

# Plantlife



Royal  
Horticultural  
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## Landscaping without harmful invasive plants

A guide to plants you can use  
in place of invasive non-natives



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# Landscaping without harmful invasive plants

A few popular landscaping plants can cause problems for you / your clients and the environment. These are known as invasive non-native plants. Although they comprise a small minority of the 70,000 or so plant varieties available, the damage they can do is extensive and may be irreversible.

Some invasive non-native plants might be straightforward for you (or your clients) to keep in check if you can tend to the planted area often, but in the wider countryside, where such management is not feasible, these plants can establish and cause problems for native plants and animals. Trying to get rid of problem plants from natural habitats, especially sites of nature conservation importance, is expensive and difficult. Often complete eradication of an invasive plant from the wild becomes impossible, and many hundreds of thousands of pounds are spent each year in an effort to limit their spread.

Other invasive non-native plants will cause problems in their amenity setting too, quickly outgrowing their space and becoming difficult to keep under control. If invasive plants are used in water features, they can present an additional hazard as rampant growth can make water appear as solid ground and so be dangerous to unsuspecting children or animals.

This guide, produced by the wild plant conservation charity Plantlife and the Royal Horticultural Society, can help you choose plants that are less likely to cause problems to the environment should they escape from your planting area. Even the most careful land managers cannot ensure that their plants do not escape and establish in nearby habitats (as berries and seeds may be carried away by birds or the wind), so we hope you will find this helpful.



Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, it is an offence to plant, or cause to grow in the wild, a number of invasive non-native plants. Government also has powers to ban the sale of invasive plants. At the time of producing this booklet there were no sales bans, but it is worth checking on the websites below to find the latest legislation that may be relevant to you:

**Department for Environment  
Food and Rural Affairs**

[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

**Scottish Government**

[www.scotland.gov.uk/invasivespecies](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/invasivespecies)

These websites provide more information about invasive plants and their management:

**Plantlife**

[www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)

**Royal Horticultural Society**

[www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)

**Non-Native Species Secretariat**

[www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org)



## How to use this guide

Your choice of plant often reflects what you want to do – for example create a stunning visual display in a public park, or provide a barrier to discourage use of a certain area. Here we try to suggest non-invasive plants for a variety of different landscaping occasions and cultivation conditions.

Invasive plants have sometimes been used in the past for those difficult areas of landscaping, like when a bare wall needs to be covered quickly or soil needs to be stabilised. Meanwhile plants for other aspects of landscaping, such as summer bedding, are unlikely to be invasive. This booklet covers those areas of landscaping where, traditionally, invasive plants have most been used.

For example, some cotoneasters used for background screening and groundcover are now displaying invasive tendencies in the wild and have been added to Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. We suggest safer plants you can try instead in the 'Shrubs' and 'Groundcover plants' sections.

Although the plants we suggest shouldn't cause you undue problems, no matter which plants you use, you/your client will need to manage your planted areas at regular intervals.

Please remember that ALL excess plant matter should be disposed of responsibly. The *Be Plant Wise* website has more information about safe disposal of plant matter:

[www.nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise)

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Inside layout design by Andrew Evans



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Within each section the recommended plants cover a range of different sites and cultivation requirements. For example, we list shrubs which offer spring or summer flowers or stunning autumn colours, shrubs that are good for hedging or providing background structure to your borders, and shrubs for sunny or shady spots.

KEY TO SYMBOLS		Tolerant of shade / low light levels	Needs sun	Needs alkaline conditions	Needs acid conditions	Needs drier soils	Needs wetter soils	
Fast growing	Attractive flowers	Attractive foliage	Fine autumn colours	Bears ornamental fruit	Background structure / screening	Low barrier / hedge	Windbreak	Provides shelter/cover for wildlife
Berries for birds	Nectar source	Needs rich soil	Needs poor soil	Submerged aquatic plant	Floating aquatic plant	Marginal / emergent aquatic plant	<b>BOG</b> Bog garden plant	

Symbols under each plant highlight particular conditions the plant requires (for example, wet, dry, acid or alkaline soils, or full sun). Plants able to grow in shade are also indicated. A plant with no symbols is able to cope with a broad range of conditions. The index at the back of this booklet provides full details of each plant's cultivation tolerances.



©Deborah Long Plantlife

**Calluna vulgaris**

Heather

Variable shrub to 60cm with tiny, densely packed leaves and bell-shaped, often pink flowers. A great range of cultivars selected for flower and foliage characters is available. A good option for erosion control at inland sites.



©ukwildflowers.com

**Ligustrum vulgare**

Wild Privet

Hardy semi-evergreen shrub to 3m with narrowly oval, shiny leaves. Spikes of white flowers are followed by small black fruit.



©Carol Sheppard/RHS

**Prunus spinosa 'Plena'**

Double Blackthorn

Shrub to about 4m with spiny branches and double, white flowers in March and April.



©Damon Taylor www.flickr.com/photos/oreen\_of\_starz

**Rhamnus cathartica**

Buckthorn

Dense-growing, spiny shrub to 6m with glossy, dark green leaves turning yellow in autumn. Yellowish flowers in spring are followed by spherical fruit in autumn, red turning black.



©Gene Selkov

**Ulex europaeus**

Gorse

Rounded shrub of dense habit to 2.5m bearing very spiny stems which carry bright yellow pea flowers throughout much of the year.



**Bergenia cordifolia & hybrids**

Elephant-ears

Robust perennials spreading on thick, branching rhizomes. Leaves are large, glossy and paddle-like and purple-tinged in winter. The flowers are usually in shades of pink, borne on fleshy stems. Good for sheltered sites.



©Ulri Lorimer Curator of Native Flora Brooklyn Botanic Garden

**Ceratostigma plumbaginoides**

Hardy Plumbago

Rhizomatous perennial, woody at the base with wavy-margined, bright green leaves (to 10cm long) turning red in autumn. Produces clusters of bright blue flowers in late summer. Good for exposed sites.



