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# THE CATALOGUE

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*The Office. Leading to our Nursery*



*Trachycarpus fortunei. In the middle of our 'Proper Nursery'*



*Pinus nigra 'Niwaki'. Along the Boulevard*



*We're obsessed with Creative Maintenance*

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# THE TWENTY SECOND IMPRESSION

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# A r c h i t e c t u r a l — PLANTS —

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**OPENING HOURS ON PAGE 38**

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*We clip and we sculpt and we love what we do*

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# A RITE OF PASSAGE

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I first visited Architectural Plants (AP) when I was 10 years old – I was instantly hooked. The combination of the plants and the buildings and the clear obsession with ‘doing things well’ was overwhelmingly magical. I have since spoken to many customers, some who also visited as children, some as big kids and we all share the same hard to explain warm feelings it evokes. The catalogue is an important part of that experience. It is iconic.

For my first Impression, the 22nd Impression, I have tried to add my spin whilst keeping the essence of what Angus White had mastered over the last 30 years. Angus is and always has been a ‘Maker’, a man obsessed with design – an outspoken genius.

As a nod to the ‘Maker’ we commissioned Al Turner, the man behind our garden design model, to create a piece of art for the front cover. Our only request was that it included the number 22. Thank you Al for interpreting our vision so perfectly. Al’s work sets a fresh precedent for future cover commissions and will allow us to showcase other talented makers we admire.



*Guy and Angus in our Sculpture Garden*

In the past, Jim Kane helped with the cover design, which we have now transferred to the rear of the catalogue. In another nod to the past, we have included the ‘Enter Exotica’ wording – coined in the 90’s by Angus and loved by the old school AP crew. Paul Cox, an exemplary illustrator, designed our logo and has for many years created the most characterful depictions – he creates the story board for the business. You can find his most recent work on the inside back cover – an explosion of drama from one of our garden design and planting projects. We have also included his draft sketch for the creatives amongst us to add colour to – thank you for the inspiration Flo.

Many have worked tirelessly across all areas of the business to make AP what it is today. I salute all of you. The driving force was always Angus, relentless in his pursuit of perfection and ambition to lead the company ever forward.

Angus started off as a furniture maker and at the age of 40 started Architectural Plants from his home in Nuthurst.

“I started Architectural Plants nearly 30 years ago in a fit of pique. I was furious and perplexed that I couldn’t buy the plants that I’d fallen in love with and was determined to do something about it. To my mind, these plants all had something in common – they were highly sculptural and tremendously green. To quote from our first catalogue: “In the jargon of horticulture, these are known as ‘architectural plants’. Not because they belong in buildings but because the plants themselves have their own ‘architecture’ – strong, sometimes spectacular, shapes which bring a distinctive year-round presence to a garden.”

In the spring of 1990 we launched ourselves onto an unsuspecting and bemused British public, without the faintest idea as to whether anyone else shared our passion for these peculiar plants.”

Throughout the 90’s Architectural Plants grew rapidly, it was the first nursery of its kind. Angus’ neighbour used to joke that he had a tiger by the tail – he certainly did. During the early years, often referred to as the golden years, a clear ethos developed.

“We want to produce more and more of our own peculiar plants that we love so much. We want to remain – primarily – a grower of remarkable plants. Import less and grow more here.”

This ethos continues and since I came back to run the business in 2015 my team and I have worked tirelessly in pursuit of it. As I write, Phil (Master builder – seen on page 6) is building a laboratory within our nursery to accompany the recently completed Fog, Mist and Liner House. These specialist facilities allow us to expand production and most importantly gives us the tools to create the rarest and hardest to produce plants. You can ask us and we may show you when you are next at our nursery – apologies in advance if we drone on.

To triple homegrown production you need the right people.

“Recruitment of the right people is everything. We can accomplish nothing without them and everything with them.

An unfortunately corporate sounding cliché to end on but like so many clichés – it’s true.”

*Angus White, 21st Impression*

For me, this is the most important and challenging area of the business. I know from speaking to many business owners that this is the case and that they will lend a sympathetic ear. Our solution is to do it ourselves and so we have set up an apprenticeship scheme, AP Homegrown. It’s an ambitious project, aiming to deliver one of the UK’s most unique and engaging courses for 18 to 24 year-olds. We will provide all of the training at our nursery and production fields, or within private and wonderfully architectural gardens. We will show them everything horticultural, making plenty people of them and will ensure they are fully equipped for a career in our industry.

“We want to promote horticulture as a vital, viable, and vibrant career path for young people in the UK. Our aim is to develop a highly-skilled, qualified and motivated workforce ready to thrive in our industry for years to come.”

*Jay Osman, Head of Development, July 2022*

You can find out more and get involved through our website. Sponsors, collaborators and horticultural knowledge sharers are all very welcome.



*James potting at the bench*

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## ONWARDS

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Angus often used the expression, ‘rite of passage’, and it is something that really struck me – particularly since his departure last year. He is now sailing (mostly) and busy growing the finest fruit and veg at the Nuthurst Community Allotment that he and his daughter, Sally, set up. Find out more at [www.nuthurstcommunityallotment.co.uk](http://www.nuthurstcommunityallotment.co.uk)

Having accepted the baton, I am honored to continue the journey he started. Given the immense challenges ahead of us, I consider myself very lucky to have the most creative and dedicated team able to inspire future generations of horticulturalists to continue growing our amazing and unique range of plants.

I hope you enjoy hunting for plants here in the catalogue, through our website or at our nursery.

Guy Watts

February 2022

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# THE WHITE GLOSSARY

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For the curious and hungry-for-knowledge, The White Glossary (found on our website), is stuffed with horticultural knowledge collated and written by Angus in his inimitable style. Some terms are our own – arrived at in the absence of existing terms to describe some of our innovations and practices. Below is a selection of terms often heard in day to day ‘AP Speak’.

**Blob:** Noun. A word that’s gone from being a dismissive pejorative to a highly desirable horticultural commodity. It describes the doughnut shape so popular with oriental topiarists and now becoming popular over here. It’s used in the context of clipped plants. It’s distinct from the traditional European ‘ball’ shape; almost flat topped, descending to almost perpendicular sides, just tucked in a tiny bit at the bottom. If you grow lots of blobs together, they could become contiguous (touching). The next evolution from ‘blob’ to ‘contiguous blob’ would be a ‘blobbery’. We love blobs in all their manifestations.

**Cloud Pruned:** Adjective. Some people use this to refer to Niwaki (like big Bonsai) but we tend to use it to refer to lumpy bumpy undulations or what the Japanese would call karikomi. The Welsh twmp is also related. See the rest of this glossary for further thoughts on some of these words.

**Dicot:** Noun. A common abbreviation for Dicotyledon. Without wishing to take you back to your botany lessons, the Dicots are the more highly evolved plants that have lots and lots of growing points (e.g. an oak tree) as opposed to the Monocots (short for Monocotyledon) characterised by having only a single growing point. The reason it’s worth knowing this is that it’s probably the most fundamental division in the plant world. The Dicots are all the woody trees and shrubs, the Monocots are everything else – grasses, palms, Yuccas etc.

**Drought tolerant:** When used to describe a plant, this is often misunderstood as meaning that you don’t need to water it, even when you first plant it. Drought tolerant just means that the plant has the ability to find water if it’s there – not that it will survive without it.

**Frost Pocket:** Noun. Cold air is heavier than warm air and runs down hills and – given a chance – collects in pools called ‘frost pockets’ or ‘frost hollows’. You can still find old walled gardens on a slight slope with a large door at the lowest point. Believe it or not, it’s there to be left open on frosty nights. I once saw the result of not opening such a door at the walled garden at Borde Hill in West Sussex after an autumn frost. It was like a tide mark – a clearly defined line a few inches thick below which everything was black from the frost and above which, the plants were untouched. If the door had been left open, all the cold air would have flowed out of the door into the woodland beyond.

**Haircut:** Noun. Our own expression (that everyone seems to understand) for clipping a plant.

**Niwaki:** In Japanese, this means Garden Tree, as distinct from ‘Bonsai’ – meaning Pot Plant. Call them Big Bonsais if you like but they are meant to go in the ground. It’s definitely an oriental idea (they do similar things to plants in China, Thailand and Burma) but in Japan they excel at it. It’s a stylised tree that takes the natural architecture of ancient trees and encapsulates it in a static horticultural piece of sculpture.

**Provenance:** Sometimes used for antique furniture, sometimes used for plants. It refers to where something comes from. The context should explain whether the reference to provenance comes from where the material came from (seed or cuttings, perhaps in London) or where the plant is indigenous to – maybe Patagonia or New Zealand. Both could be a plant’s provenance.

**Shrub:** Noun. An unfortunate word not helped by the Knights Who Say Ni and the fact that possibly the dullest sounding phrase in the English language is ‘Medium Sized Shrub’. However, there’s nothing wrong with the thing itself: a woody plant, evergreen or deciduous, that never gets taller than... 10ft? The great thing about shrubs is their potential for Creative Maintenance. We fiddle with everything and the very last thing you want to do with a shrub is to leave it to its own devices. Clip it into a blob, plant it with some of the same and let them undulate or – best of all – train it into a shapely little tree. All good fun.

**Standard:** Noun. A term used to describe a tree with a 6 ft trunk. A Half Standard has a 3 ft trunk.

**Twmp:** Noun. Welsh for mound. Powis Castle near Welshpool in east Wales is famous for its clipped yews in giant blob form. They are often referred to as twmps. Much of the artist David Nash’s work is influenced by these and he produced a little book with drawings – called Twmps. One of the highest mountains in the Black Mountains on the Hereford border is (In Welsh) known as Twmpa. The fact that in English it’s called Lord Hereford’s Knob is irrelevant. It’s not a translation from the Welsh and it certainly isn’t funny.

# THE PLANTS

**WE USE 3 DIFFERENT COLOURED LABELS TO GIVE AN INSTANT INDICATION OF A PLANT'S FROST HARDINESS**  
(Think of Traffic Lights)



IF IT HAS A **GREEN** LABEL

**Hardy anywhere in Britain below approximately 1,000 ft (300 m)**

IF IT HAS AN **AMBER** LABEL

**Hardy in the Home Counties if sensibly sited**

(avoiding severe frost pockets, for example).

Many Amber Labeled Plants are from cuttings from well established plants that have survived many harsh winters in the South-East.

IF IT HAS A **RED** LABEL

**Hardy in Atlantic Seaboard gardens, The Channel Islands, gardens in Central London and other large cities.**

We're always on hand to give advice about plants and their frost hardiness. Please remember that these coloured labels are only a rough guide.

**(General point about plant hardiness:** The commonly held belief that it's better to 'plant small' is true with herbaceous plants, but not necessarily true with woody plants. They need some wood on them to survive severe cold – so plants of marginal hardiness, in very cold areas, should really be planted **LARGER**, rather than **SMALLER**, whenever possible)

This is a Check List of all the plants we have in various sizes.

It's a floating population – phone us or visit our website to find our current stocks.



*Scanning the label board*

## A

**Acacia dealbata**

*Mimosa*. Ferny leaves and masses of yellow flowers in spring. Red label but grows fast and survives most winters **anywhere**. Hardy in London. To 25 ft.

**Acacia pravissima**

*Oven's Wattle*. Very distinctive small, weeping, evergreen tree (to 20 ft) with curious little triangular leaves. Masses of fragrant yellow flowers in spring.

**Acanthus mollis**

*Bear's Breeches* or *Big Spinach*. With the famous architectural leaf. An herbaceous plant with large very shiny dark green leaves. Up to 4 ft.

**Acer japonica**

Japanese Maples. Too many to mention here. Green leaves, red leaves, cut leaves. Small and affordable, majestic and less affordable. Also the lovely **A. griseum**.

**Acorus gramineus 'variegata'**

Variegated low growing evergreen grassy thing for growing right at the edge of (or even **in**) the pond. Dense, pretty and very hardy.

**Aeonium 'Schwarzkopf'**

This is the much sought after one that remains very deep purple, almost black, all through the year. Slow growing to about 18 in. Very happy in a pot.

**Agapanthus africanus**

Piles of evergreen, strap-like leaves and ball-like deep blue **or** white flowers on 4 ft stems. Perfect for terracotta pots. Nearly hardy.

**Agave americana**

Familiar to all visitors to the Mediterranean – a very spiky statement for mild seaside gardens. To about 3 ft tall, 3 ft across. Almost hardy when large.

**Agave americana medio-picta alba**

As above but much smaller and slower growing, with a wide white stripe down the middle of the leaves. Not very hardy – but who cares?

**Agave americana variegata**

Yellow stripes down the sides of the leaf, smaller than the non-variegated one, bigger than the one with the white stripe. Brilliant in a terracotta pot.

**Albizia julibrissin rosea**

*Pink Siris* or *Silk Tree*. Like a hardy Mimosa with huge bi-pinnate leaves. Deciduous. Very exotic, needs a hot spot to grow well. To about 15 ft.

**Allium species**

The famous *Ornamental Onions* with great globe like flowers on a stick. Most seem to be either white or purple.

**Alocasia macrorrhiza**

*Taro*. The world's easiest house plant. Loves shade, huge leaves, fast growing. Magnificent. Worth trying in a shady garden in central London.

**Aloe aristata**

The hardest of the African Aloes – forms a mat of exotic little fleshy leafed rosettes. Orange-red flower spikes that last for weeks and weeks.

**Aloe striatula**

A remarkable discovery. An upright, branching aloe with yellow candle-like flowers that really grows outside in Pulborough. Grows to about 3 ft x 3 ft.

**Amelanchier lamarckii**

Fashionable deciduous little multi-stemmed trees noted for their masses of small white flowers in spring before the leaves emerge. Tough as old boots.

**Aralia elata**

The Japanese *Angelica Tree*. Huge bi-pinnate leaves make it **extremely architectural**. Terribly hardy but unfortunately deciduous. To about 10 ft.

**Araucaria araucana**

*Monkey Puzzle Tree*. A stunningly **different** tree – highly effective if well placed. It'll grow to 60 ft eventually. A grove is what is needed. Very hardy.



Master builder Phil Harris installs the crowning glory on our office. A 15" ball cock

**Arbutus andrachnoides**

*Red Barked Strawberry Tree*. Beautiful evergreen (20 ft) with **everything**. Fast growing, winter flowering **and** the most remarkable bark. ESSENTIAL.

**Arbutus unedo**

The dear old *Kilarny Strawberry Tree*. Multistemmed evergreen with red-ish bark, masses of white flowers and (barely) edible fruit. Big specimens often available.

**Arundo donax**

*Spanish Reed*. A vigorous grass to 10 ft or more. Ubiquitous in the South of France, Spain and Italy. Brown in winter but still ESSENTIAL.



