



# Landscaping without harmful invasive plants

*A guide to plants you can  
use in place of invasive  
non-native species*



# Landscaping without harmful invasive plants

Help protect the environment by using these plants in place of invasive non-native species

*With over 80,000 species and varieties of plants to choose from and with new varieties being introduced each year, it is no wonder we are a nation of gardeners.*

Plants are vital for our health and the environment. They improve air quality, boost our mood, enhance resilience to climate change and provide a home for other wildlife.

Many of the plants in our gardens and ponds are not native to the UK - they have been introduced from all over the world by people. While non-native plants can help us to create beautiful ornamental displays to enjoy, some become invasive and can cause problems for you and the environment.

Although only a small minority of non-native plants are invasive, their impacts are extensive and may be irreversible.

Here are a few examples of the impacts of invasive non-native plants:

- Crowding out native plants which other species rely on for food or shelter
- Changing soil conditions and nutrients
- Spreading plant diseases which threaten native species
- Clogging waterways and reducing oxygen availability in the water
- Damaging buildings and infrastructure and interfering with agriculture and utilities
- Interfering with recreation, making it harder for us to take part in activities such as fishing, sailing or paddling
- Harming our health

Trying to remove problem plants from natural habitats, especially important nature conservation sites, is expensive and difficult. Often complete eradication is impossible, and millions of pounds are spent each year to limit their spread.

In your garden invasive non-native plants can quickly outgrow their space or become entrenched so that no matter how hard you try to eliminate them, and regardless of how much of your flower bed is dug up, new shoots may keep on appearing.

Find more information about non-native species at [speciesatnonnativespecies.org](http://speciesatnonnativespecies.org) (GB) and [invasivespeciesni.co.uk](http://invasivespeciesni.co.uk) (NI), including:

- Information on non-native species
- ID sheets for over 60 species
- More guidance on preventing the spread of invasive plants
- Information on volunteering to help manage invasive plants in the wild

# How to use this guide

*Choose the plants in this booklet to help prevent future invasions.*

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.

This booklet provides examples of plant species that do the same, or similar, 'jobs' as invasive plants and can be used in their place.

Each section also includes an example of a damaging invasive non-native plant that should be avoided.



For more information on the plants in this booklet we recommend visiting the RHS Plantfinder.



## Gardening for wildlife

Help to make your garden a haven for wildlife – see pages 8-11 and look out for species with these symbols.

## Contents

- Plants for wildlife
- Groundcover plants
- Naturalising plants & bulbs
- Architectural plants
- Climbers
- Shrubs
- Trees
- Plants for ponds and bog gardens
- Submerged and oxygenating plants
- Floating plants
- Table of characteristics
- About the list
- Useful links

Did you know that it's against the law to share or sell some garden and pond plants?

Find more information at [nonnativespecies.org](http://nonnativespecies.org) (GB) and [invasivespeciesni.co.uk](http://invasivespeciesni.co.uk) (NI)

## Key to symbols

- Tolerant of shade / low light levels
- Needs sun
- Needs alkaline conditions
- Neutral conditions
- Needs acidic conditions
- Needs drier soils
- Moist but well drained soils
- Needs wetter soils
- Needs sheltered position
- Attractive flowers
- Attractive foliage
- Fine autumn colours
- Bears ornamental fruit
- Structural feature or screening / hedging
- Windbreak
- Berries for birds
- RHS Plants for Pollinators
- Provides shelter/cover for wildlife
- Submerged aquatic plant
- Floating aquatic plant
- Marginal/emergent aquatic plant
- Bog garden plant
- Native to UK



A plant with no symbols is able to cope with a broad range of conditions. These characteristics are summarised in a table at the back of this booklet. UK native classifications are taken from the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland's Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora, 2022.

# Gardening Tips

## Know what you grow

Choose the right plants for your garden, pond or water features.

Make sure you have researched the plants you use before you buy them to make sure they are suitable for your needs, easy to dispose of, and won't be invasive.

Take care before giving or accepting cuttings, as you may accidentally pass on invasive plants, pests or plant diseases.

## Stop the spread

Keep your plants in your garden, don't plant them, or allow them to grow, in the wild. Even native plants can cause a problem if they are planted in the wrong place.

Remove seed heads and pods regularly to stop seeds from spreading on the wind or being carried elsewhere by birds.

Keep plants you are unfamiliar with to areas you can keep an eye on them to make sure they don't 'jump the fence' and spread into the wild, especially in gardens bordering the countryside. Pull out any runners and seedlings that start to spread further.

## Compost with care

Make sure nothing you remove from your garden or pond gets into the wild, you could be breaking the law if it does.

Most plants can be composted to boost your soil, or put in the garden waste bin (but remember to check first what your local council will accept).

Be aware that some plants such as Japanese knotweed have extra controls around their disposal, find out more about disposing of plants safely at [nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise](http://nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise) (GB) and [invasivespeciesni.co.uk/what-can-i-do/be-plant-wise](http://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/what-can-i-do/be-plant-wise) (NI).