©Jennifer Snyder

**Leucothoe fontanesiana**

Drooping Laurel

Shrub to 2m or so with arching branches carrying evergreen, leathery, lance-shaped leaves and small white flowers in spring. Variegated cultivars are available. Needs a sheltered position.



©Andy Jones

**Pachysandra terminalis**

Carpet Box

Evergreen perennial spreading on smooth stems from which are produced deeply cut, glossy, dark green leaves. Small white flowers are produced in early summer.



©www.kingsbraegarden.com

**Salix repens var. argentea**

Creeping Willow

Prostrate, spreading shrub with oval, silky green leaves that are silver beneath. Produces yellow catkins in spring. Good for exposed, sunny sites.



©Betsy Phillips/RHS

©Christopher Whitehouse



***Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *humilis***

Christmas Box

Low-growing, suckering shrub grown for its glossy, dark green, narrow leaves and small but fragrant, pink-tinged white flowers produced in winter. The flowers are followed by dark, shiny fruit.



©ukwildflowers.com



***Stachys byzantina***

Lamb's-ear

Spreading perennial to 45cm tall with elliptic leaves to 10cm which are covered in thick white wool. Small pinkish flowers are carried on woolly stems in summer and autumn. Good for sunny, exposed sites.



©Philippa Bullock



***Colchicum autumnale***

Meadow Saffron

Cormous perennial producing copious pink, goblet-shaped flowers (to 15cm), followed by lance-shaped leaves. Double-flowered cultivars are available.



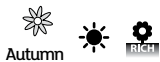
©Graham Hitchmarsh/RHS



***Colchicum speciosum***

Giant Meadow Saffron

Vigorous, cormous perennial to 18cm with narrow leaves. Goblet-shaped flowers are pink-purple, often with a white throat.



©Christophe Quaintin



***Crocus biflorus***

Silvery Crocus

Variable cormous perennial to 6cm carrying flowers which have yellow throats and can be found in shades of blue or white, sometimes with purple striping.



***Crocus chrysanthus***

Golden Crocus

Cormous perennial to 5cm with flowers which can vary in colour from pale cream to deep yellow, often with a purplish suffusion on the exterior.



***Crocus nudiflorus***

Autumn Crocus

Spreading, cormous perennial to 20cm. Its purple flowers with a long tube are produced before the narrow leaves.



***Crocus tommasinianus***

Early Crocus

Variable cormous perennial to 10cm with pale-striped linear leaves and flowers which can be pale lilac to deep purple.



***Cyclamen coum***

Eastern Sowbread

Tuberous perennial to 8cm with silver-patterned, rounded, deep green leaves and flowers in shades of pink with swept back tepals.



***Cyclamen hederifolium***

Sowbread

Tuberous perennial producing waxy heart-shaped or triangular leaves with pale patterning. The flowers are in shades of pink, borne singly on upright stems and have twisted, swept back tepals.





©Tom Blackwell  
www.flickr.com/photos/tblackwell

***Digitalis purpurea***

Foxglove

Biennial forming a neat rosette of hairy leaves in the first year followed in the second by graceful, one-sided spikes to 2m of tubular, purple flowers with maroon spots on the inside.



©Suaat Arslanoglu

***Echium vulgare***

Viper's-bugloss

Bushy biennial bearing bristly, narrow leaves and in the second year purple, pink-tinged, bell-shaped flowers in dense inflorescences.



©Regento Lira

***Fritillaria meleagris***

Snake's-head Fritillary

Bulbous perennial to 30cm with delicate stems that carry heavy, pendant flowers (to 4.5cm long). The flowers are in shades of pinkish purple with dark checkering.



©Alexandre Viallet

***Narcissus 'Actaea'***

Daffodil 'Actaea'

Strongly fragrant bulbous perennial to 45cm. The white flowers have a short, cup-shaped corona which is yellow margined red. Leaves are narrow and hairless.



©Peter Dutton

***Scilla siberica***

Siberian Squill

Bulbous perennial to about 15cm with shiny, lance-shaped leaves and pendant, bright blue flowers to 1.5cm across.



***Ampelodesmos mauritanica***

Diss Grass

Impressive grass to 3m with arching, evergreen foliage and tall stems bearing pendant flowers.



©Xenia Mauritanica

***Astelia chathamica***

Silver Spear

Clump-forming perennial to 1.2m tall bearing clumps of broad, channelled, silvery leaves. Yellowish green flowers are sometimes produced and followed by orange berries.



©Carol Sheppard, RHS

***Chusquea culeou***

Chilean Bamboo

Erect, clump-forming bamboo with solid, yellow-green stems growing to 6m in ideal conditions with a spread of 2.5m.

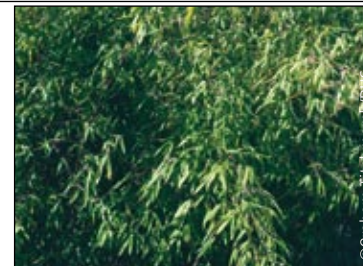


©RHS

***Fargesia nitida***

Fountain Bamboo

Graceful, slow-growing bamboo forming clumps of slender, dark purple canes growing to a height of 5m with a spread of 1.5m.



©Graham Hitchmanks, RHS

***Miscanthus × giganteus***

Elephant Grass

Upright grass not spreading invasively, useful at the back of borders. Flowers are pinkish going silver, produced in October. Tolerant of most conditions but best in fertile, moist soil in full sun.



©www.flickr.com/bruce\_m\_walton



*Phyllostachys nigra*

Black Bamboo

Clump-forming bamboo with arching, slender canes turning deep black. Grows to 5m with a spread of 3m.



*Pleioblastus simonii*

Simon's Bamboo

Fairly small bamboo to 3m in height. The variegated cultivar 'Variegatus' has linear, white-striped leaves



*Stipa gigantea*

Golden Oats

Forms dense, evergreen clumps over which are carried high plumes of golden flowers.



*Aralia cachemirica*

Angelica-tree

Huge leaves to 1.2m long divided into shiny leaflets above which appear spikes of starry umbels to 3m tall.