**Arundo donax variegata**

*Variegated Spanish Reed.* Huge green and white striped leaves on 6 ft stems – or taller in mild gardens. Hardest on clay, rather than sandy soil.

**Aspidistra elatior**

*Cast Iron Plant.* Bursting leafy evergreen thing that thrives on neglect. House plant, shade plant, garden plant in London and other warm regions. 3 ft.

**Asplenium scolopendrium**

*Hart's Tongue Fern.* A familiar evergreen British native with bright green entire fronds to 2 ft. OK on acid soil, but **loves** very alkaline soil (chalk).

**Astelia chathamica**

Soft, silvery blue, sword shaped leaves to 4 ft. Wonderful Phormium lookalikes, good in shade or sun. Will regrow well if cut back by frost.

**Astelia nervosa**

Not as silvery as the one above and not as big either – but much hardier and proving excellent in dense and dry shade. Astelias grow as epiphytes in N.Z..

**Aucuba japonica crassifolia**

Big and very shiny leaves – somewhere between a holly and an oak. Very successful vigorous evergreen that seems happiest in shade. To 8 ft.

**Aucuba japonica crotonifolia**

*Spotted Laurel.* Deeply unfashionable due to over use in the past, it's actually a fine, architectural landscape plant – i.e. good when viewed from afar. to a ridiculous extent. To 6 ft.

**Aucuba japonica longifolia**

A useful, hardy, evergreen shrub that tolerates shade, drought and neglect to a ridiculous extent. To 6 ft.

**Azalea japonica**

A small leafed evergreen – vital in your clipped karikomi Japanese garden. We sell several forms that flower in a variety of hues.

**Azara microphylla**

Tiny round shiny evergreen leaves and sweet vanilla scented flowers in February/March. Another lovely little tree from Chile that loves our climate.



*Beautiful morning light on the Nursery*

**B****Baccharis patagonica**

Unusual little shrub with tiny shiny evergreen leaves, proving itself incredibly tough. According to Christine, flowers smell like freshly baked fairy cakes(?)

**Bergenia**

We grow a selection of these (usually Bressingham White) ground cover curious big leafed herbaceous things with pink/white flowers. Evergreen-ish.

**Beschorneria yuccoides**

A Yucca lookalike with outrageous great red flower spikes in early summer. Not desperately hardy but ESSENTIAL in the milder garden.

**Betula jacquemontii**

*Very White Barked Himalayan Birch.* Mostly multistemmed. At their best in proximity to dark green clipped foliage for that 'Holland Park' look.

**B. pendula / nigra.**

**Blechnum chilense**

*Seersucker Fern* from South America. By far the most distinctive of our few reliably hardy evergreen ferns. Looks like seersucker, grows to 3 ft or more.

**Blechnum spicant**

The *Hard or Deer Fern.* A familiar evergreen British native fern with pinnate fronds to 2 ft long. Lime hater.

**Brahea armata**

All the way from Baja California, one of the bluest of all palms. Stout, slow growing, exotic and blue. AND with the largest flowers in the world.

**Butia capitata**

A remarkably frost hardy palm tree from Argentina. Huge blue leaves. Someone once described it as looking like an enormous beautiful blue sea anemone.

**C****Callistemon subulatus**

*Bottle Brush* – the hardest **and** one of the best. Evergreen shrub with highly distinctive arching branches and masses of crimson 'bottle brush' flowers.

**Camellia japonica**

We usually have a stock of bush and half standard Camellias with either pure white or dark red flowers.

**Cannas (Mixed colours and heights)**

Screaming exotica. Exotic banana-like herbaceous plants. Best dug up in autumn and bunged under a bench for the winter, plant out in early April.

**Carpinus betulus**

*Hornbeam*. Posh native deciduous tree. We sell the fastigate (ascending branches) form, topiary and the ready made pleached form. Fly swats, we call them.

**Carpobrotus edulis**

*Mesembryanthemum*, *Ice Plant*. Fleshy leaved ground cover. For salt resistance, the next best thing to bladderwrack. ESSENTIAL by the sea.

**Catalpa 'Bungei'**

*Dwarf Indian Bean Tree*. Neat, compact deciduous, rounded shrub, grafted onto a 6 ft trunk. Very formal. Popular on the continent, not so here. Why?!

**Ceanothus arboreus**

*Californian Lilac*. Small evergreen tree for a sheltered spot. Covered in huge quantities of blue flowers in early summer. Spectacularly fast growing. 12 ft.

**Ceanothus azureus 'Concha'**

Left alone, a bit of a blob – but, judicious pruning can make it into a beautiful little weeping tree. Some plants have architecture thrust upon them...

**Chamaerops humilis**

*Dwarf Palm*, surprisingly hardy if well sited. The only native European palm. Better than *Trachycarpus* in a windy spot. To about 5 ft x 5 ft. ESSENTIAL.

**Choisya ternata**

*Mexican Orange Blossom*. Well known evergreen shrub with shiny leaves, and a pedestrian reputation. But have you ever tried clipping it? Unrecognisable.

**Chusquea culeou**

A clump-forming, evergreen and hardy bamboo from Chile and Argentina, where the solid canes were used both for spear handles and musical instruments.

**Cistus lusitanicus 'Decumbens'**

Essential in your Mediterranean bits with its deliciously aromatic leaves. Masses of white flowers and growing in low spreading Japanese mounds.

**Citrus**

We do various Citrus – mostly Oranges and Mandarins. We tend to avoid Lemons – so difficult to keep happy. Avoid under floor heating with citrus.

**Clematis armandii**

The best known evergreen one. Very vigorous climber with fragrant white flowers in the spring. Easy to grow, very exotic.

**Colletia armata 'Rosea'**

Small evergreen tree halfway between a Tree Heath and a pile of barbed wire. Butterflies flock to its sweet almond scented flowers. Can you live without it?

**Colletia cruciata**

Similar to the one above but considerably madder. Smaller plant, bigger leaves (like lots of little Concordes) but the same lovely smell of the flowers. Vicious.

**Cordyline australis**

*Cabbage Tree*, *Torquay Palm*... It's not a palm, doesn't look anything like a cabbage and it comes from New Zealand (not Torquay) anyway. ESSENTIAL.



*The entrance to our new studio built by Phil*

**Cordyline australis 'Albertii'**

A remarkable Cordyline with a head of sword shaped green leaves variegated red and cream. Frost tender, easy in a pot, slow growing and well behaved.

**Cordyline indivisa**

*Mountain Cabbage Tree*. All exoticists are in love with this plant. However, its voluptuousness is matched only by its temperamentalness. Ask for details!

**Corokia x virgata**

An unusual little wiry evergreen shrub with tiny leaves from New Zealand. Tiny yellow flowers in May followed by bright orange fruits. Good to clip.

**Cortaderia richardii**

*Toe-Toe* (pronounced Toy-Toy) from N.Z.. Similar to pampas grass (*much* greener in the winter), a little smaller, and summer flowering. Very hardy.

**Cortaderia sellowiana 'Pumila'**

*Dwarf Pampas Grass* from the land of the Gauchos. Clumps growing to 4 ft with 6 ft white flower plumes. A little more manageable than real Pampas.

**Crataegus monogyna**

Widespread in its use but most beautiful as a tree. We like to clip in to a standard. Frothy spring blossom, fresh green foliage and autumnal colour. Berries too.

**Crococsmia 'Lucifer'**

*Montbretia*. To 3 ft with strong reddy orange flower spikes in late summer. For sun or shade, dies down in winter.



*Inside our new studio built by Phil*

### **Cryptomeria japonica 'Globosa Nana'**

Delicious mounds of neat, tight, dark, evergreen foliage from Japan. Slow growing, best in some shade and slightly temperamental.

### **Cupressus sempervirens 'Pyramidalis'**

A neat and narrow form of the *Italian Cypress*. Plant with *Pinus pinea* for an immediate evocation of the Med. Be warned though – it's high maintenance.

### **Cycas revoluta**

*Japanese Cycad* or *Sago Palm*. Somewhere between a Tree Fern and a Palm Tree. Hardy in a few warm spots, especially central London. Good in a pot.

### **Cynara cardunculus**

*Cardoon*. Near relative, but larger version of, the artichoke with huge silvery leaves to 4 ft long. Optional 8 ft stalks with thistle-like flowers.

### **Cyperus alternifolius**

Dwarf (3-4 ft) version of *Papyrus* – like a clump of miniature Palm Trees. Perfect for the conservatory – it can't be over watered!

### **Cyperus papyrus**

*Papyrus*. The real thing. The world's easiest conservatory plant. Bung it in a huge pot and gaze in wonder. Could reach 10 ft, needs lots of light and min 8°C in winter.

## **D**

### **Daphne odora Aureomarginata'**

A not-very-architectural shrub with variegated evergreen leaves. Deliciously smelly flowers in late winter make it virtually ESSENTIAL.

### **Daphniphyllum macropodum**

Tough as old boots but *much* more exotic. Small, rare evergreen tree with domed head, leaves hanging, purple new growth, red stalks. A favourite.

### **Dasyllirion acrotrichum**

A great spherical mass of thin green leaves that cleverly bridges the gap between exotica and topiary. Remarkable, easy and beautiful. 3 ft x 3 ft.

### **Dicksonia antarctica**

*Tasmanian Tree fern*. Utter beauty for shady conservatories and mild gardens (including 0207 Land). Our most universally revered plant. Gosh.

### **Drimys winteri**

*Winter's Bark*. A highly reliable little evergreen tree from South America with masses of white flowers and an upright, multi-stemmed habit. To 20 ft.

### **Dryopteris erythrosora**

*Japanese Shield Fern*. Deciduous fern with coppery new fronds in spring and early summer – all turning green later. Can grow to 3 ft x 3 ft.

## **E**

### **Echeveria glauca**

Pale blue rosettes of succulent leaves 8 in. across with little red and orange flowers that last for ages. No business surviving in Sussex – but they do!

### **Echium fastuosum**

A shrubby *Echium* with greyish leaves and deep blue flowers in early summer for very mild gardens only. Echiums not happy in pots unless dustbin sized.

### **Echium pininana**

Grow this and die happy. The *Tree Echium* from La Palma Island is another example of *screaming exotica*. Triennial to 8 ft with 12 ft flowers.

### **Edgeworthia chrysantha**

*Paper Bush*. Intriguing deciduous shrub with papery bark, long exotic leaves and fragrant white and yellow flowers that defy description. Thick doilies?

### **Elaeagnus ebbingei**

*Fragrant Mouseberry*. Frost, salt and wind hardy evergreen with silver leaves and nice little smelly white flowers. Often seen as a hedge, we grow it as a small tree.

### **Embothrium lanceolatum**

*Chilean Fire Bush*. Small semi-evergreen tree from South America famous for its amazing red floral display in May and June. Needs a poor acid soil.

### **Ephedra**

We're not sure of the species but we know it's hardy and very 'different' W.J.Bean, he say, quote, "charming evergreen patches", unquote. Rare.

**Equisetum camtschaticense**

*Common Horsetail*. Meerkat Tails. Perpendicular marshy stuff that grows to 4 ft. Deciduous, needs lots of water and may need controlling...

**Eriobotrya deflexa 'Coppertone'**

*Bronze Loquat*. Half Loquat / half Photinia. Copper coloured young growth. Big smelly pink flowers in spring. Grow as a bush or a small tree.

**Eriobotrya japonica**

*Loquat*. The best and easiest large leafed evergreen small tree. Beautiful pale green leafy shuttlecocks in spring and autumn. To 20 ft. ESSENTIAL.

**Eryngium horridum**

It's not horrid at all. It's a little known *Puya* lookalike for your spiky areas. Easy to grow and more evergreen than most Eryngiums. Clumps 5 ft across.



*Golden hour over our Nursery*

**Eryngium pandanifolium**

Lots of long thin evergreen leaves to 4 ft in upright rosettes. Typical thistly Eryngium flower spikes to 8 ft. A rare plant from South America.

**Eucalyptus aggregata**

Densest and greenest of all the hardy gum trees. Very desirable yet rare in cultivation. Seems perfectly hardy. Has grown to 20 ft in six years here.

**Eucalyptus debeuzevillei**

*The Jounama Snow Gum*. Small (to 25 ft), hardy and beautiful with a rather difficult name. Similar to *E. niphofila* but with a whiter bloom to its branches.

**Eucalyptus glaucescens**

*Tingiringi Gum*. Masses of round silvery leaves when young – maintained by annual stooling. Substantial (40 ft) tree with shiny-sickle shaped leaves.

**Eucomis bicolor**

*Pineapple Lily*. Big green leafy exotic rosette (to 3 ft across) with a difficult to describe, greeny-white, 3 ft flower spike. Very pineapple-like.

**Eucryphia x nymansensis**

An evergreen columnar tree from Chile. Covered in white flowers in late summer. Unlike most Eucryphias, happy on limey soil. Grows to about 30 ft.

**Euonymus fortunei 'Kewensis'**

A mat of tiny evergreen leaves. Normally prostrate, it'll scramble over almost anything. Best in shade, it's a ground cover, fence cover, shed cover...

**Euonymus japonicus**

A beautiful, dense, glossy evergreen blob that even looks good in wind-battered sea-side gardens. Good for clipping and an early harbinger of spring.

**Euonymus microphyllus**

Gardeners have been looking high and low for a substitute for the late lamented box. This is it! Even easier, no diseases, sun or shade. Wonderful stuff.

**Euphorbia mellifera**

*Honey Spurge* for sun or shade, grows to 8 ft. Luminous green leaves, flowers smell like honey. The best Euphorbia in the world. Evergreen and ESSENTIAL.

**Euphorbia wulfenii**

A hardy evergreen (everblueish) shrub to 4 ft. Deservedly well known and useful. Easy to grow but like all Euphorbias, best in the ground (not a pot).

**F****Fargesia murielae**

*Polite Bamboo*. Forms neat, tight clumps and the whole thing takes on a kind of mushroom shape after a few years. Never spreads, grows to 10 ft.

**Fascicularia bicolor**

The hardest *Bromeliad* – related to and looking like a pineapple, it'll grow *anywhere* – full sun, dense shade or, best of all, up a tree. Ask for details.

**Fascicularia pitcairniifolia**

Another pineapple relative – bigger and better but much less frost hardy. Brilliant in a pot, extraordinary red and blue flowers like a Mandrill's bottom.

**Fatshedera lizei**

*Fat-headed Lizzie*. An Ivy and Fatsia cross, which is exactly what it looks like. Splendid jungly climbing scrambling thing for shade. Evergreen and easy.

**Fatsia japonica**

*Fig-Leafed Palm* or *False Castor Oil Plant*. Graphic descriptions for an old favourite for dark corners, inside or out. Huge, shiny, lobey leaves. To 8 ft.