## Help to prevent future invasions

*You can help to prevent future invasions simply by reporting plants which are spreading in your garden and proving hard to control.*

Is there a plant in your garden that is spreading and proving hard to control? Submit your records at [www.plantalert.org](http://www.plantalert.org) to help scientists identify which species are likely to become a problem in the wild in the future.

If you think you've spotted an invasive plant in the wild, you can report it online through iRecord. Find out more at [nonnativespecies.org/recording](http://nonnativespecies.org/recording) (GB) and [invasivespeciesni.co.uk/report-sighting](http://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/report-sighting) (NI)



INVASIVE!



*Buddleja davidii*

**Buddleia**

**INVASIVE!**

Buddleja davidii is a popular garden plant which spreads easily and rapidly - a single plant can produce millions of seeds. It can out-compete native plants and causes costly damage to buildings and infrastructure. Help prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following species.

*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 4 m tall with glossy lanceolate leaves to 20 cm long. Nodding, deliciously fragrant, greenish-yellow flowers are produced on the bare twigs in winter. The flowers are often purple inside and up to 2.5 cm wide.



*Erica x darleyensis*

**Darley Dale Heath**

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 10 cm long. Many cultivars are available. Alkaline soils may be tolerated.



*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. Easy to grow in an open but unexposed site. Will tolerate deep, humus-rich soils.



*Hyssopus officinalis*

**Hyssop**

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



*Sambucus nigra f. porphyrophylla 'Gerda'*

**Sambucus nigra f. porphyrophylla 'Gerda'**

A deciduous shrub or small tree, with deep purple foliage from spring to autumn. Striking flat heads of scented pinkish-purple flowers, followed by purple-black berries.



*Viburnum opulus*

**Guelder-rose**

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



*Viburnum x 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.



*Eupatorium cannabinum*

**Hemp-agrimony**

A vigorous upright perennial with reddish stems, leaves divided into narrow leaflets, and dense domed clusters of tiny light pink to purple flowers in late summer and early autumn. UK native. Plant for pollinators.



Shrubs



Plants to cover walls



Shrubs



Sunny/exposed sites



*Galium odoratum*

**Sweet woodruff**

A UK native. This vigorous perennial forms a wide mat of erect stems to 30 cm tall, bearing whorls of bright green leaves, with terminal clusters of small white, starry flowers from late spring. Ideal under hedges, trees, underplanting for shrubs and wildlife gardens. Hay-scented when dry.



*Helleborus foetidus*

**Stinking hellebore**

Evergreen perennial to 80 cm tall with erect stems and palmately-divided leaves with narrow, dark green leaflets. Nodding, usually purple-edged, pale green flowers, in large open clusters from midwinter to mid-spring. Prefers part shade. Ideal for underplanting, low maintenance and courtyard gardens.



*Hylotelephium 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.



*Sanguisorba officinalis*

**Burnett**

Sanguisorba are herbaceous perennials with attractive, pinnate leaves and branched stems bearing terminal spikes of small fluffy flowers with conspicuous stamens.



*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.



*Crataegus laevigata* 'Paul's Scarlet'

**Hawthorn 'Paul's Scarlet'**

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



*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.



*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.



Remove seed heads and pods regularly to stop seeds from spreading on the wind or being carried elsewhere by birds. Find more gardening tips on page 6.

INVASIVE!



© Mark Spencer

*Carpobrotus edulis*

**Hottentot fig**

**INVASIVE!**

Hottentot fig was introduced into Britain as an ornamental garden plant in the 17th century and has since become established in parts of the UK. It changes the nutrient dynamics and acidity of the soil, preventing other plants from surviving. Help prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following species.



Shady/sheltered sites



© RHS

*Ajuga reptans*

**Bugle**

Spreading perennial with attractive evergreen foliage forming dense mats, with whorled two-lipped flowers forming short spikes. Deep blue flowers from late spring to early summer.



*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 but intolerant of drought.



© RBGE

*Leucothoe fontanesiana*

**Drooping Laurel**

Shrub to 2 m 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.



© RHS / Liz Blyth

*Pachysandra terminalis*

**Carpenter 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.



© RHS / Carol Sheppard

*Tiarella cordifolia*

**Foam flower**

An herbaceous perennial to 30 cm in height, with 3 to 5-lobed, broadly ovate leaves becoming bronze-tinged in autumn. Erect stems bearing open racemes of small, creamy-white flowers in summer.



© RHS / Graham Hitchmarsh

Shady/sheltered sites

*Calluna vulgaris*

**Heather**

Variable shrub to 60 cm tall 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.



© RHS / Nicola Stoklen

Erosion control

*Epimedium x perralchicum* 'Fröhnleiten'

**Barrenwort 'Fröhnleiten'**

A strong growing evergreen perennial to 40 cm in height, forming a mat of leaves divided into 3 to 5 spiny-edged, ovate leaflets. Open sprays of bright yellow flowers in spring.