*Crambe cordifolia*

Greater Sea-kale

Huge clumps of heart-shaped foliage to 1.5m across are topped by branching sprays of small white flowers to 2m high.



*Datisca cannabina*

Cretan Hemp

Slender stems to 3m bear delicate, dissected leaves and tassels of green flowers.



*Eupatorium maculatum* Atropurpureum Group

Joe Pye Weed

Perennial to 3m with domed heads of purple flowers over whorls of dark foliage.



*Rheum palmatum*

Ornamental Rhubarb

A huge ornamental rhubarb to 2.5m tall or more with large, deeply lobed leaves and upright spikes of small greenish flowers.



*Rodgersia aesculifolia*

Chestnut-leaved Rodgersia

Large, wrinkled basal leaves are palmately divided and bear branching stems of small pink or white flowers. Forms clumps to 1.5m across.



*Veronicastrum virginicum*

Culver's Root

Perennial to 2m or more bearing architectural whorls of toothed foliage and tall wands of lilac flowers.



***Berberis verruculosa***

Warted Barberry

Tight-growing, evergreen shrub to 1.5m with glossy, spiny leaves to 3cm long, that are white on the underside. Dark purple fruit to 1cm long follow the golden yellow flowers.

***Buxus sempervirens***

Box

Dense-growing, rounded shrub eventually to 5m but responding well to pruning. Leaves evergreen, small and dark green. Produces small and yellowish flowers in spring. Good for dry, shady sites.

***Cornus alba***

White Dogwood

Hardy and resilient deciduous shrub to 3m tall bearing red bark and available as several variegated cultivars. Grow in full sun for most striking stem colour.

***Elaeagnus x ebbingei***

Ebbinge's Silverberry

Evergreen shrub to 4m with a dense, leafy habit. Leaves are leathery with silver scales on the underside. Variegated cultivars are available. Extremely fragrant, small, white flowers are produced in autumn.

***Escallonia macrantha***

Escallonia

A fine shrub to 4m but easily pruned with dark, glossy, aromatic leaves and tubular, rosy flowers. Good as a windbreak, though may be susceptible to frost in inland areas.

***Forsythia x intermedia***

Forsythia

Easily propagated, pollution-tolerant deciduous shrub to 2m tall bearing bright golden flowers on bare stems in spring.

***Garrya elliptica***

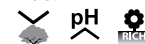
Silk-tassel Bush (pictured: cultivar 'James Roof')

Hard-wearing evergreen shrub to 4m with glossy, grey-green, opposite leaves. Highly ornamental catkins are borne in winter and early spring. Good windbreak.

***Hebe rakaiensis***

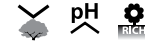
Rakai Hebe

Dense shrub to 1m with glossy green leaves to 2cm long thickly covering a rounded bush. The white racemes of flowers (to 4cm long) are borne in summer. Good for hedging. Will tolerate maritime exposure but not very cold winds.

***Hebe topiaria***

Topiarist's Hebe

Dense, low-growing shrub to 60cm with glossy, grey-green leaves to 1.5cm long. Racemes of white flowers to 2cm are carried in summer. Good for hedging. Will tolerate maritime exposure but not very cold winds.

***Ilex aquifolium***

Holly

Hardy evergreen shrub bearing spiny, glossy foliage when young. Available in a range of variegated cultivars. Female plants bear red berries. Good as a windbreak.





***Ligustrum lucidum***

Chinese Privet

Evergreen shrub or tree easily pruned to size with glossy, dark green leaves. Variegated cultivars are available.

***Olearia macrodonta***

New Zealand Holly

Shrub, eventually to 5m, with holly-like, greyish leaves. Profuse heads of fragrant, daisy-like flowers are borne in summer. A good windbreak.

***Olearia x haastii***

Daisy-bush

Tough, bushy evergreen shrub to 2m tall with dark green leaves felted on the underside. Produces daisy flowers in summer.

***Photinia x fraseri***

Christmas Berry

Evergreen shrub growing to 5m but easily pruned to size. White flowers are carried in spring and young foliage is bright red. Needs protection from cold winds.

***Viburnum opulus***

Guelder-rose

Vigorous deciduous shrub to 4m bearing lobed leaves that turn red in autumn. Its lacecap flowers are followed by glossy red fruit.

***Euonymus japonicus* & cultivars**

Evergreen Spindle

Evergreen shrub with glossy foliage and small clusters of white flowers. Tolerant of a wide range of conditions and resilient to heavy pruning. A number of fine foliage selections are available.

***Abelia x grandiflora***

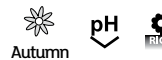
Glossy Abelia

Semi-evergreen shrub to 3m bearing glossy, dark green leaves and fragrant pinkish white tubular flowers that fall to reveal persistent pink calyces.

***Acer palmatum* var. *dissectum***

Cut-leaved Japanese Maple

Rounded shrub bearing deeply cut, sometimes purple, foliage that colours up well in autumn and is often accompanied by ornamental winged fruits. Protect from cold, drying winds.

***Aucuba japonica* 'Crotonifolia'**

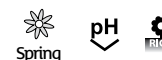
Spotted-laurel

Dependable shrub to 3m tall grown primarily for its glossy, toothed leaves (to 20cm long) which are speckled with yellow markings. Small purple flowers may be followed by bright red berries. Good for dry, shady sites.

***Camellia japonica* cultivars**

Common Camellia

Evergreen shrubs to 4m or more, with glossy, toothed elliptic leaves. A huge number of cultivars have been selected often with large double flowers in shades of pink.



*Cotinus coggygria*

Smoke Tree

Shrub to 5m with oval leaves turning rich orange and red in autumn and retaining wispy panicles after flowering. Purple-leaved forms available. Coloured-leaved cultivars perform best in full sun.

*Euonymus alatus*

Winged Spindle

Hardy shrub to 2m bearing glossy leaves that turn bright scarlet before falling. Also bears purple and orange fruit and winged stems.