**Festuca glauca**

Delicious and ridiculously blue little clumps of grass with wispy flowers. 1 ft x 1 ft and, like most grasses, dies down in winter.

**Ficus carica**

Common *Fig*. Hardy, architectural, deciduous and, if in the right spot, delicious. Enormous lobey leaves that smell as good as the fruit itself.

**G****Genista aetnensis**

*Mount Etna Broom*. One of the most distinctive small trees that can be grown in Britain. Elegant and easy, masses of yellow flowers in July. ESSENTIAL.

**Geranium maderense**

Loves being in a pot. Compact, symmetrical shape with deeply cut leaves and loud magenta flowers. Grows to 3 ft across and 2 ft tall. Very seductive.

**Grevillea rosmarinifolia**

For sunny sites on poor acid soil, an exotic shrub (to 5 ft) from Down Under. Masses of crimson flowers in mid summer. Excellent in the conservatory.

**Griselinia littoralis**

A fleshy, apple-green leafed, evergreen shrub or small tree from N.Z.. Very salt resistant, very distinctive and remarkably hardy. ESSENTIAL.

**Gunnera manicata**

*Giant Rhubarb* (Highly descriptive). Great brute of a thing with monster leaves 6 ft across in wet and shady places. % in winter (total collapse situation).



*Our Lake Garden*

**H****Hakonechloa macra**

*Japanese Forest Grass*. Tremendously useful grass that likes shade. Beautifully green in summer, reddish in autumn, dies down in winter. 2 ft x 2 ft.

**Hebe parviflora angustifolia**

Simply the most useful **and** one of the prettiest plants in the nursery. Happy anywhere – including dry shade where nothing else will grow. To 6 ft.

**Hebe rakaiensis**

Beautiful little pale green mounds with tiny evergreen leaves. An unauthentic but extremely convincing contribution to any Japanese garden. To 3 ft max.

**Hedera canariensis**

*Canary Island Ivy*. A huge shiny-leafed species that's hardy and easy. Splendid vigorous ground cover or climber. Very jungly.

**Hedera helix 'Très Coupé'**

This Ivy's really neat. It grows in a very dense mat, quite slowly and has the tiniest leaves of any Ivy you've ever seen. Beautiful plant with many uses.

**Hedychium (Mixed colours and heights)**

Jungly. Small collection of Ginger Lily's. Some with scented flowers, range of colours. Visit our website for latest info.

**Helichrysum italicum**

*Curry Plant*. Delicious grey blobs for sunny, well drained sites. Cut off the yellow flowers if you want them to remain delicious grey blobs.

**Helleborus foetidus**

The charmingly entitled '*Stinking Hellebore*'. Lovely small evergreen (to 2 ft) for shady places. Looks good all winter, loves chalk.

**Hoheria x stylosa 'Snow White'**

County Park Nursery creation, ex alumni, Paul Boosey, now operates the business founded by his Grandpa. Clippable, white flowering and fluffy.

**Holboellia latifolia**

A vigorous evergreen climber with deliciously fragrant greenish-white flowers in March. It bears edible fruit resembling well battered testicles.

**Hosta**

Herbaceous, flowering, wonderfully architectural, with horizontal leaves to 2 ft across. Many varieties available including the splendidly named 'Madame Wu'.

**Hydrangea seemanii**

Little known evergreen, self-clinging climber from Mexico. Similar to *H.serratifolia* but more vigorous with larger leaves. Ideal for London.

**I****Ilex aquifolium**

*English Holly*. We have a shifting population of green and variegated holly topiary – Mop-Heads, Cones and Blobs. Fairly tolerant of being containerised.

**Ilex crenata**

*Japanese Holly*. We have imported Japanese Niwaki – which we're extremely bossy about, and we train some ourselves in our Niwaki Production Zone.

**Ilex perado platyphylla**

Huge, shiny, evergreen leaves on this small but vigorous Holly from the Canaries. More accommodating to growing in a pot than anything else – ever!

**Imperata 'Red Baron'**

Japanese Blood Grass. It comes up green and goes red. For open spaces. Grows to 2 ft x 2 ft. Dies down in winter.

**Iris confusa**

The most exotic looking Iris by far. Great sprays of palmy, bambooeey leaves on the end of 2 or 3 ft stems. Small white flowers in midsummer.

**Iris japonica variegata**

It sometimes grows on roofs. As this suggests, it's pretty drought tolerant. Nice little hardy, evergreen, variegated Iris with white and lilac flower spikes.

**J****Jubaea chilensis**

*Chilean Wine Palm*. A magnificent hardy palm tree from Chile. And the 'but'? It's spectacularly slow growing. So we sell big ones with big price tags.

**K****Kniphofia caulescens**

*Red Hot Poker*. Fleishy bluey leafy rosettes on short fat grey trunks, red and yellow pokers in autumn. Very easy, very hardy, one of the best for foliage.

**Kniphofia northiae**

If it's sunny, damp and rich, you'll be stunned, shocked and astonished by its 6 ft fleshy leaves in gigantic rosettes. Flower spike is dark orange to 3 ft.

**Kniphofia uvaria nobilis**

Another Poker. Good foliage and big orangey red flower spikes in late summer. The best flowering Kniphofia for September/October. (We think).



*A typical leafy little London garden by us*

**L****Lagerstroemia Indica**

The *Crape Myrtle* originates in the Indian subcontinent and South East Asia. Smooth shedding bark, bright flowers, seed capsules and autumn colour.

**Lampranthus spectabilis**

The hardiest succulent *Mesembryanthemum* we can find. Trailing ground cover with loud cerise flowers for your succulent areas. Very Tresco.

**Laurus nobilis 'angustifolia'**

The *Narrow Leafed Bay Tree*. Much prettier *and* hardier than the common one you put in stews. Aromatic and salt resistant, a beautiful little tree. Also stock **L. nobilis**.

**Libertia formosa**

Like a little *Phormium* with white orchid-like flower spikes. Grows to about 3 ft. Does well in a pot, flowers for weeks and weeks.

**Ligustrum delavayi**

Giant lollipops. Tiny leafed evergreen that we sell as standards. An inexpensive – well, relatively inexpensive – alternative to standard box.

**Ligustrum lucidum**

*Chinese Cloud Tree*. One of our very best landscape trees. Large leafed evergreen, fast growing, domed head, covered in white flowers. To about 25 ft.

**Liriope muscari**

It's not an evergreen grass but it certainly looks like one. Lovely dark shiny leaves and little (white or purple) flower spikes for shade. Particularly good in London.

**Lithocarpus edulis**

Large and glossy, evergreen and exotic. Slow growing and excellent in dark and difficult spots. A rare Japanese evergreen Oak. Easy, but a lime hater.

**Lobelia tupa**

"Magnificent plant... anything less like the conventional bedding Lobelia could not be imagined". G.S.Thomas. Big and herby, red flowers.

**Lomatia ferruginea**

An utterly beautiful member of the exotic Protea family. Large, evergreen, ferny leaves. ESSENTIAL if you have poor acid soil and a fairly open site.

**Lomatia myricoides**

Possibly the hardiest and certainly one of the most architectural of the Protea family. Long thin leaves, white flowers in July. Grows to about 6 ft.

**Lonicera nitida 'Elegans'**

Common but incredibly useful evergreen with tiny leaves for highly reliable small hedges and clipped work. Fast growing and always attractively priced.

**Luzula nivea**

Slow spreading evergreen perennial forming a loose clump of narrow, dark green leaves with lax lusters of small, shiny white flowers.

**Lyonothamnus floribundus aspleniifolius**

Translated: *Santa Cruz Ironwood Tree*. Piles of ferny evergreen leaves and beautiful red stringy bark. Totally fabulous plant. Fragrant and surprisingly hardy. To 20 ft.



*Myrtus apiculata 'Niwaki'*

**M****Magnolia delavayi**

Huge evergreen leaves. Mere words cannot do this wonderful Chinese tree justice – and a lime lover! Always in short supply.

**Magnolia grandiflora**

Another ESSENTIAL evergreen tree. Big glossy leaves, huge smelly white flowers. Best as a free standing tree, not the traditional wall shrub. To 30 ft.

**Magnolia macrophylla**

An awesome thing. Vast leaves over 2 ft long. Deciduous, grows to 30 ft. Always in short supply. Nature, once again, in absurd mode. Lime hater.

**Mahonia lomariifolia**

The best of the genus by far. Elegant and very architectural, to 8 ft. For full eulogy, see the writings of Christopher Lloyd. Very un-roundabout-like indeed.

**Maytenus boaria**

*Maiten Tree*. Elegant, evergreen, willow-like tree for open sites. Salt resistant. Visit the grove at Portmeirion, and swoon. In the Home Counties, 25 ft.

**Melianthus major**

A much loved evergreen (or blue) shrub (6 ft) with huge and deeply cut leaves. Cut back by severe frost, recovers rapidly. Grows like mad in the autumn.

**Metasequoia glyptostroboides**

Dawn Redwood. Fantastic for an arboretum. Interesting write up on the website – for those planty types. A bit like a redwood, a bit like a Swamp Cypress. Clear as mud?

**Miscanthus sinensis 'Gracillimus'**

Tall (5 ft – ish), elegant, slender and very upright grass with big plumey flowers in summer. Not an evergreen, but still beautiful.

**Muehlenbeckia complexa**

A tiny leafed, vigorous, scrambling sort of thing. It's evergreen and looks quite jungly. Best in shade, very salt tolerant, incredibly useful, incredibly popular.

**Musa basjoo**

Implausible though it sounds – a (root) hardy *Banana*. To 10 ft every year in our Exotic Frost Pocket, protected in winter with chimney pots. ESSENTIAL.

**Musa ensete 'Maurelli'**

More screaming exotica. *The Red Leafed Ensete* from Ethiopia. Huge Banana like thing for the frost free conservatory and outside for the summer.

**Myrtus apiculata**

*Orange Bark Myrtle*. An outstanding small evergreen tree with remarkable orange and white bark. Also grown by us as a Niwaki (cloud pruned).

**N****Nothofagus dombeyi**

*Dombey's Southern Beech*. One of the most successful evergreen broadleaf trees for Britain. To 30 ft or more, very easy to grow and very beautiful.

**O****Olea europaea**

*Olive Tree*. Familiar to all – we grow it as a bush or as a standard. Happy in many parts of Britain but don't expect too much of the fruit!

**Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens'**

Clumps of evergreen **jet-black** grassy stuff (1 ft x 1 ft) for budding Design Gurus. Lilac flowers in summer, black berries in autumn.

**Osmanthus x burkwoodii**

Dense evergreen, lovely shape, copious and fragrant little white flowers in April. Slow growing. Clippable for Niwaki, blobs and multistems.

**Osmanthus yunnanensis**

The most architectural of the genus. Large leaved, distinctive, evergreen little tree (to 20 ft). Unaccountably rare. All Osmanthus = nice smells.

**Osmunda regalis**

*Royal Fern*. Impressive (to 4 ft or more) deciduous fern for sun or shade. Very distinctive with its brown spore bearing new fronds. Royal? No idea.

**P****Pachysandra terminalis**

Incredibly useful little low (1 ft max) evergreen for shady places. Shiny, shapely little leaves and white flowers in spring.

**Paulownia tomentosa**

*Foxglove Tree*. Vigorous young trees, cut down in the spring will grow 8 ft and produce soft leaves 2 ft across, in one season. A summer Jungle Plant.

**Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Hameln'**

*Fountain Grass*. Small, bright green clump forming grass (3 ft tall, 2 ft wide). Flower heads to 4 ft with a distinctly pink tinge. Brown in the winter.

**Phillyrea angustifolia**

*Wild Olive*. Narrow leaved version of our favourite latifolia. Small clusters of fragrant flowers in late spring and early summer. Looks good clipped in to blobs.

**Phillyrea latifolia**

*Green Olive Tree*. It's sculptural. To 20 ft with domes and bumps of tight evergreen foliage. Very hardy, very Japanese looking. One of the very best.

**Phoenix canariensis**

*Canary Island Date Palm*. Elegant waving fronds straight from the Riviera. Hardy in parts of London, Falmouth, Sydney etc. Big plant. Marvellous plant.

**Phormium cookianum**

*Mountain Flax*. Greener, laxer and more luxuriant looking than the better known P. tenax. Lush and jungly. Yellow flowers on 5 ft spikes.

**Phormium cookianum tricolor**

As above but with leaves striped green and cream with red edges. Extraordinarily hardy – only showing slight damage in very severe winters.

**Phormium tenax 'Croce di Malta'**

*New Zealand Flax*. The Explosion. 7 ft greeny-blue swords explode from the ground. Huge red flower spikes for extra exoticness. ESSENTIAL.

**Phormium tenax variegatum**

Another for the Exploding Garden – with cream variegated leaves. Phormiums do best on heavy clay. Irresistible – even to the true Variegataphobe.

**Photinia glabra**

A clever idea from Italy – a bush grafted onto a trunk producing a tidy little evergreen tree with new growth that's red and frothy white flowers in May.

**Photinia serrulata**

Aristocratic evergreen (15 ft) with an exotic habit and new bronzy leaves in January. Not to be confused with the better known Roundabout species.

**Phyllostachys aurea**

Grow this *Bamboo* and discover the meaning of the intriguing expression – 'clustered node bases'. Grows to 15 ft. One of the best.



*A view of our Liner House*

**Phyllostachys aureosulcata 'Aureocaulis'**

Large, upright, yellow canes and tough as old boots. Ask for details of this and other bamboos with coloured canes and ludicrous names.

**Phyllostachys nigra**

The true *Black Bamboo* with canes like ebony and fabulous dark green foliage – providing it's cultivated correctly (ask for details). Often in short supply.

**Phyllostachys pubescens or edulis**

*Moso* or *Edible Bamboo*. Huge fat canes covered in soft hair and foliage more like fronds than a mere grass. The fairest of all bamboos to be grown in Britain.

**Pieris floribunda 'Forest Flame'**

Neat piles of tiny evergreen leaves, brilliant red new growth, lots of hanging white bell flowers, flaky reddish bark, to about 6 ft. Very pretty. Lime hater.



**Pieris japonica 'Variegata'**

As previous but much more compact and even more shapely. Leaves are green with white variegation.

**Pileostegia viburnoides**

Large, long, leathery leaves. Evergreen, self-clinging (if conditions are right) climber for any aspect – especially shade. Given time, will cover your house.

**Pinus montezumae**

*Shitzu Tree*. To many people, simply the most beautiful thing in the world. Vivid green, long soft needles. Grows to 30 ft. and like all pines, needs lots of space.

**Pinus patula**

*Orang-Utan Pine*. Another Mexican beauty with long, soft, feathery, hanging needles – like a great big Orang-Utan. To 30 ft. Easy to grow. Chalk hater.