© RHS / Philippa Gibson

Groundcover

*Sanicula epipactis*

**Broad-leaved sanicle**

A perennial forming a compact clump of glossy leaves, preceded by tight heads of tiny yellow flowers within rosettes of toothed, oblong, yellow-green bracts. Suiting the woodland style garden.



© Joanne Posiak / Shutterstock.com

*Geranium pratense*

**Meadow crane's-bill**

A clump-forming perennial with hairy stems and deeply-lobed foliage. The saucer-shaped, white, blue or violet flowers are 4 cm across and appear in early to mid-summer.



© GRVANS

Sunny/exposed sites

INVASIVE!



***Hyacinthoides hispanica***  
**Spanish bluebell** **INVASIVE!**  
 Introduced into British gardens in the 17th century and was first recorded in the wild in the early 20th century. Spanish bluebell hybridises with the native bluebell which may lead to the native species being lost, reducing biodiversity. Help prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following species.

Herbaceous



***Achillea millefolium***  
**Yarrow**  
 A compact, herbaceous perennial to about 50 cm tall with aromatic, ferny foliage that normally overwinters as a basal rosette. Produces flat clusters of small pink/cream daisy-like flowers on upright stems from early summer to early autumn.



***Campanula rotundifolia***  
**Common Harebell**  
 UK native spreading perennial to 30 cm tall with heart-shaped leaves. Slender stems bear nodding bell-shaped flowers, usually in shades of blue. Suitable for rock gardens, sunny banks or walls.



***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. UK native, highly attractive to pollinators.



***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.

***Polemonium caeruleum***  
**Jacob's ladder**  
 Erect perennials with a spreading habit. Pinnate leaves and usually clustered, tubular, bell, or funnel-shaped flowers. Self-seeds freely.



Herbaceous

***Eupatorium maculatum* Atropurpureum Group**  
**Joe Pye Weed**  
 Perennial to 3 m tall with domed heads of purple flowers over whorls of dark foliage in mid to late summer. Prefers moist soil in full sun or part shade.



***Kniphofia rooperi***  
**Rooper's Red-hot-poker**  
 Dense evergreen shrub providing cover and shelter for wildlife. Bears bright blue flowers in early summer. Hardy in all but the coldest areas.



***Aethionema 'Warley Rose'***  
**Stone Cross 'Warley Rose'**  
 Semi-evergreen subshrub with narrow grey green leaves (to 1 cm wide) and abundant racemes of bright pink, cross-shaped flowers in late spring and summer.



Shrubs

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



Bulbs



Bulbs



*Camassia quamash*

**Common Camassia**

Vigorous, bulbous perennial to 80 cm producing bright green, channelled leaves and large, upright spikes of starshaped, showy blue flowers. Intolerant of waterlogging.



*Colchicum speciosum*

**Giant Meadow Saffron**

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



*Crocus biflorus*

**Silvery Crocus**

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



*Geum rivale*

**Water avens**

A herbaceous perennial with bright green, lobed basal leaves. The flower stems and sepals are flushed with dark red, and the dusky pink or pale orange, drooping flowers appear from late spring to midsummer.



*Geranium sylvaticum*

**Wood cranesbill**

A medium-sized, deciduous perennial with divided, toothed leaves. Flowers are borne in May and June generally being violet-blue with a white centre. It is a UK native of woodland and meadows.



Damp banks / marsh



Shady/sheltered sites



*Heracleum mantegazzianum*

**Giant hogweed**

**INVASIVE!**

Introduced to gardens as a monumental curiosity in the Victorian era and is now widespread across the UK. The sap of giant hogweed contains toxins which cause nasty skin burns on exposure to sunlight, avoid handling this plant. Help prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following plants instead.



Invasive!

*Aralia cachemirica*

**Angelica-tree**

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



Herbaceous

*Cirsium heterophyllum*

**Melancholy thistle**

A clump-forming, spreading perennial up to 1.2 m tall with distinctive solitary flower heads of red purple flowers. The lance-shaped, green leaves have softly-spined edges and white-felted undersides.



*Crambe cordifolia*

**Greater Sea-kale**

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



Make sure nothing you remove from your garden or pond gets into the wild, you could be breaking the law if it does. Find more gardening tips on page 6.



*Datisca cannabina*

**Cretan Hemp**

Slender stems to 3 m bear delicate, dissected leaves and tassels of green flowers. Ideal for the back of the border.



© RHS / Carol Sheppard



*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.