*Euonymus europaeus* 'Red Cascade'  
Spindle 'Red Cascade'

Deciduous shrub to 2.5m bearing glossy leaves on green stems and small flowers. Flowers are followed by a profusion of red fruit which open to reveal the orange-coated seeds within.

*Hamamelis vernalis*

Spring Witch-hazel

Upright shrub bearing spidery yellow or orange flowers on bare twigs in winter and spring. The leaves turn clear yellow in autumn.

*Hydrangea macrophylla*

Mophead Hydrangea

Compact, deciduous shrub to 2m with opposite, broad leaves to 20cm long. There are many cultivars which bear domes of flowers in a great range of colours, some formed of entirely sterile bracts and others with fertile flowers at the centre.

*Hydrangea serrata*

Lacecap Hydrangea

Deciduous shrub with opposite leaves to 15cm long and flattened domes of flowers which bear colourful sterile bracts at the margins. Many cultivars are available.

*Nandina domestica*

Heavenly Bamboo

Bamboo like stems carry graceful compound, evergreen leaves that turn vivid red in autumn and winter. Small, starry flowers are sometimes followed by bright red fruit. Requires a sheltered site to thrive.

*Osmanthus × burkwoodii*

Burkwood Osmanthus

Evergreen shrub to 3m with a dense habit and toothed, dark green leaves. The small, tubular white flowers are extremely fragrant.

*Philadelphus coronarius*

Mock-orange

Shrub to 3m bearing toothed, deciduous leaves and highly fragrant, creamy, cup-shaped flowers (to 2.5cm across) in early summer.

*Pieris japonica*

Lily-of-the-valley Bush

Evergreen shrub of neat habit to 4m tall with toothed elliptic leaves that are reddish when young. Panicles of numerous urn-shaped, white flowers appear from pink buds. Several cultivars are available. Protect young growth from late frosts.





©Peter Steevens

***Sarcococca hookeriana***

Sweet Box

Small, suckering shrub to 1.5m forming neat clumps of upright stems which bear glossy, broadly lance-shaped leaves. In winter, clusters of sweetly fragrant, small white flowers form and are followed by shiny black fruit. Good for dry, shady sites.



©Christopher Whitehouse

***Skimmia japonica* 'Nymans'**

Skimmia 'Nymans'

A spreading shrub to 1m x 2m bearing glossy, evergreen, aromatic foliage. Fragrant white flowers and round, red fruits are freely produced.



©Kim Smith

***Viburnum betulifolium***

Birch-leaf Viburnum

Deciduous shrub with an upright habit growing to 3m tall. The white flowers in early summer are followed by pendant clusters of bright red fruit which persist well through the winter.



©Graham Titchmarsh/RHS

***Viburnum x burkwoodii* cultivars**

Burkwood Viburnum

Evergreen shrub to 3m with dark green, shiny leaves. Globes of very fragrant white flowers to 10cm across open from pink buds and are sometimes followed by small red fruit (turning black).



***Actinidia kolomikta***

Kolomikta

Vigorous twining climber to 5m or more, rarely producing its small flowers but bearing large leaves that become attractively variegated white and pink in the upper half.



©Valerie La Barre

***Ampelopsis brevipedunculata***

Porcelain Berry

Deciduous tendril climber to 5m bearing three-lobed leaves and small greenish flowers which are followed by clusters of round fruit that turn from pinkish-purple to blue.



©Sean Bassman

***Ceanothus arboreus* 'Trewithen Blue'**

Californian Lilac 'Trewithen Blue'

Evergreen shrub to 5m or so with glossy, dark green, oval leaves to 10cm long. In spring and summer frothy heads of blue flowers are borne in abundance. May be damaged by frosts.

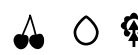


©Graham Titchmarsh/RHS

***Celastrus orbiculatus***

Staff-vine

Strong-growing deciduous climber to 14m bearing toothed leaves turning golden in autumn. Small, greenish flowers are followed by round, yellowish fruit that open to reveal red seeds within.



by Kitty Wilkin hearthnatureeasy.com

***Chaenomeles japonica***

Japanese Quince

Spreading, thorny shrub to 1m tall and 2m across bearing large orange-red flowers in spring as the glossy leaves appear. The fruits are red, tinged with yellow and around 4cm long.



©Cecilia Kanu



***Elaeagnus x ebbingei***

**Ebbinge's Silverberry**

Evergreen shrub to 4m with a dense, leafy habit. Leaves are leathery with silver scales on the underside. The flowers, produced in autumn are small, white and extremely fragrant. There are several variegated cultivars.



***Euonymus fortunei* 'Silver Queen'**

**Spindle 'Silver Queen'**

Evergreen shrub to 2.5m with flexible stems bearing waxy, white-margined leaves. White fruit opening to reveal orange-coated seeds may be produced after the small flowers.



***Hedera algeriensis* 'Gloire de Marengo'**

**Ivy 'Glorie de Marengo'**

Large-leaved ivy with creamy marginal variegation and long, easily trained stems. Tolerant of a wide range of conditions once established.



***Hedera colchica* 'Sulphur Heart'**

**Persian Ivy 'Sulphur Heart'**

Large-leaved ivy with a large central, golden variegation growing to perhaps 5m. Tolerant of a wide range of conditions once established.



***Hydrangea petiolaris***

**Climbing Hydrangea**

Deciduous climber with leaves turning yellow before falling. Grows to 10m or more and carries domes of white flowers with bracteate flowers at the margins. Avoid shallow, chalky soils.



***Myrtus communis***

**Common Myrtle**

Evergreen shrub to 3m bearing a dense coverage of dark green aromatic foliage and, from midsummer, white flowers with prominent stamens which are followed by black fruit. Not fully hardy; shelter from cold winds.



***Rosa* 'New Dawn'**

**Rose 'New Dawn'**

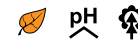
A vigorous climbing rose with arching stems bearing glossy leaves and full, palest pink flowers. Suitable for sun or partial shade. A great range of climbing roses, providing for different aspects and effects, are available.