**Pinus pinea**

*Umbrella Pine* – wonderful, flat topped Pine familiar to all visitors to the Med. ESSENTIAL in any 'Mediterranean' garden, along with the Italian Cypress.

**Pinus radiata**

*Monterey Pine* from California. Large, fluffy and remarkable for two things: its speed of growth and its salt resistance. Could reach 30 ft in 15 years.



*Phillyrea latifolia 'Niwaki'*

**Pittosporum tenuifolium**

Familiar evergreen shrub or small tree with its luxuriant, crinkly edged, green leaves. Various forms available: 'Anderson', 'Silver Queen', 'Cratus' & 'Golf Ball'.

**Pittosporum tobira**

Shiny, tough, evergreen leaves and delicious, powerfully smelly cream coloured flowers in June. Very Japanese. Excellent by the seaside. To 6 ft.

**Pittosporum tobira 'Variegatum'**

Slightly less hardy than the green one (see above) but earlier and more abundant flowers, a lower, more spreading shape and leaves that look grey-blue.

**Platanus x hispanica**

Huge and unbelievably tough deciduous tree. London plane – seen planted in avenues or as specimen trees in London, thought to have been good for smog reduction with their peeling bark.

**Podocarpus macrophyllus**

*Maki*. Ubiquitous in Japanese gardens. A **very** architectural little conifer with its long thin leaves. To about 15 ft, very hardy, does well in shade.

**Podocarpus salignus**

*Willow Podocarp* from Chile. Piles of luxuriant evergreen foliage – there's nothing else like it. It grows to about 25 ft eventually and is ESSENTIAL.

**Polystichum munitum**

Evergreen fern forming rosettes of fronds about 3 ft across or more, where plenty of moisture's available.

**Polystichum polyblepharum**

*Polly-Polly*. Evergreen fern with symmetrical rosettes of remarkably shiny, dark green fronds about 2 ft across or more.

**Polystichum setiferum**

A very nice little hardy fern. Very popular and more or less evergreen, it lays quite flat and forms a rosette of fronds about 3 ft across.

**Polystichum setiferum 'Densum'**

As above but a slightly smaller version with leaves (sorry, fronds) that could be described as frothy or frilly or flimsy. Well it's *different* anyway.

**Poncirus trifoliata**

*Japanese Bitter Orange*. Deciduous. Has big white, typically Citrus, fragrant flowers in spring, little oranges in autumn. Makes a great hedge. To 10 ft.

**Prunus laurocerasus**

*Evergreen Cherry*. Well known as a hedge but we grow it as a tree. Fragrant white flowers in April. Grows to 15 ft. Tough as old boots and very pretty.

**Prunus lusitanica 'Myrtifolia'**

*Small leaved Portuguese Laurel*. Well known evergreen with many many uses. We sell it as Mushrooms, Cones, Mop Heads and for Hedging.

**Pseudopanax chathamica**

Long thin leathery leaves organised in an architectural manner on top of a slender trunk and if you think it sounds odd, it's **ordinary** compared with **P. crassifolius**

**Pseudopanax crassifolius**

*Lancewood Tree* from N.Z.. In its juvenile state, 2 ft long leaves, very thin, hanging at 45° from the trunk. Outrageous. One of our more original designs.

**Pseudopanax laetus**

The pretty one. Large glossy evergreen bush. Pseudopanax don't seem to bother much with sappy things like roots – they actually *like* growing in a pot.

**Pseudosasa japonica**

The return of a once much loved *Bamboo*. It's stopped flowering and so it's safe to plant again. Large leaves, open habit, to 15 ft, one of the **very** best.

**Puya alpestris**

Wonderful Pineapple relatives. Silvery, prickly rosettes with extraordinary metallic blue flower spikes, for mild, windy gardens (or pots). To 2 ft x 2 ft.

**Q****Quercus ilex**

*Holm Oak*. Beautiful evergreen tree with a reputation for being rather 'grand' owing to its long association with formal planting in large country houses.

**Quercus myrsinifolia**

*Bamboo leaved oak*. Piles of evergreen bamboo-like foliage (reddish when young). An utterly beautiful tree to 30 ft after many years.

**Quercus suber**

*Cork Tree* or *Cork Oak*. Much more successful in Britain than many people realise. Evergreen, to 25 ft, dense and round headed, lovely bark (cork).

**R****Rhododendron**

We sell a selection of these rather well known evergreens but in particular – Cunningham's White and Graziella (red and exquisite little leaves).

**Rhus typhina**

*Sumach Tree*. Small deciduous tree (12 ft) with wonderful huge soft pinnate leaves. Dead common – but why can't more plants like this be dead common?

**Rosmarinus officinalis**

*Common Rosemary*. Common maybe, but still an ESSENTIAL part of a Mediterranean garden, always smelling delicious. Grows to about 3 ft.

**Rosmarinus 'Repens'**

Naturally prostrate, at its most impressive when allowed to pour over the side of a wall in great curtains. VERY sharp drainage for all Rosemarys.

**S****Sarcococca confusa**

*Christmas Box*. Small easy evergreen for shade producing masses of fragrant white flowers in midwinter.

**Sasa palmata**

Jungly, large leaved, hardy *Bamboo*. Grows to 8 ft. Thoroughly ill mannered (rampant) and everyone loves it. Can be confined to a pot with great success.

**Sempervivum**

We've a number of these familiar spiky little rosettes. Grow these in profusion amongst your yuccas and other succulents.

**Sequoia sempervirens**

*Coast Redwood*. Grow these in groves, close together, to get their full cathedral-like splendour. 100 ft in 50 years? Possibly for the larger garden.

**Sequoiadendron giganteum**

*Giant Redwood*. Also for the larger garden. Coniferous and evergreen. Some incredible specimens hidden on Leith Hill, a popular stomping ground for Darwin.

**Stewartia monadelphica**

Deciduous. Hardy tree with peeling rusty-coloured bark, white flowers like single Camellias in early summer. Brilliant red autumn colour.

**Stipa gigantea**

*Giant Feather Grass*. It's big (to 4 ft) but with it's even bigger oat like flower heads (to 6 ft) it has something of an airy Pampas Grass about it.



*An avenue of Trachycarpus fortunei in Span 1*

**Stipa tenuissima**

*Feather Grass*. It's short and green and must be planted in large quantities in a very light and well ventilated garden so it can be seen waving in the wind.

**Strelitzia reginae**

*Bird of Paradise*. Slow growing Banana relative for shady conservatories and outside for the summer. Long lasting exotic flowers that give it its common name.

**Styrax japonicus**

Deciduous, broad-crowned tree from the woodlands of China and Japan. Fantastic example at Nymans Gardens, well worth a visit. White flowers and natural Niwaki structure.

**T****Tamarix gallica**

*Tamarisk*. **Either** as a first line of defence at the seaside **or** as a beautiful, feathery little tree, inland. Pink flowers in summer. Standards available.

**Taxodium distichum**

*Swamp Cypress*. Deciduous conifer that loves bogs and thoroughly bad drainage. Tall and slender, soft, green foliage and a fine show in autumn.

**Taxus baccata**

Yew. We can always get you plants for hedging but usually only stock large Yew topiary: Cones, Pyramids, Balls and Blobs.

**Tetrapanax papyrifera 'Rex'**

*Rice Paper Plant*. A great success, said to have gone berserk in Fulham. Huge cut grey leaves covered in powdery stuff. 6 ft or more, very jungly.

**Trachelospermum asiaticum**

Very fine evergreen climber. Dense mass of small leaves and tiny cream flowers in June and July with the fabulous smell of Gardenia. Slow growing.

**Trachelospermum jasminoides**

*Star Jasmine*. Compared with *T. asiaticum*: leaves bigger, grows taller and faster, less hardy, flowers for longer (June to October is possible). Marv!

**Trachycarpus fortunei**

*Chusan Palm*. Ridiculously frost hardy but **please** don't try to grow it on the seafront. Many sizes – the big ones with stripped trunks. ESSENTIAL.

**Trachycarpus wagnerianus**

The palm that everyone wants. Similar to the one above but with smaller, stiffer leaves. Only available as small plants. Unfortunately.

**Trochodendron aralioides**

*Cartwheel Tree*. Primitive, weird and unique from its evergreen Schefflera-like leaves to its vivid green flowers. Very frost hardy, slow growing to 15 ft.

**V****Viburnum cinnamomifolium**

As Viburnums go, an absolute monster. Similar to the well known *V. davidii*, but bigger in every respect; leaves almost twice the size, could reach 15 ft.

**Viburnum tinus**

*Laurus tinus*. Dead common but not to be underestimated. This has so much more to offer pruned into a little tree – try it! **And** it flowers all winter long.

**Vitis coignetiae**

Excellent jungly climber with very large leaves. Very hardy, happy in sun or shade. Unfortunately deciduous, but a fine display of colour in the autumn.

**W****Wisteria chinensis**

Life without this stuff is unimaginable. Vigorous deciduous climber with huge pendulous purple or white flowers in May. Standards are often available.

**Wollemia nobilis**

*Wollemi Pine*. The mysterious and highly decorative conifer discovered only 20 years ago. So far proving fast, hardy, easy and very pretty too.

**Woodwardia radicans**

*Chain Fern*. An irresistible evergreen fern that spreads by producing new fernettes at the ends of its 6 ft fronds. Tender. An excellent indoor plant.

**Woodwardia unigemmata**

*Chinese Chain Fern*. Not quite as beautiful as the one above but hardier and much rarer but with similar characteristics. New fronds are distinctly red.

**Y****Yucca aloifolia**

*Spanish Bayonet*. The most beautiful (yes, beautiful) **and** the most dangerous Yucca. Trunk forming (6 ft), pale green. Frost, no problem. Wet, big problem.

**Yucca aloifolia variegata**

Very pretty variegated version of above. Slow growing, pricey, rare, desirable and never available as a small plant.

**Yucca gloriosa**

The best known but hardest-to-get-hold of Yucca. This is the true gloriosa with its stout trunk and stiff ascending leaves. Impressive, wonderful texture.

**Yucca gloriosa variegata**

As above but with yellow and green striped leaves. Very frost hardy but much less bulky. Could reach 4 ft tall by 3 ft across, less likely to form a 'thicket'.

**Yucca recurva**

Another classic Victorian favourite. Trunk forming, but with graceful recurved (bending) leaves. Huge white flower spikes, as with all the Yuccas.

**Yucca rostrata**

Very eye catching with blue, straight, narrow leaves to about 3 ft across and eventually forming a trunk.

**Z****Zantedeschia aethiopica 'Crowborough'**

*Hardy Arum Lily*. Dark green leaves and immaculate white flowers to 2 ft or more. Just as happy in damp shade as dry sun. Good in a pot too.

## GARDEN DESIGN

Much air is consumed on the subject of garden design and the implication is clear – all you need for a great garden is a great design. True. You do indeed need a great design in the form of bold ideas, sound principles and a high degree of coherence, but once these factors are in place the difference between a wonderful garden and a calamity is accomplished by execution and maintenance, not just design.



*The stilted Hornbeam hedges that always get the most comment in this remarkable garden. An eloquent study in bold design*



*An illusion of privacy is created using evergreen exotics in this small garden. The meandering grass path used to be the lawn*

We can design a garden for you that observes all these vital principles. We can design it with you, around you and for you but the true creativity begins about three years after the planting is complete. It's the way you accommodate all these ever expanding and constantly changing pieces of vegetation that's the clever bit. We call it Creative Maintenance.



*Mediterranean, Japanese, spiky, blobby. It's all to do with shape, texture, light and sculpture*

What to remove? What to shape? How to shape it? How to meld your beloved collection of plants into a gigantic piece of delicious sculpture. Some people seem to be intimidated by this prospect. We say it's tremendously good fun and it's called gardening.

The creation of wonderful places using plants is threaded through everything we do – the choice of plants we grow, the way we present them on the nursery, the advice we dispense and the ideas we propose. Architectural Plants is about shape – an obsession with the sculptural qualities of plants where strong, eye catching outlines, lustrous textures and combined shades of green rule.



*We planted an avenue of large box balls either side of an existing path. Bold and simple*

Hand in hand with this sculptural/textural/verdant thing must come the question – ‘Yes, but how do I bring it about?’ Put at its very simplest, take Kenneth Williams’ advice – ‘Be bold!’

There are a number of fundamentals that we use as guides when helping people design their gardens (e.g. big plants at the back, small plants at the front) but none come as high up the list as Be Bold and Avoid Being Timid.



*Never under-estimate the effect of shapely exotics from upstairs*

Avoid it like the plague. Nobody ever created an interesting garden by being timid. In fact, nobody ever created anything of interest by being timid. Being bold – massive swathes of the same plant, avenues, rows, stilted hedges, planting trees that get ‘too big’ and trees in the ‘wrong’ place – all require, I admit, a degree of recklessness, courage and confidence. If you feel you may be positively predisposed to such a concept, we can help. Our job is to encourage people to do interesting things with their garden – if you feel you may be teetering on the edge of doing something interesting, please allow us to at least talk to you about giving you a shove over the edge.



*Fleshy, spiky, alien and outlandish. Full on, in your face, screaming exotica. It works every time*

## A GARDEN DESIGNED, BUILT AND MAINTAINED BY ARCHITECTURAL PLANTS USING ARCHITECTURAL PLANTS



*Hovering above the London Planes*

We used to be a nursery selling plants to anyone who wanted to buy them. Now we're a company that can do your garden from top to toe and that's also fortunate enough to have its very own nursery. We design, we plant and we creatively maintain.

Nearly all the gardens we've designed and built have been as a result of a visit to our nursery. For those taken by the presentation, flavour and look of the nursery there's

a realisation that some of that feeling can be reproduced in their own garden. That's what we endeavour to do – give you a piece of Architectural Plants.



*Our garden designers and our planting team. Chelsea 2018*

Because we love plants, the emphasis in our gardens is always on 'creating an effect using plants'. An obvious statement perhaps but some modern garden designs seem to have a greater emphasis on the 'hard landscaping' (ponds, paths, patios etc) and less on the plants.

### THE PROCEDURE

#### 1. Triage

We've always had a process whereby we speak to a customer with the intention of considering how and who (which member of staff) can serve them best. I'd always been surprised that with the vast array of loony business jargon floating around, there didn't seem to be a label for this all important process. Discussing this with a doctor friend, he pointed out that in his world of emergency medicine, this was called 'triage': the decision as to how best to deal with a casualty that's just arrived at the hospital. It's nowhere near as bloody here but it's still a good analogy. A brief discussion with someone skilled at triage can save a great deal of time and set everyone on the right course almost immediately.