© RHS / Mike Stodd



*Veronicastrum virginicum*

**Culver's Root**

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



© RHS / Zebiana Rowland

*Ampelodesmos mauritanica*

**Diss Grass**

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



*Astelia chathamica*

**Silver Spear**

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



© RHS / Carol Sheppard



*Deschampsia 'Goldtau'*

**Deschampsia Goldtau**

A smaller-growing Deschampsia variety.. Dark green leaves age to golden brown. The long-lasting flower plumes, held up to 75 cm, are silvery brown and green, turning warm gold as they mature, giving a shimmering effect



© RHS / Neil Hepworth

*Melica uniflora f. albida*

**Wood melic**

A delicate creeping perennial grass with bright green deciduous foliage. White flowers appear from June to July. Well suited for shrub/ hedge underplanting and in wildlife gardening. Avoid waterlogged soil. Thrives in dryish alkaline soil.



*Milium effusum 'Aureum'*

**Bowles Golden Grass**

A semi-evergreen perennial grass forming loose clumps of large arching, soft yellow leaves, with nodding panicles of yellow flowers in early summer. Intolerant of full sun on poor dry soils



© RHS / Graham Hitchmush

*Miscanthus x 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.



© G. B. A. W. S.

*Stipa gigantea*

**Golden Oats**

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



© Peter Turner Photography / Shutterstock.com

Shady/sheltered sites



© RHS / Graham Titchmarsh

### *Athyrium filix-femina*

#### Lady fern

A vigorous deciduous fern with erect fresh green lacy fronds to 80 cm or more. They are especially shade-tolerant.



Sunny/exposed sites



© Theresa Elaine, Shutterstock.com

### *Iris 'Black Swan'*

#### Iris - Black Swan

An herbaceous bearded iris perennial, to around 90 cm tall, with narrow, pointed, grey-green leaves. In late spring and early summer flowers of deep purple appear.



Bulbs



© RHS / Liam Beel

### *Allium atropurpureum*

#### Very-dark purple allium

A hardy perennial bulb, up to 60 cm tall, with strap-shaped green leaves. Deep purple-red flowers up to 5 cm across on upright stems in late spring and early summer. Beautiful cut flower.



Make sure nothing you remove from your pond or garden gets into the wild, you could be breaking the law if it does. Find more gardening tips on page 6.

### *Parthenocissus inserta*

#### False Virginia creeper

#### INVASIVE!

Introduced to gardens as an ornamental climber in Victorian times. Its prolific growth has caused introductions from garden cast outs. Scales most trees and shrubs blocking light from reaching the host and plants below, causing branches to break due to the additional weight, and strangling trees.

Help prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following plants.



© GBVASS

INVASIVE!

### *Stauntonia hexaphylla*

#### Stauntonia vine

A vigorous climber with leathery elliptic leaves. Flowers in racemes of fragrant, dull pink flowers 2 cm in length, sometimes followed by ovoid purplish fruits to 5 cm in length. Ideal for a warm sheltered wall.



© RHS / Philippa Gibson

Plants to cover walls

### *Actinidia kolomikta*

#### Kolomikta

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



© RHS / Walf Halliday

### *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.



© Marola Anna S., Shutterstock.com



© RHS / Joanna Kossak

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

**Algerian Ivy 'Gloire de Marengo'**  
Large-leaved ivy with creamy marginal variegation and long, easily trained stems. Tolerant of a wide range of conditions once established.



© RHS / Nicola Stocker

### *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.



© RHS / Sheila Deering

### *Hydrangea petiolaris*

**Climbing Hydrangea**  
Deciduous climber with leaves turning deep yellow before falling in autumn. Grows to 10 m or more and carries large domes of white flowers. Avoid shallow, chalky soils. Best grown in partial shade.



© RHS / Christopher Whitehouse

### *Lonicera periclymenum* 'Graham Thomas'

**Honeysuckle 'Graham Thomas'**  
Strong-growing, twining climber to 7 m. Very fragrant white flowers, aging yellow, are followed by red fruit. Long flowering season. Best in partial shade, tolerates full sun.



© RHS / Graham Titchmarsh

### *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.



© RHS / Jonathan

### *Vitis coignetiae*

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



© RHS / Tim Sandall

### *Myrtus communis*

**Common Myrtle**  
Evergreen shrub to 3 m 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.



Keep your plants in your garden, don't plant them or allow them to grow, in the wild. Even native plants can cause a problem if they are planted in the wrong place. Find more gardening tips on page 6.

INVASIVE!



*Cotoneaster horizontalis*

**Cotoneaster** **INVASIVE!**

Cotoneaster has been a highly popular garden plant since the late 19th Century, but has spread rapidly across lowland Britain where it poses a serious threat to biodiversity as it can spread easily into conservation areas where it crowds out other plants.

Help prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following plants.

Ornamental



*Abelia x grandiflora*

**Glossy Abelia'**

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



*Camellia japonica* cultivars

**Common Camellia**

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



*Chimonanthus praecox* 'Luteus'

**Yellow wintersweet 'Luteus'**

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



*Hebe rakaiensis*

**Rakai Hebe**

Dense shrub to 1 m tall with glossy green leaves to 2 cm 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.