***Vitis coignetiae***

**Crimson Glory-vine**

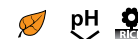
Vigorous, tendril climber with large, lobed leaves to 30cm across that turn yellow, then bright red, in autumn.



***Acer palmatum***

**Japanese Maple**

Small tree bearing graceful, lobed leaves that become scarlet in autumn. Many choice cultivars are available.



***Arbutus x andrachnoides***

**Hybrid Strawberry Tree**

Tree to 8m with peeling red bark and glossy, toothed evergreen leaves that are glaucous on the underside. The small flowers are white and appear in autumn. Alkaline soils may be tolerated but acid is preferred. Shelter from cold winds.





***Cercis siliquastrum***

Judas Tree

Deciduous tree to 10m bearing pink, pea flowers which appear on the bare stems. The attractive foliage is glossy and heart-shaped.



***Crataegus laevigata* 'Paul's Scarlet'**

Hawthorn 'Paul's Scarlet'

Thorny, deciduous tree to 8m. Bears a great profusion of bright red-pink, very double flowers in late spring.



***Crataegus* × *lavalleei***

Lavallee's Hawthorn

Spreading, semi-deciduous tree to 7m bearing domed heads of white flowers followed by orange-red fruits to 2cm across that persist through the winter.



***Fraxinus angustifolia* 'Raywood'**

Ash 'Raywood'

Pinnate-leaved deciduous tree to 20m bearing foliage that turns a rich red in the autumn.



***Fraxinus ornus***

Manna Ash

Deciduous tree to 15m with pinnate leaves that turn red in autumn. Creamy white flowers are followed by pendulous clusters of winged yellow or red fruit.



***Ligustrum lucidum***

Chinese Privet

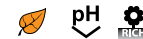
Hardy, conical evergreen tree to 10m bearing glossy leaves. Spikes of white flowers in late summer are followed by bluish fruit.



***Liquidambar styraciflua***

Sweet Gum

Conical tree to 20m with neatly lobed leaves turning deep bronze, red and orange before falling. For best autumn colour plant in full sun. Can tolerate alkaline conditions where soils are deep.



***Magnolia grandiflora***

Large-flowered Magnolia

Magnificent evergreen tree to 10m or more with large, very glossy, bright green leaves that are rusty brown on the underside. Bears huge, cup-shaped, fragrant white flowers. May be damaged by very cold weather.



***Malus* 'Golden Hornet'**

Crab Apple 'Golden Hornet'

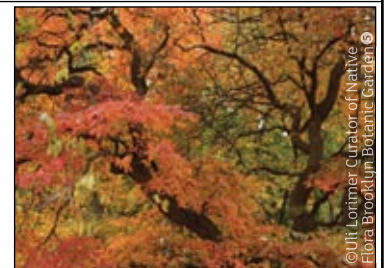
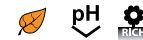
Deciduous tree to 8m with a rounded habit. White flowers in spring are followed by copious, spherical, golden yellow fruit to 2cm across which are carried over a long period.



***Nyssa sylvatica***

Tupelo

Broadly conical tree to 15m. Leaves produce spectacular fiery shades in autumn. Shelter from cold winds and plant out when young.





©Ryan Somma

**Parrotia persica**

Persian Ironwood

Spreading tree to 8m tall bearing peeling bark and spidery, bright red flowers in winter and early spring. Produces fire-coloured autumn foliage. Grow in acid soil for best autumn colour.



©Cody Pough

**Prunus cerasifera 'Pissardii'**

Cherry Plum 'Pissardii'

Purple-leaved deciduous tree to 10m bearing cup-shaped flowers (2.5cm across) that are pink, fading to white.



©Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

**Sorbus aria**

Common Whitebeam

Deciduous tree to 15m or more with broad, hairy, greyish leaves and flat heads of white flowers which are followed by dark red fruits.

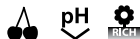


©Jim Brodie

**Sorbus 'Joseph Rock'**

Mountain Ash 'Joseph Rock'

Deciduous tree to 10m bearing pinnate leaves that colour well in autumn. Spring white flowers are followed by round, pale yellow fruit to 1cm across.



©RHS

**Sorbus thibetica 'John Mitchell'**

Tibetan Whitebeam 'John Mitchell'

Deciduous tree to 20m or so with very broad, round, silver-grey leaves with heads of white flowers in spring followed by yellowish fruit to 1.5cm across.



**Alisma plantago-aquatica**

Water-plantain

Perennial to 1m bearing linear submerged leaves and rosettes of long-stalked, lance-shaped, greyish leaves above the water. Produces very pale pink flowers to 1.5cm on much-branched inflorescences in summer. Best in water 15-30cm deep.



©ukwildflowers.com

**Butomus umbellatus**

Flowering-rush

Perennial to 1.5m with rush-like, twisted leaves emerging purple and turning green. Umbels of fragrant pink flowers to 2.5cm across are borne in late summer on tall stems. Grow in mud or water to 25cm deep.



©David W. Allen

**Callitriche stagnalis**

Common Water-starwort

Oxygenating perennial with narrow, opposite submerged leaves that become broader in the open air. The flowers are small and insignificant, borne in summer.



©Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

**Caltha palustris**

Marsh-marigold

Rhizomatous perennial bearing kidney-shaped leaves to 10cm long. Open, waxy, yellow flowers are carried on stems to 45cm in spring.



©J.C. Luter

**Canna 'Endeavour'**

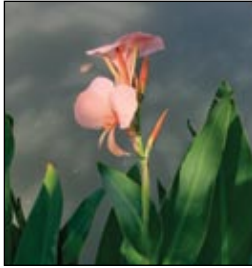
Water Canna 'Endeavour'

Tender, rhizomatous perennial to 1.8m with erect, glaucous, paddle-shaped leaves and spikes of narrow-petalled red flowers to 5cm across in summer and autumn. Lift tubers and overwinter in frost-free conditions.



photo by Ivo M. Vermeulen, Courtesy The New York Botanical Garden

©Tony Rodd



**Canna 'Erebus'**  
Water Canna 'Erebus'

Tender, rhizomatous perennial to 1.2m with erect, dark green, paddle-shaped leaves and spikes of exotic salmon flowers to 8cm across in summer and autumn. Lift tubers and overwinter in frost-free conditions.