#### 2. The Right Person

Following this relatively brief discussion, you will be put in touch (as quickly as possible) with The Right Person - your designer. A visit to your garden is arranged to discuss your ambitions, your loves and loathings and if possible, your budget. (A good time to emphasise that great gardens rely on bold ideas well executed, not necessarily huge sums of money.) This is also the point where things become idiosyncratic - all our garden designers have their own way of working but it doesn't matter. All the different methods work.

### 3. Propositions & Quotations

Next a proposal will be made in the form of a quotation including a summary of your meeting, plant suggestions, the total cost of the plants, the planting, and the irrigation where applicable. The approach by our different designers may well be idiosyncratic but we are good listeners and we never forget that it's your garden. We want the process to be cooperative and enjoyable, never dogmatic or stressful. **(This is gardening we're talking about – one of the most marvellous pastimes ever invented by the human race)**. Next, we'll invite you to our nursery to go through the design in greater detail and show you the actual plants for your garden. If you agree, we'll set a date for the planting and invoice you – just for the plants at this stage.



*If you love our plants – you'll love your garden*

### 4. Getting it done. Serious Gardening

There may be a degree of 'composing on site' but however the work is done, our designer will either be present during the laying out before the planting begins, or our planting team will have precise instructions to follow. It's vital that the customer is present as well, to be a part of this all important process. This is where it begins to be your garden, not our garden.

The plants will have been paid for already but the work done by us will be invoiced once the job is finished and everyone's happy.

Early discussions about our further involvement with the garden may start at this point. Our views on garden maintenance are well known: as long as your garden has been built using sound design principles, creative and intelligent maintenance is what will create a truly remarkable garden. We'd love to be able to help.

On our website, there's a section called **'The Sinister Plot'**. It's about our determination to turn our customers into gardeners – whether they like it or not. If you've got this far, you should read it. Good stuff.



*Before*



*After*



*Composing on site with Guy*



*Laying out before planting*

## PLANTING BY US

If you've bought some plants from us and would like them planted – we can help.



*Our Planting Team*



*Planted high, well staked and no competition. Perfect*

Many plants fail because of poor planting. This falls into three categories:

**1** They're planted too low so an accumulation of soil causes the bark to break down. The result is a slow death often mistaken for some horrible disease. Our response is to plant high or 'mound plant.'

**2** They're planted in a bog and so the roots just rot. Our response to this is the same as in 1. Plant high. Sometimes so high we don't plant in the ground at all. We just plonk it on the ground and pile soil up around it. Works wonders. You can see some great examples of this at the nursery where we've done just that.

**3** Too much competition – usually from grass. Our response to this is to create a ridiculously large bed around a tree containing nothing but soil.



*Mulch defines the space*



*Yucca rostrata*

We use a lot of organic mulch too. It suppresses weeds, conserves moisture and is assimilated into the soil by friendly bacteria and friendly worms to improve the organic structure of the soil. Looks good too.

We stake or guy trees according to the type, size and position of the plant and we will suggest and install an irrigation system.



*Staked Elaeagnus x ebbingei*



## CREATIVE MAINTENANCE

What does it mean? I think the best way I can explain it is by imagining going up to a plant and saying “You’re a nice plant but is there anything I can do to make you look even nicer?”

In most cases the answer is a resounding “Yes”. Raising, thinning and shaping the crowns of trees and shrubs, removing the tired old leaves on palms and Yuccas. It’s all to do with producing a garden of beautifully sculpted plants and a look of well groomed verdancy which is what Architectural Plants is all about anyway. Most of the techniques that we’ve developed over the last 20 years are borrowed from nature and if you can look at a garden that’s been Creatively Maintained by us and yet it still looks completely natural – then we have succeeded.



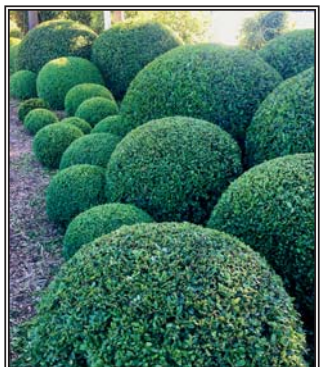
*Our Creative Maintenance Team*

On the subject of general garden maintenance (whether creative or otherwise), it’s said that one of Britain’s foremost landscapers of the 20th century (who’s name is a secret) had what he (or she) called the Four ‘F’s rule when it came to his (or her) work: “Find it / Finish it / Fotograph it and F\*\*k off”. Not Funny. To us this exemplifies a common attitude about the creation of gardens which is plain wrong. Don’t spend time and money building a new garden if it’s then going to be largely neglected.

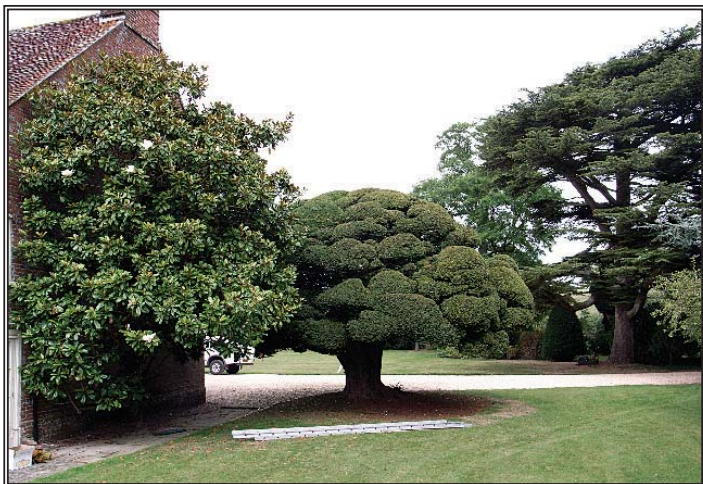
It’s soul destroying to witness and we’ve seen it so often. Good design is vital but intelligent and creative maintenance is vital too, and it sends us mad that this aspect of gardening is so often and so sorely overlooked. Once we’ve built a garden we’re only too pleased to continue to help you with it in any way we can for as long as you like.



*Clipping Quercus ilex ‘Niwaki’  
(Holm Oak)*



*Blobberies By Us*



*This ancient Yew Tree in Somerset has been shaped like this for 40 years, by the same man*



*Stripping the hair off the Palm Tree trunks*



*Removing old bark from Ironwood Trees*



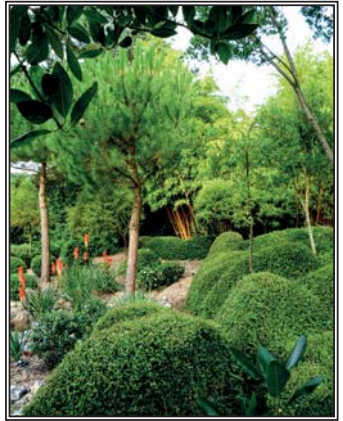
*Intrepid clipping of a Cypress tree.  
You can see the bit he's done and the bit he's about to do*



*Keeping Italian Cypress looking good in England is a challenge. Here's living proof that it can be done*



*Colin cleaning up a palm*



*Clipped Lonicera*

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## MICROCLIMATOLOGY

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### *Some long words on why you can't grow everything everywhere*

The British climate is described as Cool Temperate Maritime. Heavily influenced by the relatively warm waters of the Atlantic, we experience cooler summers and milder winters than any other place at an equivalent latitude, either north or south of the equator. As a general rule, in Britain, the further west one goes, the greater the influence of the Atlantic, the further east one goes, the greater the influence of the Continent. So – the further west, the higher the rainfall, the cooler the summers and the milder the winters. The further east, the lower the rainfall, the warmer the summers and the colder the winters. The north-south divide is less well defined; the further south, the warmer the summer, is about the only obvious characteristic.

This island climate allows us to grow an incredible range of plants from every corner of the nontropical world; select the ones that **look** like they come from the tropics, use them to excess and – Hey Presto! – you have an extraordinary garden.

Below, we describe 5 microclimates to be encountered within the British Isles, followed by lists of plants for particular positions. You might recognise an exact description of your garden but it's much more likely that your garden incorporates aspects of several of these categories.

### EXPOSED OR CANOPIED

A substantial difference to the microclimate can be made to any of the following categories, according to whether they are 'exposed' or 'canopied'; overhanging trees will create conditions of dappled shade belovely by so many plants, create shelter from wind and, particularly in the Frost Pocket, will trap warm air on cold clear still nights. These canopy trees will create an effective wind shelter, even if deciduous, but to create effective shelter from frost, tall growing evergreen broadleaved (as opposed to coniferous) trees are essential. There are not that many reliably hardy trees that fit this description but some of the Eucalyptus and Quercus ilex, especially when they've had their crowns lifted are absolutely ideal – dense enough to keep the heat in, sparse enough to let the light in. ('Crowns lifted' is Tree-Surgeon-Speak for cutting off the lower branches).

## 1. THE FROST POCKET

Cold air is dense and runs downhill. During periods of clear night skies and no wind (high pressure), cold air will be trapped wherever escape is impossible – most commonly on valley bottoms. Gardens in so-called 'Frost Pockets' are subject to later frosts in spring, earlier frosts in autumn and (even when frost is widespread), the frost in these gardens will be more severe than elsewhere; a difference of 8°C between a valley bottom and a garden at 700 ft, is quite possible. Much misunderstanding surrounds this phenomenon; many people with gardens in such a situation describe them as being 'sheltered', supposing them to be less cold rather than more cold. The Frost Pocket garden can enjoy slightly higher temperatures in the summer during the day and is sometimes well protected from strong winds. There might also be a greater amount of moisture present in the soil, if it's in the valley bottom.

**Architectural Plants in Nuthurst (the original site)** was in a classic frost pocket – an idiotic place for a nursery – but at least we know what we're talking about when it comes to chilly places. Plants in this sort of garden are going to have to survive very low temperatures and it is therefore this kind of garden that is going to benefit more than most from being 'canopied' by tall evergreen broadleaved trees.

**WARNING TO ALL FROST-POCKET GARDENERS: NEVER KEEP A THERMOMETER ON YOUR PROPERTY. YOU'LL BECOME NEUROTIC, PARANOID AND DEPRESSED. AVOID THIS BY STAMPING ON THE STUPID THING – NOW.**

RECOMMENDED ESSENTIALS :

*Araucaria – Aralia – Arundo – Bamboos\* – Blechnum – Cortaderia – Cupressus sempervirens – Cynara – Eryngium – Eucalyptus – Euphorbia – Fatsia – Fatshedera – Genista aetnensis – Gunnera – Hebe – Hedera – Magnolia grandiflora – Magnolia macrophylla – Musa basjoo – Paulownia – Phillyrea latifolia – Phormium tenax – Pinus pinea – Podocarpus – Prunus laurocerasus – Quercus ilex – Quercus myrsinifolia – Rhus – Tamarix – Trachycarpus – Yucca*

\* see BAMBOOS on page 34



*The map: useful for highlighting where our plants come from and understanding the geographical situations that determine how frost hardy they are*

## 2. THE HILL STATION

In many ways, the exact opposite of the Frost Pocket. On cold clear still nights, the denser cold air is pouring down the hill, constantly being replaced with slightly warmer air – thus, both the frequency and intensity of the frost will be minimised by the degree of frost drainage – particularly if it's south facing. People will often equate a high and exposed situation like this as being synonymous with a very cold garden – another common misunderstanding. The benefits of a high position (up to, say, 1,000ft after which the benefits begin to diminish) cannot be over emphasised; a garden at 500ft in Surrey could experience less frost than a garden in a bad frost pocket in south-west Cornwall. Here one is aiming for plants that are wind resistant, but, at the same time, because of the diminished problem of frost, one has a greater range of plants to play with. Hill Top could also suggest good water drainage or dry soil – characteristics that could be put to good use.

RECOMMENDED ESSENTIALS :

*Agave – Albizia julibrissin – Aloe aristata – Aralia – Araucaria – Arbutus – Arundo – Azara – Callistemon – Ceanothus – Chamaerops – Cordyline – Cupressus sempervirens – Cistus – Eriobotrya – Eryngium – Eucalyptus – Euphorbia – Genista aetnensis – Griselinia – Hedychium – Kniphofia – Lomatia – Lyonothamnus – Magnolia – Melianthus – Myrtus – Paulownia – Phillyrea – Phormium – Pinus – Pittosporum – Podocarpus – Pseudopanax – Quercus – Rhus – Yucca*

### 3. THE SEASIDE

Seaside gardens are characterised by mild winters and cool summers, due to the tempering effect of the sea which, unlike the land, holds its heat for a relatively long time. Salt laden gales are likely to be the greatest problem unless massive windbreaks are planted. Atlantic seaboard gardens will be the mildest in winter, the coolest in summer and the windiest and wettest all year. North Sea seaboard gardens will be less mild in winter, warmer in summer and dryer and better protected from the prevailing southwesterlies all the year round. Those familiar with the Isle of Wight may have witnessed the dramatic difference in coastal vegetation between the very exposed south west coast west of Blackgang and the protected north east coast between Ryde and East Cowes. Essentials for such a garden will be characterised by a resistance to salt and wind – some quite frost tender plants could also be used.

RECOMMENDED ESSENTIALS :

*Acacias – Agaves – Aloe – Arbutus – Arundo – Astelia – Baccharis – Beschorneria – Carpobrotus – Ceanothus – Chamaerops – Choisya – Colletia – Cordyline – Corokia – Cupressus – Cistus – Dasyliirion – Dicksonia – Drimys – Echeveria – Echium – Elaeagnus – Eriobotrya – Eucalyptus – Euonymus – Euphorbia – Fascicularia – Fatsia – Furcraea – Genista aetnensis – Griselinia – Hebe – Hedychium – Kniphofia – Lampranthus – Laurus – Lomatia – Lyonothamnus – Magnolia delavayi – Melianthus – Muehlenbeckia – Myrtus – Olea – Phillyrea – Phormium – Pinus radiata – Pinus pinea – Pittosporum – Pseudopanax – Puya – Quercus ilex – Rosmarinus – Tamarix – Yucca*

### 4. THE HEAT ISLAND

Often, the most benign climate of all. Any built up area is going to experience higher temperatures than the surrounding countryside due to the presence of masonry that absorbs heat during the day and radiates heat at night plus the concentration of central heating systems, cars, people and whatever else generates heat. The larger the built up area, the greater the Heat Island Effect; in a small town, the effect is measurable, in a huge city like London the effect can be dramatic. In February 1991, one night we recorded a minimum temperature of -17°C at the Nuthurst nursery in our Frost Pocket. The same night in a small back garden of a terraced house in heavily built up Central London (Notting Hill), we recorded a minimum of a mere -4°C. An extraordinary difference, the implications of which will not be lost on all ambitious gardeners. The benefits of this situation don't stop at warmth; no salt laden gales, no rabbits, no deer. With the addition of an automatic irrigation system to duplicate the benefits of high rainfall areas such as south-west Scotland, perfection approaches. Having established that severe frost or lack of rainfall is not going to be the problem, presumably the only restriction would be size – trees with an ultimate height of over 50ft might well be unsuitable.

