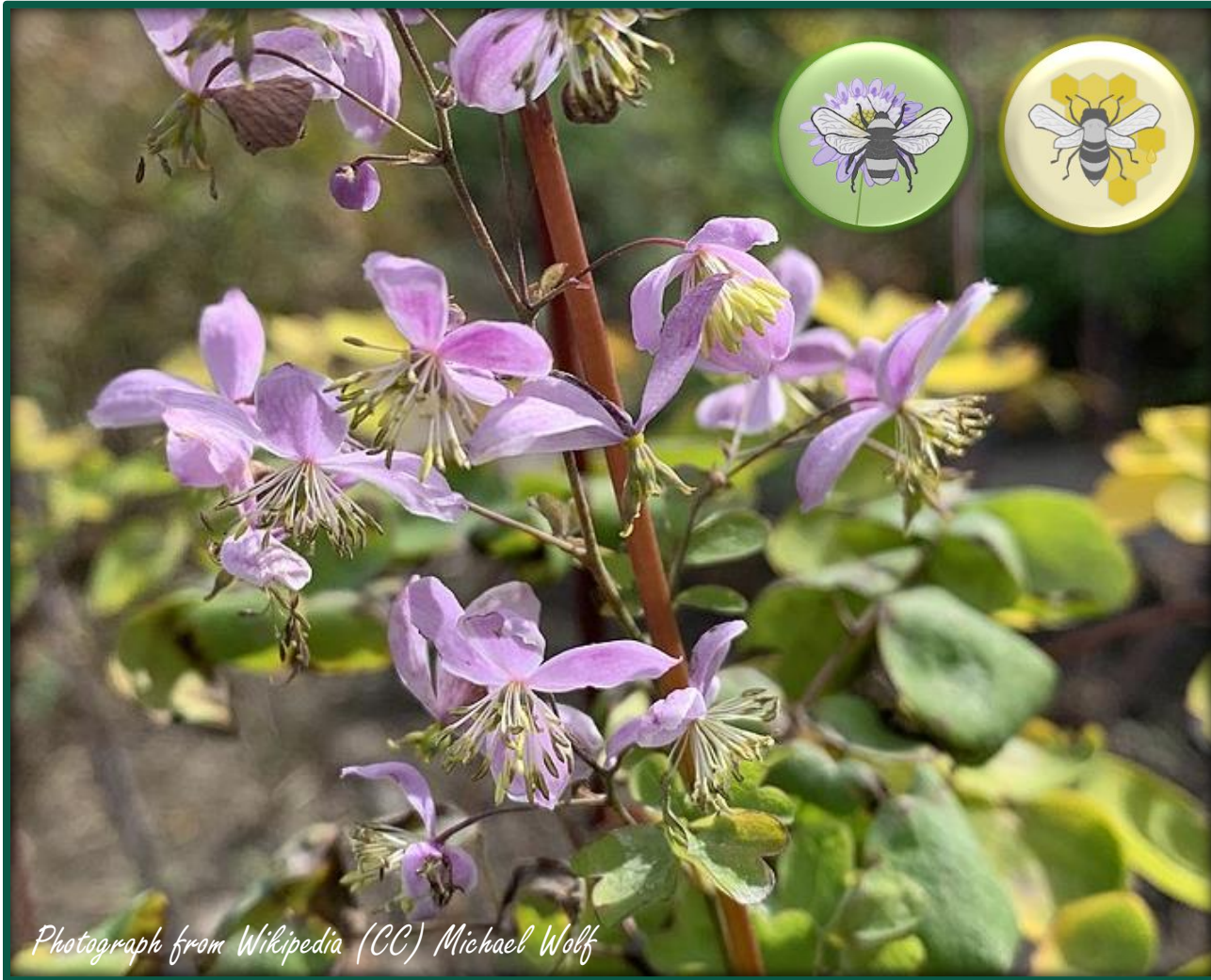
Spring 

Rutaceae
Rue Family

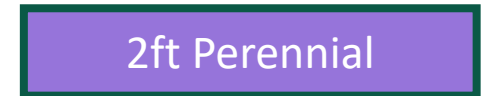
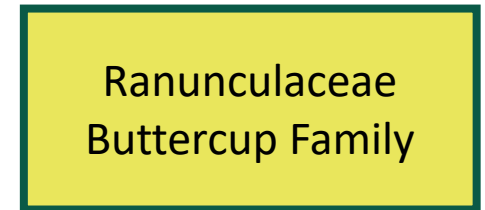
Medium Shrub

Thalictrum rochebruneanum

Lavender-mist Meadow-Rue



Photograph from Wikipedia (CC) Michael Wolf



Weigela florida

Garden Weigela



'Alexandra'
'Variegata'



Late Spring
- Midsummer

Caprifoliaceae
Honeysuckle Family

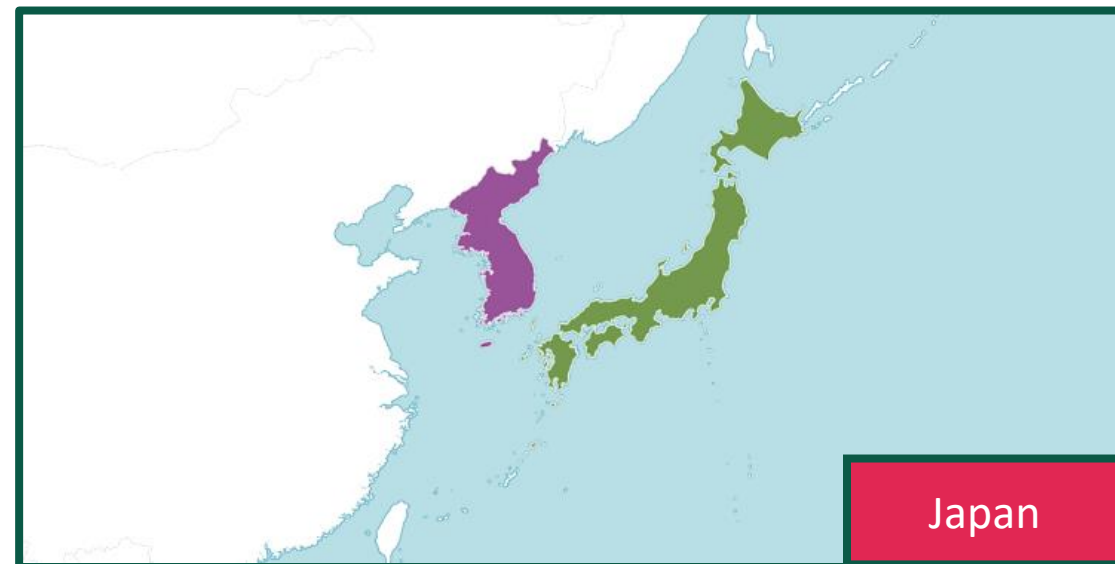
Medium Shrub

Wisteria floribunda

Japanese Wisteria



Photograph from Wikipedia (CC) Forest & Kim Starr



'Domino' 'Rosea'
'Lawrence'



Summer ☀

Fabaceae
Legume Family

10ft+ Climber

Wisteria sinensis

Chinese Wisteria