©Carol Sheppard/RHS



**Canna 'Ra'**  
Water Canna 'Ra'

Tender, rhizomatous perennial to 1.8m with erect, slender, green leaves and spikes of exotic lemon yellow flowers in summer and autumn. Lift tubers and overwinter in frost-free conditions.



©Leigh Hunt/RHS



**Carex elata 'Aurea'**  
Bowles's Golden Sedge

Rhizomatous, perennial sedge to 70cm, dying back in winter with leaves that bear a central, golden variegation. Small flowers are produced in spring and early summer.



©Bob Gibbons/Natural Image



**Ceratophyllum demersum**  
Rigid Hornwort

Submerged oxygenating plant with low light requirements. Perennial with stiff stems eventually growing to 1m if left unchecked. Leaves are dark green and forked into linear, toothed segments. Prefers quite nutrient rich water.



©Nick Stewart/Plantlife



**Eleocharis acicularis**  
Needle Spike-rush

Rhizomatous oxygenating perennial to 10cm with rush-like leaves and flowers in spikelets to 5mm (not produced when submerged).



**Fontinalis antipyretica**  
Willow Moss

Attractive, evergreen, oxygenating moss lacking proper roots with shoots to 15cm long and tightly packed leaves to 5mm.



©Kurt Stueber

**Hosta 'Sum and Substance'**  
Plantain Lily 'Sum and Substance'

Large, ribbed, heart-shaped yellow or green leaves and spikes of bell-shaped lilac flowers in summer.



©Graham Titchmarsh/RHS

**Hydrocharis morsus-ranae**  
Frogbit

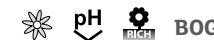
Stoloniferous perennial spreading on the surface of water and producing rounded, glossy leaves to 3cm long. White, bowl-shaped flowers, 2cm across, yellow at the centre are borne in the summer. Less vigorous in deeper water.



©ukwildflowers.com

**Iris pseudacorus**  
Yellow Iris

Vigorous, rhizomatous perennial to 1.5m tall with lance-shaped, greyish leaves and bright yellow flowers with darker markings. FOR LARGE PONDS ONLY.



©Joe Sutton/Plantlife

**Mentha aquatica**  
Water Mint

Rhizomatous perennial to 90cm with purple stems and narrow, toothed, hairy and aromatic leaves. In summer dense spheres of tubular lilac flowers are produced. Grows in water to 15cm deep. Plant in baskets to contain spread.



©Phil Sellens

©Christopher Whitehouse



**Menyanthes trifoliata**

Bogbean

Rhizomatous perennial forming floating mats of three-parted leaves with leaflets to 6cm long. Erect inflorescences of white, star-shaped flowers are sometimes produced in summer. WILL NEED REGULAR TRIMMING; FOR LARGE PONDS ONLY.



©Tuovi Kurttio



**Myosotis scorpioides**

Water Forget-me-not

Creeping, rhizomatous perennial with leaves to 10cm and, in summer, a profusion of bright blue, very open flowers to 8mm across with a paler eye. Grows best in water to 10cm deep.



©Ben Goldsmith



**Myriophyllum spicatum**

Spiked Water-milfoil

Perennial oxygenator with whorls of deeply divided leaves borne on stems to 1m or more. In summer small reddish flowers are carried just above the water.



©Kristian Peters



**Myriophyllum verticillatum**

Whorled Water-milfoil

Perennial oxygenator with whorls of deeply divided leaves and linear leaflets borne on stems to 1m or more. In summer very small yellowish flowers are carried just above the surface of the water.



©Randi Hausken



**Nuphar lutea**

Yellow Water-lily

Perennial bearing floating, rounded, thick-textured, hairless leaves to 40cm long. Above these in the summer are carried almost spherical yellow flowers to 6cm across singly on stems. FOR LARGE PONDS ONLY.



**Nymphaea alba**

White Water-lily

Perennials with floating, rounded, dark green, often red-tinged leaves to about 30cm across. The starburst flowers to 20cm or more across are white with yellow centres. FOR LARGE PONDS ONLY.



©Randi Hausken



**Nymphaea hardy hybrids**

Garden Water-lily

There are many hybrids to choose from. *Nymphaea* 'Marliacea Albida' (pictured) has cup-shaped flowers to 15cm across that are white with yellow centres.



©David Numrakis



**Potamogeton crispus**

Curled Pondweed

Perennial oxygenator bearing submerged, dissected, almost translucent leaves and leathery, floating leaves with very undulating margins. The flowers are very small and whitish, carried just above the water.



©Andrew Gagg/PlantLife



**Ranunculus aquatilis**

Common Water-crowfoot

Pretty annual/short-lived perennial with submerged branching stems and finely divided leaves and floating lobed, kidney-shaped leaves. Produces white flowers (2cm) at the water's surface in summer. Prefers shallow water with good nutrient levels.



©Bob Gibbons/Nat. Image



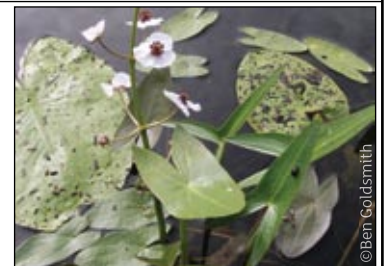
**Sagittaria sagittifolia**

Arrowhead

Spreading perennial bearing arrow-shaped leaves with long lobes at the base and 1m tall inflorescences carrying white flowers to 2.5cm across. In deep water long, floating leaves may also be produced. FOR LARGE PONDS ONLY.



©Ben Goldsmith







**Thalia dealbata**  
Powdery Alligator-flag

Perennial to 2.5m bearing lanceolate grey-green leaves on long stalks. Striking, violet flowers are borne in slender spikes in summer. Not fully hardy and may be deciduous in cold weather.