RECOMMENDED ESSENTIALS :

*Acacia – Agave – Albizia julibrissin – Arbutus – Arundo – Aspidistra – Astelia – Bamboo\* – Beschorneria – Blechnum – Butia – Callistemon – Canna – Ceanothus – Chamaerops – Cordyline – Cycas revoluta – Dasyliirion – Dicksonia – Echium – Eriobotrya – Euphorbia mellifera – Fascicularia – Fatsia – Genista aetnensis – Griselinia – Gunnera – Hedera – Hedychium – Holboellia latifolia – Hydrangea seemanii – Iris confusa – Laurus nobilis angustifolia – Libertia – Ligustrum lucidum – Lithocarpus edulis – Lomatia – Lyonothamnus – Magnolia – Maytenus – Muehlenbeckia – Musa basjoo – Myrtus apiculata – Olea – Phillyrea latifolia – Phormium – Pittosporum tobira – Podocarpus – Pseudopanax – Tetrapanax – Trachycarpus – Woodwardia – Yucca* \*see BAMBOOS on page 34

### 5. THE PRAIRIE

There are many areas of the country that are as flat as a pancake, low lying and exposed to the wind – The Prairie. Quite difficult to find any particular advantage to a situation like this. No nasty hills to push the barrow up? It's terribly important to have some trees for shelter – you'll never have much of a garden without a good windbreak. This might involve a conflict of interest if there's a chance of obscuring fine views – an inspection of the garden to the north of the car park at Architectural Plants might serve as an inspiration as to how to tackle this problem.

This garden is certainly not going to have any cold air drainage but at least there's not going to be a concentration of cold air as in the Frost Pocket. Building an exciting garden when the area's as flat as a pancake is certainly more challenging than a 45° slope.

RECOMMENDED ESSENTIALS :

*Same sort of things as in The Frost Pocket, providing there is a good windbreak using, for example: Eucalyptus – Grasses\* – Pinus radiata – Phillyrea latifolia – Prunus lusitanica – Quercus ilex* \* (see bottom of page.33)

# PIGEON HOLES

## *More useful suggestions about What can be grown Where*

Categorising plants is a hopelessly imprecise pastime; by a process of elimination and much cross referencing, we hope these fairly random lists help you find the plants that you really want.

**(Remember to check the frost hardiness using the coloured labels)**

### *An Index to the Headings*

1. Architectural Epiphytes
2. Big Leaves
3. Broadleafed Evergreen Trees over 25 ft
4. Broadleafed Evergreen Trees under 25 ft
5. Coastal Windbreaks
6. Deciduous Trees
7. Drought Resistant
8. Essentials
9. Dense Damp Shade
10. Dry Shade
11. Good in Pots
12. Good in Pots when it's like Baffin Island outside
13. Wet spots
14. Chalk
15. Ground Cover
16. Hedges
17. Jungly & Tropical
18. Lime Haters
19. Long Lasting Flowers
20. Mediterranean
21. Niwaki
22. Outrageous herbaceous
23. Plants for Frost Free Conservatories
24. Plants for Masking Hideous Views as quickly as possible
25. Plants that can have Architecture thrust upon them
26. Plants to Evoke other Places
27. Sea Side Plants
28. Soft and Fluffy
29. Spectacular Flowers
30. The Yucca Bank
31. Topiary
32. Trailers & Hangers
33. Wall Shrubs
34. Windy Places
35. Wonderful Smells

## 1. ARCHITECTURAL EPIPHYTES

Here's an intriguing idea. The following plants are not usually epiphytic (epiphytic means, they grow on trees) but, apart from the *Astelias*, they are all closely related, not only to the pineapple (which is completely irrelevant anyway) but to the epiphytic bromeliads of tropical America. When one of our customers told us how his clump of *Fascicularia* had grown up the hairy trunk of his *Trachycarpus* Palm, we decided it was time to experiment. Try tying one of these into a crook of your favourite tree:

*Astelia chathamica* – *Astelia nervosa* – *Fascicularia bicolor* – *Fascicularia pitcairniifolia*

## 2. BIG LEAVES

Indulge your Big Leafist tendencies. How big is Big? Not quite sure, but here are some suggestions:

*Acanthus* – *Albizia* – *Aralia* – *Aspidistra* – *Blechnum chilense* – *Canna* – *Catalpa* – *Chamaerops* – *Cycas* – *Dicksonia* – *Echium pininana* – *Eriobotrya* – *Fatsia* – *Ficus* – *Gunnera* – *Hedera canariensis* – *Hedychium* – *Magnolia delavayi* – *Magnolia grandiflora* – *Magnolia macrophylla* – *Melianthus* – *Musa* – *Paulownia* – *Phoenix* – *Prunus laurocerasus* – *Rhus* – *Sasa* – *Tetrapanax* – *Trachycarpus* – *Vitis coignetiae* – *Woodwardia* – *Zantedeschia*

## 3. BROADLEAFED EVERGREEN TREES (over 25 ft)

Broadleafed refers to anything other than coniferous. These are the trees, few in number, that look somewhat like a deciduous tree – but don't lose their leaves in winter:

*Eucalyptus aggregata* – *Eucalyptus glaucescens* – *Nothofagus dombeyi* – *Quercus ilex*

## 4. BROADLEAFED EVERGREEN TREES (under 25 ft)

One of the most impressive and useful of all the groups of plants – for large or small gardens and many landscaping projects:

*Acacia* – *Arbutus* – *Azara* – *Daphniphyllum* – *Drimys* – *Eriobotrya* – *Eucalyptus debeuzevillei* – *Genista aetnensis* – *Griselinia* – *Hex perado* – *Laurus nobilis angustifolia* – *Ligustrum lucidum* – *Lithocarpus* – *Lomatia ferruginea* – *Lyonothamnus* – *Magnolia* – *Maytenus* – *Myrtus apiculata* – *Osmanthus yunnanensis* – *Phillyrea latifolia* – *Prunus laurocerasus* – *Pseudopanax* – *Quercus myrsinifolia* – *Quercus suber* – *Trachycarpus* – *Trochodendron* – *Viburnum*



*Fatsia japonica*

## 5. COASTAL WINDBREAKS

The first line of defence. Trees and shrubs to protect your garden against salt laden gales.

Big Trees: *Pinus radiata* – *Quercus ilex*. The Rest : *Baccharis* – *Elaeagnus* – *Euonymus* – *Griselinia* – *Pittosporum* – *Tamarix*

## 6. DECIDUOUS TREE

Our range is growing rapidly. Essential for adding seasonal interest and shape and form when all the foliage has fallen. High Beeches Gardens is a good place to visit for inspiration.

*Acer* – *Albizia julibrissin rosea* – *Amelanchier lamarckii* – *Aralia elata* – *Betula jacquemontii* – *Carpinus betulus* – *Catalpa 'Bungei'* – *Fagus* – *Ficus carica* – *Paulownia tomentosa* – *Rhus* – *Styrax japonicus* – *Tamarix gallica* – *Taxodium*

## 7. DROUGHT RESISTANT

Drought resistant once they're established. They're described thus because they have the vigour to find water, not because they can survive without it:

*Acacia* – *Agave* – *Aloe* – *Arbutus* – *Aucuba* – *Carpobrotus* – *Ceanothus* – *Chamaerops* – *Cordyline australis* – *Cupressus sempervirens* – *Cistus* – *Dasylirion* – *Echeveria* – *Echium fastuosum* – *Ephedra* – *Eriobotrya* – *Eucalyptus* – *Fremontodendron* – *Furcraea* – *Ficus* – *Genista* – *Iris japonica* – *Lyonothamnus* – *Mahonia* – *Olea* – *Phillyrea* – *Pinus pinea* – *Pittosporum tobira* – *Rosmarinus* – *Sempervivum* – *Tamarix* – *Viburnum tinus* – *Yucca*

## 8. ESSENTIALS

These are some of the plants that have that certain 'something' – a distinctive quality all of their own – strong shape, beautiful texture **and** they're easy to grow.

Sparing you any more pretentious descriptions – they happen to be my favourites: *Agave* – *Arbutus* – *Chamaerops* – *Cordyline* – *Dicksonia* – *Echium pininana* – *Eriobotrya* – *Eucalyptus* – *Euphorbia mellifera* – *Genista aetnensis* – *Hedychium 'Tara'* – *Hebe parviflora angustifolia* – *Lomatia ferruginea* – *Lyonothamnus* – *Musa basjoo* – *Phillyrea latifolia* – *Pinus montezumae* – *Pinus pinea* – *Podocarpus salignus* – *Pseudosasa japonica* – *Tetrapanax* – *Trachycarpus fortunei* – *Yucca aloifolia* – *Yucca gloriosa variegata*

## 9. DENSE DAMP SHADE

Near water, under trees, the sort of microclimate with high humidity in the air – not in the ground (i.e. not in a bog):

*Astelia* – *Crocsmia* – *Fatsia* – *Fatshedera* – *Ferns* – *Gunnera* – *Hedera* – *Lithocarpus* – *Luzula* – *Mitraria* – *Myrtus apiculata* – *Muehlenbeckia* – *Pachysandra* – *Pileostegia* – *Podocarpus macrophyllus* – *Ruscus* – *Sasa* – *Trachycarpus* – *Yucca recurva* – *Zantedeschia*

## 10. DRY SHADE

The most frequent request and the most difficult to answer. These have got to be very tough indeed. The Hebe deserves a special honourable mention as the most outstanding performer in this situation – an extraordinary plant:

*Astelia* – *Aucuba* – *Ephedra* – *Hedera* – *Hebe parviflora angustifolia* – *Helleborus* – *Pachysandra* – *Prunus laurocerasus* – *Yucca floribunda*

## 11. GOOD IN POTS

If a plant's going to succeed in a pot, it's either got to be slow growing or it's got to be clipped – so there's a constant relationship between the size of the roots and the amount of foliage. Topiary is the obvious answer. Fast growing plants that attempt to grow unchecked will not look good in a pot for more than a few months and others just hate being in a pot anyway. Try these:

*Aeonium* – *Agapanthus* – *Agave* – *Aloe* – *Astelia* – *Butia* – *Buxus* (clipped) – *Chamaerops* – *Cycas* – *Eucomis* – *Euonymus* (clipped) – *Fascicularia* – *Fatsia* – *Geranium maderense* – *Ilex* (clipped) – *Ilex perado* – *Laurus nobilis* (clipped) – *Libertia* – *Ligustrum delavayi* (clipped) – *Olea* (clipped) – *Phoenix* – *Phormium* – *Pittosporum tobira* (clipped) – *Prunus laurocerasus* (clipped) – *Prunus lusitanica*

(clipped) – *Pseudopanax* (all species) – *Puya* – *Rosmarinus* (clipped) – *Viburnum tinus* (clipped) – *Yucca* – *Zantedeschia*

Just because a plant is 'hardy' in the ground – it doesn't mean it will survive being frozen solid in a pot for a month. If plants are moved under cover for the winter, they'll be fine. 'Cover' means conservatory, greenhouse, garage or shed. If you feel you've detected a certain luke-warmness about the subject of plants in pots, you'd be right. We're not keen. Plants grow in the ground – not in pots.

## 12. GOOD IN POTS WHEN IT'S LIKE BAFFIN ISLAND OUTSIDE

If you live in a cold bit and you're not prepared to move the pots even when the cold becomes severe you're rather limited to choice, but these do reasonably well:

*Aucuba* – *Buxus sempervirens* – *Ilex aquifolium* – *Phillyrea* – *Prunus laurocerasus* – *Prunus lusitanica* – *Sasa* – *Trachycarpus* – *Yucca recurva*

## 13. WET SPOTS

Not quite a bog but getting on that way. This would include the margins of rivers, streams and ponds. We prefer to call it a 'high water table':

*Acorus* – *Arundo* – *Bamboo* – *Crocsmia* – *Cyperus* – *Drimys* – *Eucalyptus aggregata* – *Gunnera* – *Luzula* – *Myrtus apiculata* – *Phormium* – *Taxodium* – *Trachycarpus* – *Zantedeschia* (The key to planting in waterlogged ground is to do what we do – plant high. Ask us for details, we like this subject).

## 14. CHALK

Many plants tolerate a high soil pH (very alkaline), some will do well with a regular dose of sequestered iron, but these are happy on a thin soil over pure chalk:

*Agapanthus* – *Agave* – *Arbutus andrachnoides* – *Asplenium scolopendrium* – *Aucuba* – *Baccharis* – *Bamboo* – *Ceanothus* – *Clematis* – *Daphne* – *Elaeagnus* – *Euonymus* – *Euphorbia* – *Genista* – *Helleborus* – *Laurus* – *Ligustrum* – *Phillyrea* – *Prunus lusitanica* – *Rhus* – *Rosmarinus* – *Viburnum* – *Yucca*

## 15. GROUND COVER

Plants that can be used to cover the ground to no more than a couple of feet. Some will spread naturally, some will need to be planted in quantity. Don't think that ground cover plants will suppress weeds. They just make weeding harder:

*Acorus* – *Agapanthus* – *Aloe aristata* – *Asplenium* – *Astelia* – *Blechnum* – *Carpobrotus* – *Clematis* – *Crocsmia* – *Danae* – *Ephedra* – *Euonymus 'Kewensis'* – *Fascicularia* – *Fatshedera* – *Grasses\** – *Hedera* – *Holboellia* – *Hydrangea seemannii* – *Lampranthus* – *Liriope* – *Luzula* – *Mitraria* – *Muehlenbeckia* – *Ophiopogon* – *Pileostegia* – *Rosmarinus 'Repens'* – *Ruscus* – *Sempervivum* – *Vitis* – *Woodwardia* \* (see bottom of page.33)



*Dicksonia antarctica*

## 16. HEDGES

Small leaved plants can be cut with a hedge trimmer, large leaved plants will need to be clipped with greater care with a pair of secateurs:

*Choisya* – *Bamboo* – *Elaeagnus* – *Euonymus japonicus* – *Euonymus microphylla* – *Griselinia* – *Hebe parviflora* – *Lonicera* – *Phillyrea* – *Pittosporum* – *Podocarpus salignus* – *Prunus lusitanica* – *Quercus ilex* – *Rhamnus* – *Tamarix* – *Viburnum*

## 17. JUNGLY & TROPICAL

Unfortunately we can't string you a line about how parky it gets in Barbados and how a number of Caribbean plants will do just fine in Surrey. It never gets even slightly parky in Barbados and there are absolutely no Caribbean plants that have the remotest chance of lasting more than a summer in Surrey. These only look like they come from Barbados:

*Agave* – *Arundo* – *Aspidistra* – *Bamboo* – *Chamaerops* – *Clematis armandii* – *Cordyline* – *Dicksonia* – *Echium pininana* – *Eriobotrya* – *Fascicularia* – *Fatsia* – *Fatshedera* – *Gunnera* – *Hedera* – *Hedychium* – *Holboellia* – *Magnolia* – *Meliantus* – *Muehlenbeckia* – *Musa* – *Paulownia* – *Phormium* – *Podocarpus* – *Prunus laurocerasus* – *Pseudopanax* – *Sasa* – *Tetrapanax* – *Trachelospermum* – *Vitis* – *Woodwardia* – *Yucca* – *Zantedeschia*



## 18. LIME HATERS

These won't tolerate any lime in the soil. Some plants are lime dislikers rather than haters and can grow on slightly alkaline soil if treated with sequestered iron:

*Albizia* – *Acacia* – *Azalea* – *Blechnum spicant* – *Callistemon* – *Camelia* – *Grevillea* – *Lithocarpus* – *Lomatia* – *Magnolia macrophylla* – *Mitraria* – *Nothofagus* – *Pieris* – *Pinus patula* – *Quercus myrsinifolia* – *Trachelospermum*

## 19. LONG LASTING FLOWERS

These have flowers that last weeks and weeks rather than days and days – often flowering more than once a year:

*Aloe* – *Arbutus* – *Beschorneria* – *Cortaderia* – *Crocsmia* – *Fatsia* – *Echeveria* – *Eucomis* – *Fremontodendron* – *Libertia* – *Ligustrum* – *Myrtus apiculata* – *Trachelospermum* – *Trachycarpus* – *Verbena* – *Viburnum*



*Trachycarpus wagnerianus*

## 20. MEDITERRANEAN

Most people visit the Mediterranean during the summer and may not be aware how, apart from the coastal regions, winter temperatures can get as low as in Britain. Many of the plants we associate with the Mediterranean, grow well in this country and with their toughness, a Mediterranean Garden is easy to create:

*Acacia* – *Aeonium* – *Agapanthus* – *Agave* – *Albizia julibrissin* – *Arbutus* – *Arundo* – *Beschorneria* – *Butia* – *Callistemon* – *Ceanothus* – *Chamaerops* – *Cistus* – *Citrus* – *Cordyline* – *Cupressus sempervirens* – *Cycas revoluta* – *Dasylyrion* – *Echeveria* – *Echium* – *Eriobotrya* – *Eryngium* – *Eucalyptus* – *Euphorbia* – *Fremontodendron* – *Genista* – *Grevillea* – *Hedera* – *Hedychium* – *Kniphofia* – *Lyonothamnus* – *Magnolia* – *Melianthus* – *Musa* – *Myrtus* – *Olea* – *Phillyrea* – *Phoenix* – *Pinus pinea* – *Puya* – *Quercus ilex* – *Quercus suber* – *Rosmarinus* – *Strelitzia* – *Tamarix* – *Tetrapanax* – *Trachycarpus* – *Yucca*

## 21. NIWAKI

In Japanese, this means 'Garden Tree' – distinct from Bonsai, which means 'Potted Tree'.

1: Grown in Japan: *Ilex crenata* – *Taxus cuspidata*

2: Homegrown: *Myrtus apiculata* – *Phillyrea latifolia* – *Podocarpus salignus* – *Quercus ilex*

## 22. OUTRAGEOUS HERBACEOUS

Herbaceous plants on steroids – social media friendly.

*Hacanthus mollis* – *Agapanthus* – *Alocasia* – *Cannas* – *Cynara* – *Gunnera* – *Hedychium* – *Musa basjoo* – *Musa ensete 'Rubra'* – *Verbena*

## 23. PLANTS FOR FROST FREE CONSERVATORIES

Our own and our customers' experience of growing things in conservatories don't entirely coincide with the image often portrayed by conservatory manufacturers and glossy magazines – that they create an ideal environment in which exotic plants will thrive. Many conservatories are ill ventilated and over exposed to the sun, making a hostile, rather than an ideal environment, for plants. The plants dislike it and the bugs love it – an often disastrous cocktail. Despite this, we feel we can accommodate these problems by giving sound advice on the best plants, names of suppliers of Biological Pest Controls and other useful tips:

*Acacia* – *Aeonium* – *Agapanthus* – *Butia* – *Canna* – *Cordyline* – *Cycas* – *Cyperus* – *Echeveria* – *Fascicularia* – *Furcraea* – *Geranium* – *Hedychium* – *Musa* – *Olea* – *Pittosporum tobira* – *Phoenix* – *Puya* – *Trachelospermum*

## 24. PLANTS FOR MASKING HIDEOUS VIEWS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE

Screening plants. Something we get asked for an awful lot. Often asked with a note of desperation. For 'Hideous view', more often than not, we regret to report, read 'Neighbour'. Whither the milk of human kindness and chummy neighbourliness? Fast growing, fairly tall and evergreen:

*Arundo* (not evergreen but big and alarmingly fast – for desperados) –

*Bamboo* – *Eucalyptus* – *All types of full standards* (6ft clear stem and foliage above) – *Hebe parviflora angustifolia* – *Ligustrum lucidum* – *Pinus species* – *Sequoia*

## 25. PLANTS THAT CAN HAVE ARCHITECTURE *THRUST* UPON THEM

What can this phrase that sounds so highly suspect mean? Left to their own devices, some plants will grow into sprawling, shapeless messes. Ruthless pruning can produce standard, single or multitrunked and extremely architectural little trees. Not only is this great fun but the difference can be dramatic – rather pedestrian little shrubs blossom into distinguished and dignified little trees of great character. The room for experimentation is massive but here are some suggestions of ones we've tried:

*Aralia* – *Arbutus* – *Ceanothus* – *Choisya* – *Eriobotrya* – *Euonymus* – *Fatsia* – *Genista aetnensis* – *Griselinia* – *Laurus nobilis angustifolia* – *Ligustrum lucidum* – *Lithocarpus* – *Magnolia grandiflora* – *Myrtus apiculata* – *Osmanthus yunnanensis* – *Phillyrea latifolia* – *Pinus pinea* – *Pittosporum* – *Poncirus* – *Prunus laurocerasus* – *Prunus lusitanica* – *Rhamnus* – *Rhus* – *Tamarix* – *Viburnum tinus*

## 26. PLANTS TO EVOKE OTHER PLACES

Because of the exotic looking nature of many of our plants, it's easy to use them in the garden to create a feeling of being 'somewhere else'. To help accomplish this, look under the headings (16) **JUNGLY & TROPICAL**, (19) **MEDITERRANEAN**, (27) **THE YUCCA BANK**.

## 27. SEA SIDE PLANTS

Tough as old boots, able to withstand the ravages of salt laden gales but never subjected to severe frost:

*Agave* – *Aloe* – *Araucaria* – *Arbutus* – *Arundo* – *Baccharis* – *Beschorneria* – *Carpobrotus* – *Chamaecrops* – *Cistus* – *Cordyline* – *Corokia* – *Cortaderia* – *Dasyllirion* – *Echeveria* – *Echium* – *Elaeagnus* – *Euonymus* – *Euphorbia* – *Eryngium* – *Fascicularia* – *Furcraea* – *Genista* – *Grasses\** – *Griselinia* – *Hebe* – *Kniphofia* – *Lampranthus* – *Muehlenbeckia* – *Phillyrea* – *Phormium* – *Pinus radiata* – *Pittosporum* – *Puya* – *Quercus ilex* – *Rhamnus* – *Tamarix* – *Viburnum* – *Yucca* (see bottom of pg.33)



*Agave americana*

## 28. SOFT AND FLUFFY

Light and airy. Feathery leaved and small leaved plants that create the perfect foil for the very strong shapes of the spiky plants:

*Acacia* – *Albizia* – *Azara* – *Bamboo* – *Cistus* – *Genista* – *Geranium maderense* – *Grasses\** – *Grevillea* – *Hebe parviflora angustifolia* – *Lomatia* – *Lyonothamnus* – *Maytenus* – *Pinus* – *Podocarpus salignus* – *Tamarix* \* (see bottom of page.33)

## 29. SPECTACULAR FLOWERS

Huge flowers, copious quantities of flowers and flowers with strong colours – mostly reds, yellows, blues and white:

*Acacia* – *Agapanthus* – *Beschorneria* – *Callistemon* – *Canna* – *Ceanothus* – *Cynara* – *Echium* – *Eucomis* – *Fascicularia* – *Fremontodendron* – *Furcraea* – *Genista aetnensis* – *Hedychium* – *Kniphofia* – *Lobelia tupa* – *Magnolia* – *Paulownia* – *Phormium* – *Puya* – *Yucca* – *Zantedeschia*

## 30. THE YUCCA BANK

Your own little bit of Tresco. Given a well drained south facing bank, these plants create an extraordinarily exotic sight, summer or winter. A large concentration of strong shapes with contrasting textures looks particularly good at night, floodlit:

*Aeonium* – *Agave* – *Aloe* – *Astelia* – *Beschorneria* – *Carpobrotus* – *Chamaecrops* – *Cordyline* – *Dasyllirion* – *Echeveria* – *Ephedra* – *Eryngium horridum* – *Euphorbia* – *Fascicularia* – *Furcraea* – *Geranium maderense* – *Kniphofia* – *Lampranthus* – *Opuntia* – *Phormium* – *Puya* – *Sempervivum* – *Yucca*

### 31. TOPIARY

We're uncharacteristically refined and restrained in this department. No dinosaurs, no Penny Farthing bicycles, no tennis rackets and no footballers. We go for things like Balls, Lollipops, Mop Heads, Pyramids, Cones, Pillows and Blobs. Our regulars:

*Carpinus* – *Fagus* – *Ilex* – *Laurus nobilis* – *Ligustrum delavayi* – *Osmanthus* – *Phillyrea* – *Prunus lusitanica* – *Taxus* – *Viburnum tinus*



Colin clipping *Lonicera nitida* 'Elegans'

### 32. TRAILERS & HANGERS

Spreading ground cover, completely prostrate never more than a few inches tall but capable of cascading down walls or hanging in curtains, if given the opportunity:

*Carpobrotus* – *Ephedra* – *Euonymus kewensis* – *Euphorbia myrsinites* – *Hedera* – *Lampranthus* – *Muehlenbeckia* – *Rosmarinus* 'Repens'

### 33. WALL SHRUBS

What is a wall shrub anyway? This sounds like it must be a man made invention. They're the plants that lend themselves to being trained and tied to a wall, covering it, without actually attaching itself to it:

*Acacia* – *Albizia julibrissin* – *Ceanothus* – *Fatsyhedera* – *Ficus* – *Fremontodendron* – *Magnolia grandiflora*

### 34. WINDY PLACES

This usually applies to gardens on the coast or on hills. Plants with very large leaves must be avoided as they'll be ripped to pieces, the plants described under (5) COASTAL WINDBREAKS, (24) SEA SIDE PLANTS and (27) THE YUCCA BANK are, of course, very wind resistant, but here we list:

1. Some more plants that are pretty good in windy gardens:

*Agave* – *Araucaria* – *Arbutus x andrachnoides* – *Arundo* – *Callistemon* – *Ceanothus* 'Concha' – *Colletia* – *Elaeagnus* – *Eucalyptus* – *Euonymus* – *Genista* – *Laurus* – *Magnolia delavayi* – *Maytenus* – *Muehlenbeckia* – *Olea* – *Phillyrea* – *Phormium* – *Pinus* – *Quercus* – *Rhamnus* – *Tamarisk* – *Viburnum* – *Yucca*

2. A very short list of hurricane resistant species:

*Carpobrotus edulis* – *Puya alpestris* – *Tamarisk* – *Yucca gloriosa*

### 35. WONDERFUL SMELLS

A major contribution to any garden are the scents of the flowers and the leaves. In these lists, flowers or leaves that have questionable pongs, have not been included – *Choisya* and *Viburnum tinus* to name but two:

1. Flowers: *Acacia* – *Azara microphylla* – *Clematis armandii* – *Colletia* – *Cordyline australis* – *Daphne odora* – *Elaeagnus* – *Eriobotrya* – *Euphorbia mellifera* – *Hedychium* – *Holboellia latifolia* – *Magnolia grandiflora* – *Myrtus* – *Osmanthus* – *Pittosporum tobira* – *Trachelospermum*

2. Leaves: *Cistus* – *Cupressus* – *Eucalyptus* – *Ficus carica* – *Laurus* – *Lyonothamnus* – *Rosmarinus*

\* The Grasses: *Arundo*, *Cortaderia*, *Festuca*, *Hakonechloa*, *Imperata*, *Miscanthus*, *Pennisetum*, *Stipa*

# BAMBOOS: CLIMBERS: FERNS

## PALMS: YUCCAS

A quick reference to 'see what they've got' plus a few tips on cultivation

### BAMBOOS

#### IF YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT IT SPREADING DON'T BUY IT

Bamboos, like any grass, will grow fast if given lots of moisture during the growing season and masses of food, between March and September. In order for it to become established as fast as possible, it's essential to restrict competition from other plants – keep young plants clear of anything (grass in particular). Treat your lawn like this and you'll never stop mowing it, but treat your bamboo like this and it'll look beautifully green and lush from one end of the year to the other.

The *Phyllostachys* bamboos and the *Semiarundinaria* are different from the rest. The individual canes are bigger, more spaced out and more obviously branched. Like the others, they can be well fed and left to their own devices with occasional 'Brown Biting' (removal of old and dead bits). Alternatively, much fun can be had with the creative use of a pair of secateurs and a pruning saw. Each year when the new canes emerge from the ground, leave the biggest and best and cut off the smaller, unwanted ones. This way the 'mass' of growth is maintained but it's all concentrated into a smaller number of canes. The result is fewer but much bigger canes. Larger canes will not produce branches for the first few feet, exposing their decorative bases to view. Try it – it's a wonderful introduction to all sorts of possibilities of 'creative maintenance' in the garden. Something the Japanese have been doing for centuries but us Europeans have only ever applied to rose bushes and fruit trees.

Enormous (could reach 25 ft or more) :

*Phyllostachys aureosulcata* – *Phyllostachys nigra* – *Semiarundinaria fastuosa*

Big (could reach 18 ft) :

*Phyllostachys aurea* Medium (could reach 12 ft) :

*Pseudosasa japonica* Small (10 ft or under)

*Fargesia murielae* – *Sasa palmata* Fairly well behaved (not too much spread) :

*Phyllostachys aurea* – *Semiarundinaria fastuosa* Spreading (badly behaved) :

*Sasa palmata*

Controlling unwanted spread of bamboo roots can be accomplished with plastic root barrier – a product we sell and use constantly. It is not a complete fix, we recommend an annual dig around the island planting to remove any spreading roots).