*Hydrangea macrophylla*

**Mophead Hydrangea**

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



Ornamental

*Hydrangea paniculata*

**Paniculate hydrangea**

A medium-sized deciduous shrub with ovate leaves. Flowers mostly large, white, ageing to purplish-pink, borne in massive, broadly conical panicles from late summer.



*Ribes x beatonii*

**Gordon's currant**

A spreading deciduous shrub to 2 m tall, with aromatic, lobed dark green leaves and dense nodding red and yellow flowers in late spring.



*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.



*Skimmia japonica* 'Nymans'

**Skimmia 'Nymans'**

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





*Berberis verruculosa*

**Warted Barberry**

Tight-slow 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 5 m tall but responds well to pruning. Leaves evergreen, small and dark green. Produces small and yellowish flowers in spring. Good for dry, shady sites.



*Choisya x dewitteana* 'White Dazzler'

**Mexican orange**

An evergreen shrub forming a neat mound with aromatic, very slender green leaves divided into leaflets. Sweetly-scented white flowers appear in clusters during spring and often in late summer and autumn.



*Garrya elliptica*

**Silk-tassel Bush**

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



*Hamamelis x intermedia*

**Intermediate Witch-hazel**

Shrub to 4 m tall with upright branches which carry green leaves (to 15 cm long) 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.



*Hebe topiaria*

**Topiarist's Hebe**

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



*Hydrangea serrata*

**Lacecap Hydrangea**

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



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

**Holly 'J.C. van Tol'**

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



*Ligustrum vulgare*

**Wild privet**

Very attractive to wildlife, L. vulgare is a bushy deciduous native shrub with green, lance-shaped leaves and terminal panicles of small, white flowers in summer, followed by small black berries.



*Osmanthus x burkwoodii*

**Burkwood Osmanthus**

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





*Photinia x fraseri*

**Christmas Berry 'Red Robin'**

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



© RHS / Joanna Kassak



*Pieris japonica*

**Lily-of-the-valley Bush**

Neat evergreen shrub to 4 m 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.



© RHS / Graham Titchmarsh



*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.



© Camelia F.W.



*Zanthoxylum piperitum*

**Sichuan pepper**

A bushy, spiny, deciduous shrub with 15 cm long aromatic dark green leaves. The bark and fruit are also aromatic. Sprays of small, yellow-green flowers are produced in early summer, followed by tiny, red fruit with black seed.



© Camelia F.W.



*Prunus spinosa 'Plena'*

**Double Blackthorn**

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



© RHS / Carol Sheppard



*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.



© Anna Brockman



*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.



© Nick Greaves - Shutterstock.com



*Sarcococca hookeriana*

**Sweet Box**

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



© RHS / Anna Brockman



*Viburnum x burkwoodii*

**Burkwood Viburnum**

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



© RHS / Mark Watwood



*Ceanothus arboreus 'Trewithen Blue'*

**Californian Lilac 'Trewithen Blue'**

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



© RHS / Graham Titchmarsh







*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.



*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.



*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.



*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.



*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.



*Lysichiton americanus*

**American skunk-cabbage** **INVASIVE!**  
 Widely planted in bog gardens, first reported in the wild in 1947. American skunk-cabbage threatens other species in important wet woodland habitats and has a strong odour. Help prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following plants.



*Carex elata* 'Aurea'

**Bowles's Golden Sedge**  
 Rhizomatous, perennial sedge, to 70 cm, dying back in winter with leaves that bear a central, golden variegation and small flowers in spring and early summer to 45 cm.



*Ceratophyllum demersum*

**Rigid Hornwort**  
 Low light requirements make this a good choice for aquaria. Perennial with stiff stems eventually growing to 1 m if left unchecked. Leaves dark green and forked into linear, toothed segments. Prefers quite nutrient rich water.



*Eleocharis acicularis*

**Needle Spike-rush**  
 Rhizomatous oxygenating perennial to 10 cm with rush-like leaves and flowers in spikelets to 5 mm (not produced when submerged). Provides good hiding places for fish fry. British native.



*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.





© RHS / Graham Fitchmarsh

*Lychnis flos-cuculi*

**Ragged-robin**

An upright dainty perennial to 70 cm, with branched stems bearing terminal clusters of star-shaped rose-pink flowers in late spring and early summer. Well suited to moist meadows or wildlife gardens.



© RHS / Claire Campbell

*Lysimachia ephemerum*

**Willow-leaved loosestrife**

A herbaceous perennial forming a clump of erect stems up to 1 m clad in narrow, grey-green leaves, with small, starry white flowers in long, slender terminal racemes in early summer. In full or part shade, in soil that doesn't dry out in summer.



© GBWSS

*Lythrum salicaria*

**Purple Loosestrife**

A strong clump-forming perennial with upright, branching, leafy stems to about 1 m. Produces loose spikes of pinky-purple star-shaped flowers in summer.