**Veronica beccabunga**  
Brooklime

Creeping perennial bearing fleshy stems and leaves. Its rounded leaves can be entire or toothed. Racemes of blue flowers with a white eye appear in spring/summer. Can only tolerate shallow water, but good for groundcover in wet/semi-aquatic areas.



**Buddleja globosa**  
Orange-ball-tree

Erect, deciduous shrub with orange flowers borne in eye-catching spheres in June. May be damaged by hard frosts.



**Ceanothus thyrsiflorus**  
Californian Lilac

Dense evergreen shrub providing cover and shelter for wildlife. Bears bright blue flowers in early summer. Hardy in all but the coldest areas.



**Chimonanthus praecox**  
Wintersweet

Strong-growing deciduous shrub to 4m with glossy lanceolate leaves to 20cm. Nodding, deliciously fragrant, greenish-yellow flowers are produced on the bare twigs in winter. The flowers are often stained purple inside and are up to 2.5cm across.



**Chimonanthus praecox 'Luteus'**  
Wintersweet 'Luteus'

Deciduous shrub to 4m with open, clear yellow flowers.



**Erica x darleyensis**  
Darley Dale Heath (pictured: cultivar 'Arthur Johnson')

Low-growing shrub with needle-like leaves, bearing flowers in late winter and spring. Flowers are urn-shaped, usually in shades of pink and form racemes to 10cm long. Many cultivars are available. Alkaline soils may be tolerated.



**Hamamelis x intermedia**  
Intermediate Witch-hazel

Shrub to 4m with upright branches which carry green leaves (to 15cm) that turn yellow in autumn. In winter the bare twigs bear spidery, fragrant flowers in shades of yellow, orange or red. Various cultivars are available.



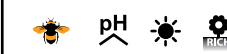
**Hedera helix**  
Ivy

Climbing or scrambling plant eventually becoming shrubby. Non-variegated selections have the best chance of producing the nectar-rich flowers, but these will need at least some sun. Prefers alkaline soils.



**Hyssopus officinalis**  
Hyssop

Dwarf semi-evergreen shrub to 60cm with small, dense, aromatic foliage and spikes of two-lipped, dark blue flowers from midsummer.





©RHS

***Ilex aquifolium* 'J. C. van Tol'**

Holly 'J.C. van Tol'

Self-fertile tree to 6m with glossy evergreen, fairly spine-free leaves and copious bright red berries.



©CAMERA MAD DOM

***Ilex* × *altaclarensis***

Highclere Holly

Evergreen shrubs providing cover and shelter for wildlife, with broad, glossy leaves that are variegated in many cultivars. Female plants bear fruit. May be damaged by hard frosts.



©Christopher Whitehouse

***Kniphofia rooperi***

Rooper's Red-hot-poker

Imposing perennial to 1.2m with clumps of broadly linear leaves and impressive, fat heads of red hot poker flowers in autumn.



©amandaohlater on Flickr

***Mahonia* × *media***

Yellow Lily-of-the-valley Bush

Upright shrub, eventually to 5m, with leathery, hairless, sharp-pointed pinnate leaves to 45cm long and racemes of fragrant yellow flowers to 35cm long at the ends of the shoots. If planting in full sun requires damp soil.



©RHS

***Malus* 'Golden Hornet'**

Crab Apple 'Golden Hornet'

Deciduous tree to 8m with copious, spherical, golden yellow fruit to 2cm across which are carried over a long period. White flowers are produced in spring.



***Sedum spectabile***

Butterfly Stonecrop

Easily propagated, fleshy perennial with flat heads of (usually) pink flowers. For best wildlife value sterile hybrids should be avoided. Neutral, moderately fertile soil is best.



©www.alliecraft.co.uk

***Sorbus aucuparia***

Rowan

Pinnate-leaved, deciduous tree to 15m with white flowers in spring which are followed by copious orange-red berries to 8mm across.



©Frankenstein

***Taxus baccata***

Yew

Coniferous evergreen bearing thick, dark needles and, in female plants, red fruit which is eaten by birds. Eventually becoming large but easily pruned to size.



©Geatrud Kautz

***Viburnum opulus***

Guelder-rose

Vigorous shrub to 4m bearing lobed leaves that turn red in autumn. Lacecap flowers are followed by glossy red fruit. Full sun to part shade in any moderately fertile soil.



©Ann Van Roy

***Viburnum* × *bodnantense***

Bodnant Viburnum

Deciduous shrub to 3m bearing toothed leaves to 10cm that have a reddish tinge when young. The highly fragrant, tubular flowers in shades of pink are borne in clusters at the ends of the branches.



Early Season



©unforthon Flickr

CONDITIONS ▶		Dry	Well-drained	Moist	Wet	Boggy	Fertile	Poor	Alkaline	Acid	Full sun	Partial sun	Shade	Submerged	Emergent	Marginal	Floating	Coastal	Exposed	Evergreen	Fast growing	Hardy	
PLANT	PAGE																						
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	6																						
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	6																						
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> 'Plena'	6																						
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	6																						
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	6																						
<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i> & hybrids	7																						
<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	7																						
<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>	7																						
<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	7																						
<i>Salix repens</i> var. <i>argentea</i>	7																						
<i>Sarcococca hookeriana</i> var. <i>humilis</i>	8																						
<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	8																						
<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	8																						
<i>Colchicum speciosum</i>	8																						
<i>Crocus biflorus</i>	8																						
<i>Crocus chrysanthus</i>	9																						
<i>Crocus nudiflorus</i>	9																						
<i>Crocus tommasinianus</i>	9																						
<i>Cyclamen coum</i>	9																						
<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>	9																						
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	10																						
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	10																						
<i>Fritillaria meleagris</i>	10																						
<i>Narcissus</i> 'Actaea'	10																						
<i>Scilla siberica</i>	10																						
<i>Ampelodesmos mauritanica</i>	11																						
<i>Astelia chathamica</i>	11																						
<i>Chusquea culeou</i>	11																						
<i>Fargesia nitida</i>	11																						
<i>Miscanthus</i> × <i>giganteus</i>	11																						
<i>Phyllostachys nigra</i>	12																						
<i>Pleioblastus simonii</i>	12																						
<i>Stipa gigantea</i>	12																						
<i>Aralia cachemirica</i>	12																						
<i>Crambe cordifolia</i>	12																						
<i>Datisca cannabina</i>	13																						
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i> Atropurpureum Group	13																						
<i>Rheum palmatum</i>	13																						
<i>Rodgersia aesculifolia</i>	13																						

