



Notes from the Potting Shed...

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter. Intended to be produced on a quarterly basis, hopefully it will provide you with some helpful hints, interesting news, and a rough idea of what should be going on in your garden each season.

If you would like to receive this newsletter in PDF format via e-mail in the future, to save a few trees, then please e-mail me (emma@garden-goddess.co.uk) and let me know.

LIVING THE GOOD LIFE?

Seed companies have reported large increases in sales of vegetable seeds (The Garden, January 2004, page 4) – are you one of those people growing their own? Growing fresh vegetables at home can be very simple, and needn't take up much space. There are varieties of carrots which can be grown in pots or tubs, cherry tomatoes you can grow in baskets or pots, and runner beans can look lovely growing up a pergola or fence, as well as tasting great too! If you're interested in growing a few vegetables this summer, speak to your gardener as soon as possible so that seeds can be ordered in good time.

THE HALF-PINT PEA

"Dating back to the 1800s when there were several of these little devils. Useful for cloche growing, frame growing or even windowsill growing. Its cute beans bear a good feed of pods, and above all it's novel."

This delightful old variety, resurrected by Plants of Distinction, is ideal for those who'd like to have some fresh veg, but don't have the room. Whilst having one or two plants might not provide you with enough peas for a family meal, they should certainly provide enough to add interest to salads, or to try and interest children in both gardening and eating their greens!

I have been fortunate enough to obtain some seeds of this unusual variety, which won't be on general sale until 2007. I will therefore have some young plants to offer for sale (just a token fee) this spring/summer – although they'll be in limited supply so if you're interested then let me know as soon as possible as it will be first come first served!

CHELSEA JUST GOT BIGGER

This year people will have a chance to experience the world's most famous flower show over five days instead of the traditional four; although visitor numbers will remain the same, merely being spread over more days to reduce crowding. It will also give those who work weekdays a change to attend on the Saturday.



Above: The Ora Garden of Wellbeing (Category: Show Gardens) received a prestigious Gold award at Chelsea in 2004

| | 8am-8pm | 3.30-8pm | 5.30-8pm |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| RHS Members' Rates | | | |
| Tuesday 24 May | £38 | £21 | £13.50 |
| Wednesday 25 May | £32.50 | £18 | £11.50 |
| Thursday 26 May | £26 | | |
| Friday 27 May | £26 | | |
| Saturday 28 May | £26 | | |
| Public Rates | | | |
| Thursday 26 & Friday 27 May | £36 | £21.50 | £16 |
| Saturday 28 May | £36 | | |

THINKING OF JOINING THE RHS?

Membership of the RHS confers many benefits**, not least of which is the ability to purchase show tickets at either a reduced rate or for members-only days. As an extra incentive to supporting the world's premier gardening charity we are able to offer you the opportunity to receive a 10% discount off the usual membership fee.

To join for only £36, call 0845 130 4646 and quote 2105 (you may also need to quote my membership details, which are as follows: Emma Couch, Membership No. 11128139). Or, if you would prefer to apply by post then please contact me to request a copy of the special registration form. If you join by Direct Debit you will also receive £5 seed and £5 plant vouchers free of charge. Offer valid until October 31 2005.

**Membership benefits include: Free entry with a guest to RHS gardens, free monthly magazine, privileged entry and reduced price tickets to RHS flower shows, free gardening advice, free seeds.

ADD A SPLASH OF COLOUR WITH SOME FLOWERS

Many gardens are packed to the brim with attractive shrubs, but lack the colour that annual flowers can provide. I think people often believe that they don't have the time to grow flowers, but in reality they are very easy to grow – in some cases all you need to do is sprinkle the seed outside! Of course, if you have a gardener to take care of the sowing and weeding then there really is no excuse for not having a few blooms around the place. As well as providing colour and scent in the garden (and in the house, as freshly-cut flowers), flowers also help attract beneficial insects, and some birds, to your garden.

If you're interested in having some annual flowers this year then let your gardener know (together with an idea of what colours you love/loathe) so that they can order seed on your behalf. Alternatively you can request a catalogue from the following seed suppliers and order direct from them.

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Thompson & Morgan: | 01473 688 621 |
| Mr. Fothergill's: | 01638 751 161 |
| DT Brown: | 0845 166 2275 |

"If choosing seeds yourself, please check that they don't have complex or time-consuming sowing procedures. Your gardener will still be able to grow them, but if they need to be taken away, germinated, grown on and then brought back you'll be charged for it."

WHAT THEY REALLY MEAN...

The real meaning of plant catalogue terminology

"A favourite of birds" means to avoid planting near cars, pavements, or clotheslines.

"Grows more beautiful each year" means "Looks like roadkill for the foreseeable future."

"Semi-hardy" is a variation on the phrase "Russian roulette."

"May require support" means your daughter's engineering degree will finally pay off.

"Moisture-loving" plants are ideal for landscaping all your bogs and swamps.

"Carefree" refers more to the plant's attitude than to your workload.

"Vigorous" is code for "has a Napoleonic compulsion to take over the world."

"Grandma's Favourite" -- until she discovered free-flowering, disease-resistant hybrids.

That brings us to the end of this edition of the newsletter. I hope that you've enjoyed it - any feedback you might have is always welcome!

Best wishes and bright blessings,

Emma Couch

www.garden-goddess.co.uk

Advertisements



Amethyst Therapy

Highly Recommended for beauty treatments and holistic therapy, including aromatherapy massage and reflexology.

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