### CLIMBERS

Most climbers are happy on a wall of any aspect – north, south, east or west, but if you want them to flower, stick them on a warm south or west wall

*Clematis armandii* – *Fatsyhedera* – *Hedera* – *Holboellia* – *Hydrangea seemannii* – *Muehlenbeckia* – *Pileostegia viburnoides* – *Trachelospermum* – *Vitis coignetiae*

### FERNS

Ferns like a quiet, fairly shady spot in moist soil containing lots of organic matter. Their liking for very good drainage is demonstrated by the fact that, in nature, they are nearly always found growing on steep banks:

*Asplenium scolopendrium* – *Blechnum chilense* – *Blechnum spicant* –

*Dicksonia antarctica* – *Dryopteris erythrosora* – *Osmunda regalis* – *Polystichum munitum* – *Polystichum setiferum* – *Polystichum polyplepharum* – *Woodwardia*

There seems to be much confusion about the growing of the Tasmanian Tree Ferns, *Dicksonia antarctica*, in South-East England. We don't subscribe to the belief that they're particularly hardy in Britain – personal experience has shown that a succession of cold winters will polish them off. Understanding that their natural habitat is in evergreen temperate rain forest, helps. Given a position in shade and very well protected from the wind, under tall evergreens, is best. It's rarely humid enough in Britain during the summer, so frequent spraying of the trunks with water or rigging up an irrigation system to automatically water the trunk helps. Pouring extremely dilute sea weed extract into the centre of a tree fern, from time to time, during the growing season seems to have sensational results. In Central London and built-up coastal areas, winter protection is unnecessary, but in cold rural areas, bales of straw can be used to protect the plant during the winter.

### PALMS

Our logo's a Palm Tree and we stock quantities of the two hardy palms (Trachycarpus and Chamaerops), but here's our entire complement :

*Chamaerops humilis* – *Jubea chilensis* – *Phoenix canariensis* – *Trachycarpus fortunei* (stripped trunk and without) – *Trachycarpus wagnerianus*

### YUCCAS

Yuccas are divided into two distinct types as described in 1 & 2 below. As well as regular feeding with 'Blood, Fish and Bone' (for example) to get lots of lush growth, by far the most important part of successful Yucca cultivation is the oft mentioned technique known as BROWN BITTING – removal of the brown bits and spent flower spikes before they are fully faded (to prevent unsightly build up of rotten old flowers) and removal (by cutting) of unsightly, dying or dead leaves :

1. Those that form a trunk and branch after flowering :

*Yucca aloifolia* – *Yucca aloifolia variegata* – *Yucca gloriosa* – *Yucca gloriosa variegata* – *Yucca recurva* – *Yucca rostrata*

2. Those that form a clump of several trunkless plants together. When an individual within the clump flowers, it dies, to be replaced by a new plant from underneath :

*Yucca filamentosa* & *Yucca flaccida* – two rather unexciting plants, neither of which we sell.

## THE OTHER STUFF

### GOODS AND SERVICES *from* ARCHITECTURAL PLANTS, OTHER THAN SELLING PLANTS



#### GIFT VOUCHERS

We sell a lot of these. If you want to give a plenty sort of present to a friend but are confused by our peculiar range of plants, take the sensible way out. Order online or phone us on 01798 879213 and all will be arranged.

#### PLANT POTS

We sell plant containers in terracotta, faux copper, faux iron, faux lead, ironstone and corten steel. You can substitute the slightly euphemistic 'faux' for 'fibreglass' if you like, but they're all pretty convincing. Nice and light too.



*Pots, pots, pots*



*Ironstone*

#### GARDENING TOOLS

The clipping tools are all beautifully engineered and will enhance the quality of your topiary – whether Japanese or not. We like them all but the Shears, the Snips, the Secateurs and the Pruning Saw are the things we use most on the nursery. We also stock long handled shovels, used by the chaps on the planting team – very useful for those larger specimens. We have a wide range of tools available to buy straight from our online shop.



*A selection from our cabinet*

## PLASTIC POT RECYCLING

We encourage our customers to return their unwanted plastic pots. It saves throwing them away, we can re-use them and you get a voucher in return to spend on lots more lovely plants. Well worth the effort. Pots for Dosh. Full details on our website.



*Pots for dosh*

## TRIPOD LADDERS

We sell a range of these remarkable Japanese ladders up to 3.6 metres tall. They're ridiculously light, strong and easy to use. Come and try one out. Stick it on your roof rack and take it home. Now available from our online shop, we can also deliver them.



*Perfect for clipping Italian Cypress*

## IRRIGATION

A very important subject, especially critical in those early years of planting. We have mastered the installation process, we call it 'The Train' – ask the planting team when they are in your garden. We stock all the spares required if you want to do it yourself. They are available from our online shop and our nursery.

## EVENTS

The nursery and its adjoining land is available for hire throughout the year, whether you're planning your dream wedding, need a location to host a dinner, or are looking for the next venue for a business event. We also host supper clubs with guest chefs taking over the nursery. Email [events@architecturalplants.com](mailto:events@architecturalplants.com) for more information.



*A Unique Setting*

## COURSES

We've held a number of one day courses designed to make you better gardeners. The mainstays are courses on producing your own Niwaki (big bonsais) and the art of Creative Maintenance – clipping, shaping, raising crowns, making scruffy palm trees look dead smart etc etc. Keep an eye on our website for information about future courses.



*Niwaki training with Guy using our homegrown Phillyrea latifolia*

## GARDEN DESIGN, CREATIVE MAINTENANCE & PLANTING

A subject covered exhaustively between pages 18 and 25 of this catalogue and also on the website. Our skill at filling small new gardens with exotic plants in such a way as to obscure your boundaries and create an almost instant feeling of seclusion and privacy, lead us to invite Al Turner (usually a builder of exquisite models of West End London theatre sets) to demonstrate this phenomenon with one of his models.



*The model – part 1 (BEFORE)*

*Many of our customers inherit this sort of garden and they find it deeply unsatisfactory*



*The model – part 2 (AFTER)*

*Smoke & Mirrors. In 24 hours flat, we can obscure your boundaries, create a leafy bower and install a model dachshund*



*The Art of Creative Maintenance applied to the hairy trunk of a Trachycarpus Palm Tree*

## SCULPTURE

Sculpture and architectural plants go hand in hand. We display a constantly changing selection of works by our favourite sculptors who are inspired to create unique pieces that sit in harmony with the natural world. David Klein, our artist in residence, is a British stone carver and figurative portrait sculptor who favours limestone. Marion Brandis, specialises in colourful and uplifting ceramics and mosaics often purposefully designed with the landscape in mind



*The entrance to the Sculpture Garden at our nursery*



*Darren's lorry ready for loading*

### **DELIVERY BY US**

**W**e take this subject seriously. Badly organised deliveries can spoil our reputation and ruin your day. We'll discuss with you, in the minutest detail, how to get your plants from us to you, in safety, using one of our liveried vehicles or a partner company, a variety of ingenious mechanical contraptions and intelligent, thoughtful drivers who understand their role in the business. Ask for a quote.



*Our new gate*

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## **HOW TO FIND US**

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**ARCHITECTURAL PLANTS,  
A29, Stane Street, North Heath, Pulborough, West Sussex  
RH20 1DJ Tel: 01798 879213**

#### **HOW TO GET THERE:**

We're on the west side of the A29 half way between Billingshurst and Pulborough. North of Brinsbury College and south of the Blacksmiths Arms. Shiny gated entrance with black and silver signs and plants all over the place.

**BY TRAIN:** To Pulborough or Billingshurst. Taxis always waiting during the week (£10 each way).

**BY HELICOPTER:** Masses of room but not during May please (Lap Wings nest on the heliport).

**OPENING HOURS:** Open every day from 9 to 5 except Sundays. We are open on the Easter, May and August bank holidays but are closed for the Christmas period. Please check our website for up to date information or to make a booking.

**Tel: 01798 879213**

**[www.architecturalplants.com](http://www.architecturalplants.com)**



# BIBLIOGRAPHY

**H**ow do you learn more? Visit Botanic gardens. Most seem to be within 10 miles of Haywards Heath in Sussex or 10 miles of Truro in Cornwall. Kew Gardens and Wakehurst Place are particularly good because everything is so well labelled. Also, read The Sinister Plot on our website: [www.architecturalplants.com](http://www.architecturalplants.com) under PLANTS.

## FOR REFERENCE

### 'Architectural Plants'

by Christine Shaw

Published by Harper Collins

Christine worked at Architectural Plants for 18 years, so she knows what she's talking about and the book covers virtually every plant that we sell plus much vital stuff on husbandry. Lots of pictures – mostly taken at A.P.

### 'Niwaki' & 'Creative Pruning'

by Jake Hobson

Published by Timber Press

Both books from the pen of Architectural Plants alumnus, expert on Japanese gardening and horticultural adventurer, Jake Hobson. You'll learn more about How They Do It In Japanese Gardens from these book than all the rest put together.

### 'Hillier's Manual of Trees & Shrubs'

by H.G. Hillier

Published by David & Charles

Incredibly useful little reference book. Comprehensive for virtually everything except herbaceous and alpine plants. Very affordable.

### 'Trees & Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles'

by W.J. Bean

Published by John Murray

The Bible. Extremely authoritative. Lots of entertaining anecdotal information in 5 fat volumes. A great present for all tree lovers. A bit dear, but worth every penny.

### 'The Trees of San Francisco'

by Mike Sullivan

Published by Pomegranate

We can't grow all the trees found in San Francisco but this book is a gem and should become the blueprint for a world wide series. First: 'The Trees of London' – please!

### 'Perennial Garden Plants'

by Graham Stuart Thomas

Published by J.M. Dent & Sons

Any book by the immensely knowledgeable Mr. Thomas is worth having.

## FOR INSPIRATION

### 'The Sub-Tropical Garden'

by Gil Hanly & Jacqueline Walker

Published by Godwit Press

From New Zealand. There are many valid points in the text about the ideas behind creating gardens with a natural look based on foliage and architectural plants.

### 'Exceptional Gardens'

Published by Beta Plus

Many pictures of some grand Belgian gardens reflecting a great European tradition of well groomed topiary, formality, the power of strong shapes and the colour green.

### 'The Gardens of California'

by Nancy Goslee Power

Published by Thames and Hudson

Includes some delicious pictures of spiky plants and beautifully pruned trees – possibly reflecting some Japanese influence on West Coast American garden.

### 'www.treeshapers.com'

Creative tree surgery taken to its logical conclusion. It's what we blather on about all the time but these guys from San Francisco explain it so well. Essential viewing.



*Angus making field notes Italy 2017*

## THE TWENTY SECOND IMPRESSION February 2022

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*No job is impossible, no plant is too big, and no location is too hard to reach*



*Ollie and Guy inspect Span 11*



*Mature topiary – Taxus baccata*



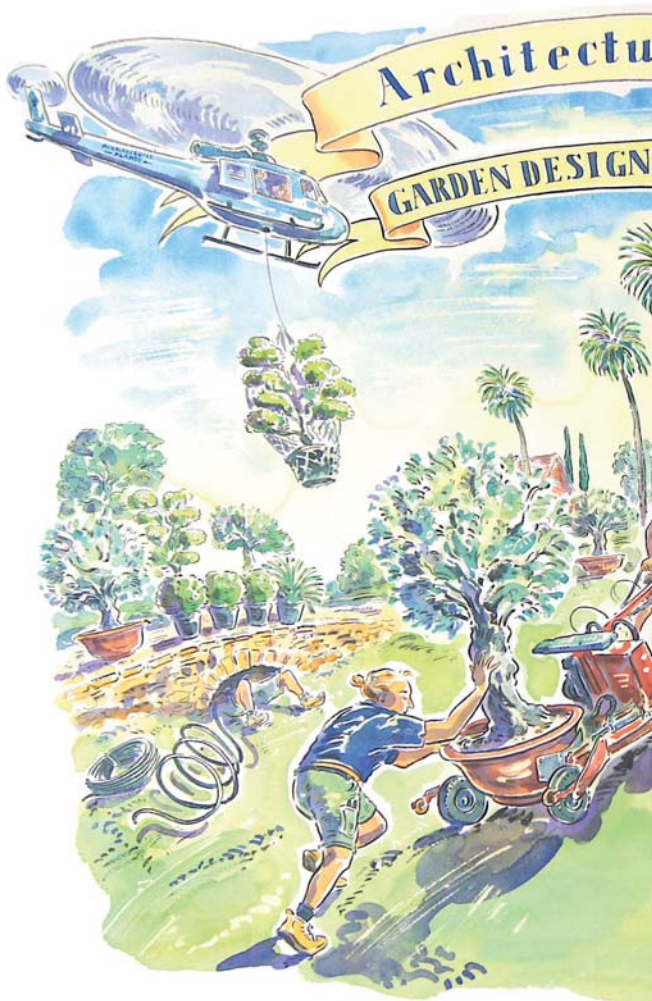
*Laurus nobilis multi-stem*



# THE USEFUL BIT

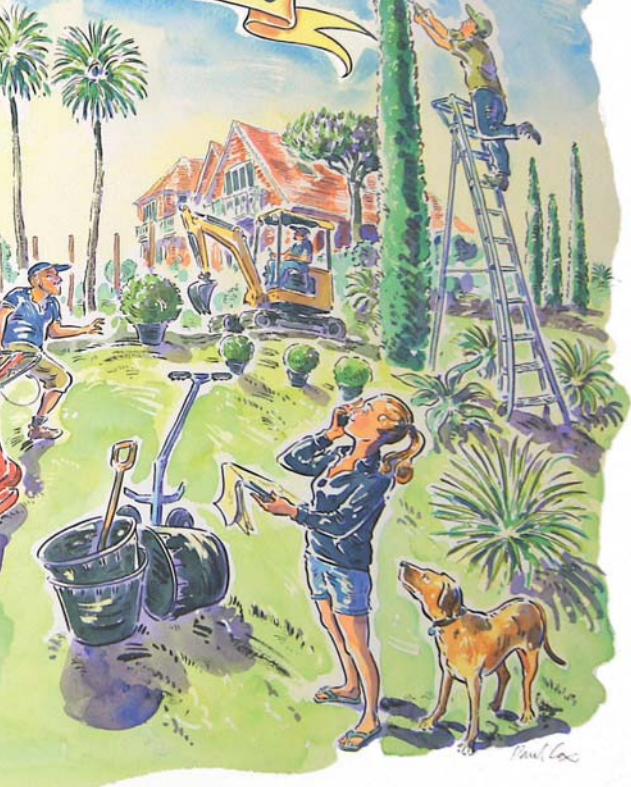
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