© RHS / Graham Fitchmarsh

*Alisma plantago-aquatica*

**Water-plantain**

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



© RHS / Graham Fitchmarsh

*Butomus umbellatus*

**Flowering rush**

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



© RHS / Graham Fitchmarsh

*Iris pseudacorus*

**Yellow Flag Iris**

Vigorous, rhizomatous perennial up to 1.5 m tall with lance-shaped, greyish leaves and bright yellow flowers with darker markings. For large ponds only.



**Caring for your pond**

If your pond is near to a wetland or waterbody avoid using any plants which aren't native to the local area. Keep aquarium plants out of your pond.

When you buy a new aquatic plant, remove the surface layer of compost and wash the plant in a bucket before positioning it in your pond to remove any seeds or unwanted plant fragments.

Use this, and any waste water from your pond or aquarium, on your lawn or to water the plants in your garden, in areas that are a good distance from waterbodies or drains that flow into them.

Use unwanted aquatic plants as mulch in dry borders in your garden, away from waterbodies or drains.

Find more gardening tips on page 6.

## Submerged & oxygenating plants

INVASIVE!



### *Myriophyllum heterophyllum*

#### Broadleaf watermilfoil

**INVASIVE!**

Broadleaf watermilfoil was introduced for use in aquaria and as an ornamental plant in outdoor ponds, but a small number of wild populations have since been recorded in recent years. This plant forms dense mats which clog water bodies harming wildlife and impacting on navigation and recreation. Help to prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following plants.

### *Callitriche stagnalis*

#### Common Water-starwort

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



### *Caltha palustris*

#### Marsh-marigold

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



### *Canna 'Endeavour'*

#### Water Canna 'Endeavour'

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



### *Canna 'Erebus'*

#### Water Canna 'Erebus'

Tender, rhizomatous perennial to 1.2 m 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.



## Submerged & oxygenating plants

### *Canna 'Ra'*

#### Water Canna 'Ra'

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



### *Fontinalis antipyretica*

#### Water Moss

Attractive evergreen slow growing moss with pretty leaves that can help hide aquaria pumps. Much liked by aquatic wildlife and provides an excellent site for spawning fish. Useful for improving water quality. Thrives in sun and shade, prefers moving water and cooler conditions.



Submerged and oxygenating plants

Submerged and oxygenating plants



INVASIVE!



© Trevor Renals

### *Ludwigia grandiflora*

#### Water primrose

INVASIVE!

Originally introduced as an ornamental pond plant, but a number of wild populations have been recorded since 1998. Water primrose quickly covers water bodies restricting recreational use and harming native wildlife. If it were to establish widely in GB control costs could be millions of pounds annually. Help prevent future invasions by choosing one of the following plants.

### *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*

#### Frogbit

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



### *Mentha aquatica*

#### Water Mint

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



### *Menyanthes trifoliata*

#### Bogbean

Rhizomatous perennial forming floating mats of three-parted leaves with leaflets to 6 cm long. Erect inflorescences of white, star-shaped flowers are sometimes produced in summer. Will need regular trimming, for large ponds only.



### *Myosotis scorpioides*

#### Water Forget-me-not

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



Floating plants



© RHS / Graham Titchmarsh

### *Myriophyllum spicatum*

#### Spiked Water-milfoil

Perennial with whorls of deeply divided leaves on stems which grow to 1 m or more. In summer small reddish flowers are carried just above the water. Stems may not die back in every winter, and so may provide year-round cover for fish.



### *Myriophyllum verticillatum*

#### Whorled Water-milfoil

UK native 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.



© Kristian Peters via Wikimedia Commons

### *Nuphar lutea*

#### Yellow Water-lily

Perennial bearing floating, rounded, thick-textured, hairless leaves to 40 cm long. Above these in the summer are carried almost spherical yellow flowers to 6 cm across singly on stems. For large ponds only.



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### *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.



© RHS / Graham Titchmarsh

### *Ranunculus aquatilis*

#### Common Water-crowfoot

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



© RHS / Graham Titchmarsh

## Floating plants

Floating plants



### *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.



### *Thalia dealbata*

#### Powdery Alligator-flag

Perennial to 2.5 m 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 which are rounded and can be entire or toothed. Racemes of blue flowers with a white eye are produced in spring and summer. Will tolerate shallow water only.



Find plants to help make your garden a haven for wildlife on pages 8-12 of this booklet.