CONDITIONS ▶		Dry	Well-drained	Moist	Wet	Boggy	Fertile	Poor	Alkaline	Acid	Full sun	Partial sun	Shade	Submerged	Emergent	Marginal	Floating	Coastal	Exposed	Evergreen	Fast growing	Hardy	
PLANT	PAGE																						
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	13																						
<i>Berberis verruculosa</i>	14																						
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	14																						
<i>Cornus alba</i>	14																						
<i>Elaeagnus</i> × <i>ebbingei</i>	14																						
<i>Escallonia macrantha</i>	14																						
<i>Forsythia</i> × <i>intermedia</i>	15																						
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	15																						
<i>Hebe rakaiensis</i>	15																						
<i>Hebe topiaria</i>	15																						
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	15																						
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	16																						
<i>Olearia macrodonta</i>	16																						
<i>Olearia</i> × <i>haastii</i>	16																						
<i>Photinia</i> × <i>fraseri</i>	16																						
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	16																						
<i>Euonymus japonicus</i> & cultivars	17																						
<i>Abelia</i> × <i>grandiflora</i>	17																						
<i>Acer palmatum</i> var. <i>dissectum</i>	17																						
<i>Aucuba japonica</i> 'Crotonifolia'	17																						
<i>Camellia japonica</i> cultivars	17																						
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	18																						
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	18																						
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i> 'Red Cascade'	18																						
<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>	18																						
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	18																						
<i>Hydrangea serrata</i>	19																						
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	19																						
<i>Osmanthus</i> × <i>burkwoodii</i>	19																						
<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	19																						
<i>Pieris japonica</i>	19																						
<i>Sarcococca hookeriana</i>	20																						
<i>Skimmia japonica</i> 'Nymans'	20																						
<i>Viburnum betulifolium</i>	20																						
<i>Viburnum</i> × <i>burkwoodii</i> cultivars	20																						
<i>Actinidia kolomikta</i>	21																						
<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	21																						
<i>Ceanothus arboreus</i> 'Trewithen Blue'	21																						

CONDITIONS ▶		Dry	Well-drained	Moist	Wet	Boggy	Fertile	Poor	Alkaline	Acid	Full sun	Partial sun	Shade	Submerged	Emergent	Marginal	Floating	Coastal	Exposed	Evergreen	Fast growing	Hardy	
PLANT	PAGE																						
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	21																						
<i>Chaenomeles japonica</i>	21																						
<i>Elaeagnus</i> × <i>ebbingei</i>	21																						
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> 'Silver Queen'	22																						
<i>Hedera algeriensis</i> 'Gloire de Marengo'	22																						
<i>Hedera colchica</i> 'Sulphur Heart'	22																						
<i>Hydrangea petiolaris</i>	22																						
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	23																						
<i>Rosa</i> 'New Dawn'	23																						
<i>Vitis coignetiae</i>	23																						
<i>Acer palmatum</i>	23																						
<i>Arbutus</i> × <i>andrachnoides</i>	23																						
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	24																						
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i> 'Paul's Scarlet'	24																						
<i>Crataegus</i> × <i>lavallei</i>	24																						
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> 'Raywood'	24																						
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	24																						
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	25																						
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	25																						
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	25																						
<i>Malus</i> 'Golden Hornet'	25																						
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	25																						
<i>Parrotia persica</i>	26																						
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Pissardii'	26																						
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	26																						
<i>Sorbus</i> 'Joseph Rock'	26																						
<i>Sorbus thibetica</i> 'John Mitchell'	26																						
<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	27																						
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	27																						
<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	27																						
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	27																						
<i>Canna</i> 'Endeavour'	27																						
<i>Canna</i> 'Erebus'	28																						
<i>Canna</i> 'Ra'	28																						
<i>Carex elata</i> 'Aurea'	28																						
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	28																						
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	28																						
<i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i>	29																						
<i>Hosta</i> 'Sum and Substance'	29																						

CONDITIONS ▶		Dry	Well-drained	Moist	Wet	Boggy	Fertile	Poor	Alkaline	Acid	Full sun	Partial sun	Shade	Submerged	Emergent	Marginal	Floating	Coastal	Exposed	Evergreen	Fast growing	Hardy	
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<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	29																						
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	29																						
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	29																						
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	30																						
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	30																						
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	30																						
<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>	30																						
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	30																						
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	31																						
<i>Nymphaea</i> hardy hybrids	31																						
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	31																						
<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	31																						
<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>	31																						
<i>Thalia dealbata</i>	32																						
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	32																						
<i>Buddleja globosa</i>	32																						
<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i>	32																						
<i>Chimonanthus praecox</i>	32																						
<i>Chimonanthus praecox</i> 'Luteus'	33																						
<i>Erica</i> × <i>darleyensis</i>	33																						
<i>Hamamelis</i> × <i>intermedia</i>	33																						
<i>Hedera helix</i>	33																						
<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>	33																						
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i> 'J. C. van Tol'	34																						
<i>Ilex</i> × <i>altaclarensis</i>	34																						
<i>Kniphofia rooperi</i>	34																						
<i>Mahonia</i> × <i>media</i>	34																						
<i>Malus</i> 'Golden Hornet'	34																						
<i>Sedum spectabile</i>	35																						
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	35																						
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	35																						
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	35																						
<i>Viburnum</i> × <i>bodnantense</i>	35																						



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[www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)

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