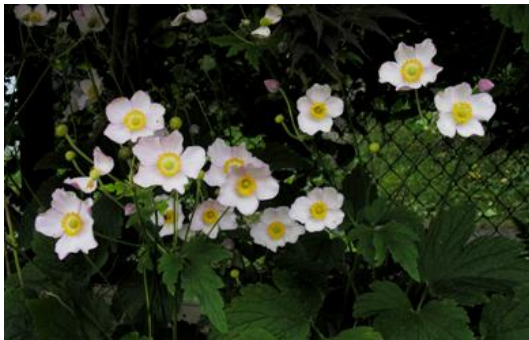


# The Fall-flowering Anemone

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The fall-flowering anemones are commonly called the Chinese or Japanese Anemone, as they are all native to that part of the world. There are three species involved in this group: *Anemone hupehensis*, *A. tomentosa* and *A. vitifolia*, along with their hybrids collectively called *A. X hybrida*. All of these anemone have somewhat woody rootstocks and short rhizomes, resulting in clumps that increase gradually with time. In the wild, they inhabit damp, open woodlands and subalpine meadows but in the garden, they appreciate part-shade and consistently moist, highly organic soil. Hardiness varies among the species, with *Anemone tomentosa* being the hardiest being rated for zone 3, while *A. vitifolia*, *A. hupehensis* and *A. X hybrida* are all rated for zone 5 (zone 4 if adequately mulched).



*Anemone* 'September Charm'

Their leaves are reasonably attractive, being mostly basal and covered in short, stiff hairs. The stems, which reach 60-120cm, are branched with smaller leaves. Flowering commences in August and continues until cut down by hard frosts. Blooms are saucer-shaped (poppy-like) with rounded petals (botanically called 'sepals'). The flowers range in colour from white through shades of pink to reddish-purple and may be single, semi-double or double. They make admirable cut-

flowers.



*Anemone hupehensis*

The differences between the species are subtle and are based primarily on the leaves. *Anemone vitifolia* is easy to recognize by its very grape-like leaves, but this species is relatively rare in gardens. Both *A. tomentosa* and *A. hupehensis* (aka *A. japonica*) have similar three-parted leaves, but the undersides of *A. tomentosa* are densely hairy and whitish while *A. hupehensis* are much less so. The hybrids have leaves virtually the same as *A. hupehensis* but they lack fertile pollen.

*Anemone tomentosa* is mostly available as the cultivar 'Robustissima' which grows 100-120cm with numerous light pink flowers that are a bit smaller than *A. hupehensis* or *A. X hybrida*. *Anemone hupehensis* is the shortest species, mostly 60-75cm, although the variety *japonica* can reach over 1m. The most popular selections are: 'Hadspen Adundance' (dark purplish-pink, single, 60-90cm), 'Albadura' (white, single, 90-110cm), 'Pamina' (dark pink, double, 60-70cm) and 'September Charm' (silvery-pink, single, 60-90cm). There are about 30 cultivars of *A. X hybrida*, but only a few are common in the trade. Perhaps the most popular is 'Honorine Jobert'

with large, pristine white flowers on stems up to nearly 150cm! 'Andrea Atkinson' is quite similar but shorter (75-90cm). 'Whirlwind' is a charming, semi-double, white cultivar (80-110cm). 'Alice' (60-7 cm) has semi-double light pink blooms while 'Queen Charlotte'



*Anemone 'Pamina'*

(70-90cm) has semi-double flowers in light purplish-pink. Other semi-double flowers with pink-toned flowers are 'Prinz Heinrich' (aka 'Prince Henry', 60-80cm), 'Bressingham Glow' (60cm),

'Max Vogel' (silvery pink, 60-90cm) and 'Serenade' (60-90cm).



To the gardener the fall anemones

*Anemone 'Honorine Jobert'*

are indispensable for extending the garden blooming season late into the fall because the flowers are surprisingly frost resistant. They are also of great use for flower arrangers, so if you have not grown them, give them a try!