© *Sanguisorba officinalis*.  
Image: RHS / Nicola Stocken

## Table of characteristics

Characteristic		Tolerant of shade / low light levels	Needs sun	Needs alkaline conditions	Neutral conditions	Needs acidic conditions	Needs drier soils	Moist but well drained soils	Needs wetter soils	Needs sheltered position	Attractive flowers	Attractive foliage	Fine autumn colours	Bears ornamental fruit	Structural feature or screening / hedging	Windbreak	Berries for birds	RHS Plants for Pollinators	Provides shelter/cover for wildlife	Submerged aquatic plant	Floating aquatic plant	Marginal/emergent aquatic plant	Bog garden plant	UK Native plant
Plant	Page																							
<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i>	24		✓	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓						✓					
<i>Acer palmatum</i>	30	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓									
<i>Acer palmatum</i> var. <i>dissectum</i>	30	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓									
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	14		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓					✓						✓
<i>Actinidia kolomikta</i>	21		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓					✓					
<i>Aethionema</i> 'Warley Rose'	15		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓											
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓					✓
<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	34		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓		✓				✓
<i>Allium atropurpureum</i>	20		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓			✓						
<i>Ampelodesmos mauritanicus</i>	18		✓				✓	✓				✓	✓		✓				✓					
<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	21	✓					✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓				✓					
<i>Aralia cachemirica</i>	17	✓					✓	✓				✓	✓		✓									
<i>Arbutus x andrachnoides</i>	30		✓				✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓									
<i>Astelia chathamica</i>	23	✓					✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓									
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	25	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓				✓					✓
<i>Berberis verruculosa</i>	26	*									✓		✓		✓				✓					
<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i> & hybrids	12	✓					✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓				✓					
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	34		✓					✓			✓	✓	✓					✓			✓	✓	✓	
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	26	✓					✓	✓						✓	✓			✓						✓
<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	36	✓								✓								✓	✓	✓				✓
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	13		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓					✓	✓					✓
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	36		✓					✓			✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
<i>Camassia quamash</i>	15		✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Camellia japonica</i> cultivars	24	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓						
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	14		✓				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓											✓
<i>Canna</i> 'Endeavour'	36		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓									✓
<i>Canna</i> 'Ra'	37		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓									✓
<i>Carex elata</i> 'Aurea'	33	✓						✓				✓	✓		✓				✓					✓
<i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Pendula'	30		✓				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓				✓					
<i>Ceanothus arboreus</i> 'Trewithen Blue'	21		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓					
<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i>	08		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓				✓					
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	33	✓																	✓	✓	✓			✓

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Plant	Page																							
<i>Chimonanthus praecox</i>	08		✓					✓		✓	✓			✓					✓					
<i>Chimonanthus praecox</i> 'Luteus'	24		✓					✓		✓	✓			✓					✓					
<i>Choisya x dewitteana</i> 'White Dazzler'	26		✓					✓		✓	✓	✓			✓				✓					
<i>Cirsium heterophyllum</i>	17		✓				✓	✓			✓	✓												✓
<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	15		✓					✓		✓	✓	✓		✓					✓					✓
<i>Colchicum speciosum</i>	16		✓					✓		✓	✓		✓						✓					
<i>Crambe cordifolia</i>	17		✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓									
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i> 'Paul's Scarlet'	11	✓					✓	✓			✓	✓			✓				✓					
<i>Crataegus x lavallee</i>	31	✓					✓	✓			✓	✓			✓				✓					
<i>Crocus biflorus</i>	16		✓				✓	✓			✓	✓							✓					
<i>Datisca cannabina</i>	18	✓					✓	✓		✓		✓							✓					
<i>Deschampsia</i> 'Goldtau'	19	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓									
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	14	✓					✓	✓			✓	✓							✓	✓				✓
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	14	✓					✓	✓			✓	✓			✓				✓					✓
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	33	✓																	✓	✓				✓
<i>Epimedium x perralchicum</i>	13			✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓												
<i>Erica x darleyensis</i>	08		✓					✓			✓	✓							✓	✓				✓
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	09		✓					✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓				✓
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i> Atropurpureum Group	15							✓	✓		✓	✓			✓				✓					
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	31		✓					✓				✓	✓		✓				✓					✓
<i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i>	37	✓																						
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	10	✓						✓			✓	✓			✓				✓					✓
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	26	✓						✓			✓	✓			✓				✓					✓
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	13		✓					✓			✓	✓							✓	✓				✓
<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>	16	✓						✓			✓	✓							✓	✓				✓
<i>Geum rivale</i>	16	✓						✓			✓	✓							✓					✓
<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>	08			✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓					
<i>Hamamelis x intermedia</i>	26			✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓					
<i>Hebe rakaiensis</i>	24	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓				✓
<i>Hebe topiaria</i>	27	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓				✓
<i>Hedera algeriensis</i> 'Gloire de Marengo'	22	✓						✓			✓	✓			✓				✓	✓				
<i>Hedera helix</i>	22	✓						✓			✓	✓			✓				✓	✓				✓

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Plant	Page																								
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	09	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓					✓	
<i>Hosta</i> 'Sum and Substance'	33	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									✓		
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	25	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓					
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i>	25	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓					
<i>Hydrangea petiolaris</i>	22	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓					
<i>Hydrangea serrata</i>	27		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓					
<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	38		✓								✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓		✓	
<i>Hytotelephium spectabile</i>	10		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓					
<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>	09		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓									✓	✓					
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	11	✓						✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i> 'J. C. van Tol'	27	✓						✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<i>Iris</i> 'Black Swan'	20	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓															
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	35	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓												✓	✓	✓	
<i>Kniphofia rooperi</i>	16		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓															
<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>	12	✓				✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	27	✓					✓	✓			✓													✓	
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	31	✓					✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> 'Graham Thomas'	22	✓						✓			✓														
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	34	✓						✓	✓		✓													✓	
<i>Lysimachia ephemerum</i>	34	✓						✓	✓		✓											✓			
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	34		✓						✓		✓												✓		
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	32	✓								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<i>Malus</i> 'Golden Hornet'	31		✓					✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<i>Melica uniflora</i> f. <i>albida</i>	19	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	38	✓									✓											✓	✓	✓	
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	38		✓		✓	✓																	✓	✓	
<i>Milium effusum</i> 'aureum'	19	✓						✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<i>Miscanthus x giganteus</i>	19	✓									✓														
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	38		✓						✓		✓											✓	✓	✓	
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	39		✓									✓										✓		✓	
<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>	39	✓																				✓		✓	
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	23		✓							✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					

## Table of characteristics

Characteristic		Tolerant of shade / low light levels	Needs sun	Needs alkaline conditions	Neutral conditions	Needs acidic conditions	Needs drier soils	Moist but well drained soils	Needs wetter soils	Needs sheltered position	Attractive flowers	Attractive foliage	Fine autumn colours	Bears ornamental fruit	Structural feature or screening / hedging	Windbreak	Berries for birds	RHS Plants for Pollinators	Provides shelter/cover for wildlife	Submerged aquatic plant	Floating aquatic plant	Marginal/emergent aquatic plant	Bog garden plant	UK Native plant	
Plant	Page																								
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	39		✓								✓	✓	✓	✓										✓	
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	31		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓											
<i>Osmanthus x burkwoodii</i>	27	✓						✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	12	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Parrotia persica</i>	32	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Photinia x fraseri</i>	28	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Pieris japonica</i>	28		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Polemonium caeruleum</i>	15	✓							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓										✓	
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	39	✓										✓	✓	✓										✓	
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> 'Plena'	28	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	39		✓								✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓	
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	29	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Rheum palmatum</i>	18	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓										✓	
<i>Ribes x beatonii</i>	25		✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Rosa</i> 'New Dawn'	22	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>	40		✓								✓	✓	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> f. <i>porphyrophylla</i> 'Gerda'	09	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	10	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓										✓	
<i>Sanicula epipactis</i>	13				✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Salix repens</i> var. <i>argentea</i>	25		✓									✓	✓	✓										✓	
<i>Sarcococca hookeriana</i>	29	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Skimmia japonica</i> 'Nymans'	25	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	11	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	11	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓										✓	
<i>Sorbus</i> 'Joseph Rock'	32	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Sorbus thibetica</i> John Mitchell	32	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Stauntonia hexaphylla</i>	21	✓																							
<i>Stipa gigantea</i>	19		✓								✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	32	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓										✓	
<i>Thalia dealbata</i>	40		✓								✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	13	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓											
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	29		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓											✓

## Table of characteristics

Characteristic		Tolerant of shade / low light levels	Needs sun	Needs alkaline conditions	Neutral conditions	Needs acidic conditions	Needs drier soils	Moist but well drained soils	Needs wetter soils	Needs sheltered position	Attractive flowers	Attractive foliage	Fine autumn colours	Bears ornamental fruit	Structural feature or screening / hedging	Windbreak	Berries for birds	RHS Plants for Pollinators	Provides shelter/cover for wildlife	Submerged aquatic plant	Floating aquatic plant	Marginal/emergent aquatic plant	Bog garden plant	UK Native plant
Plant	Page																							
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	40		✓						✓		✓							✓	✓					✓
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	18	✓						✓			✓				✓			✓	✓					
<i>Viburnum betulifolium</i>	28	✓					✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	09	✓					✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
<i>Viburnum x bodnantense</i>	09		✓					✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<i>Viburnum x burkwoodii</i>	29	✓					✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<i>Vitis coignetiae</i>	23	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<i>Zanthoxylum piperitum</i>	28		✓				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					

## About the list

This list is based on a previous list developed by the RHS and Plantlife, published in 2010, and was updated in 2021 by the Plant Alert Team at Coventry University.

The list includes only ornamental plants where evidence is available providing some assurance that future invasions from these species are less likely. Coventry University have checked that these plants have not been frequently found outside gardens, or have been recorded as invasive in other countries. The list does not include any species identified in scientific horizon scanning activities designed to identify potential future invasive species. Furthermore, recently introduced ornamental plants or plants not widely available in the trade were not included as there is not enough evidence to assess their potential to escape from cultivation. Both species which have remained on the list, and any species replacing excluded species from the previous list, have been selected according to these criteria.

## Other titles in this series

Landscaping without harmful invasive plants

Keeping a pond or aquarium without harmful invasive plants

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For more information about non-native species visit [nonnativespecies.org](http://nonnativespecies.org)

