



GILLENIA TRIFOLIATA
‘PINK PROFUSION’

This beautiful garden plant was discovered in the wild in 1987 by the plantsman Paul James in Virginia, USA. It was introduced to the wider plant-growing world in 2002 by the American botanical garden the Mt Cuba Center in Delaware. It pops up in late spring with fragile-looking, purple shoots, which quickly grow into tall, branching, burgundy-purple stems that have purple green leaves and a wealth of butterfly-like, soft-pink flowers. In autumn, the leaves turn to orange and yellow. It's sometimes known as Indian physic as it was once used by Native Americans as a laxative.

Height 70cm.
Origin USA.
Conditions Moist but well-drained soil; full sun to part shade.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 4a-8bt.
Season of interest Spring to summer.



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JUNE PLANTS

This month Fleur selects plants for wildflower meadows and prairie plantings, plus a gentle self-seeder that is favoured by butterflies

WORDS FLEUR VAN ZONNEVELD PHOTOGRAPHS MAAYKE DE RIDDER



GERANIUM NODOSUM
‘WHITELEAF’

This *Geranium nodosum* cultivar barely seeds itself, which means we don't have to worry about weeding out thousands of seedlings, and can instead focus on its virtues, which are many. To start with there is its fresh, evergreen foliage, which is a lovely shade of dark green, and then there are the beautiful striped, purple-lilac flowers with white edges that last for months. It's also loved by butterflies. The name refers not to its leaf colour, but to the house where this form was found. It is a great addition for any difficult, shady or dry spot.

Height 30cm.
Origin Europe.
Conditions Moderately fertile soil; full sun to part shade.
Hardiness RHS H6.
Season of interest Spring to autumn.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. Hardiness ratings given where available.

CYNANCHUM
ASCYRIFOLIUM

Until it starts flowering, this can seem a rather dull, albeit healthy looking, plant. But as soon as the deliciously scented, clusters of star-shaped, white flowers appear it becomes a pleasure to behold. It looks similar to many other plants in the *Apocynaceae* or dogbane family, especially the climbing genus *Stephanotis* and is sometimes known as false bush *Stephanotis*. It was collected in 1995 in Yunnan Province, China, growing in rocky soil, but it performs well in our Dutch clay soil, where it has proved a very hardy perennial.

Height 60cm.
Origin Japan, China, Korea.
Conditions Moist but well-drained soil; full sun to part shade.
Hardiness RHS H7.
Season of interest Summer.



DORONICUM
PARDALIANCHES

This natural-looking plant is perfect for brightening up a shady spot. It belongs to a group of naturalised, non-native plants we call *stinzenplanten* in the Netherlands, and its dainty, bright-yellow flowers appear like tiny suns when they appear among spring foliage in the shade of a tree. Bearing hairy leaves on hairy stems it spreads by underground runners, and forms an effective groundcover for almost every type of soil. It flowers continuously for three months, after which it dies down to prepare for the following spring.

Height 70cm.
Origin Europe, western Asia.
Conditions Moist but well-drained soil; part shade.
Hardiness RHS H5.
Season of interest Spring to summer.



PIMPINELLA MAJOR 'ROSEA'

This lacy pink umbellifer is a welcome companion to the many white umbellifers we use in our garden. It is one of the tall meadow plants we call *hochstaudenflur* and is propagated from seed as well as vegetatively, which explains why there are so many different shades of pink in circulation. The deep pink varieties are far more interesting than the paler-pink ones. It looks like a pink Queen Anne's lace – and really does resemble precious lace. Its shiny, fern-like, green leaves also make it useful as a groundcover plant.

Height 60cm.
Origin Central Asia, Caucasus, Mediterranean region.
Conditions Moist but well-drained soil; full sun, part shade.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 5a-8b.
Season of interest Spring to summer.



SALVIA LOVE AND WISHES (= 'SERENDIP6')

This relatively new salvia has been winning well-deserved plaudits and awards in both the UK and the Netherlands, since its introduction at the 2015 RHS Chelsea Flower Show. It was bred in Australia by John Fisher and is the third colour in his Wishes series following on from 'Wendy's Wish' and 'Ember's Wish'. A bushy salvia it flowers for months producing deep-purple and red flowers with matte-purple calyces on long, burgundy-red stems. Works equally well as part of a perennial border or grown in a pot.

Height 80cm.
Origin Bred in Australia.
Conditions Moist but well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H3.
Season of interest Summer to autumn.



AMSONIA
TABERNAEMONTANA
 VAR. *SALICIFOLIA*

In early spring, the young shoots of this variety are instantly recognisable by their black-red colour. These create a lovely contrast with the open clusters of star-shaped, greyish, pale-blue flowers that appear in late spring. It's a slow-growing plant that will eventually produce long-lived sturdy arching clumps, with willow-like foliage that turns yellow in autumn. It's a perennial that works well in both prairie-style plantings or wildflower meadows.

Height 80cm.
Origin Southern and eastern North America.
Conditions Moist but well-drained soil; full sun to part shade.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 3a-9b.
Season of interest Spring to autumn.

PLACES TO VISIT

Recommended places to see seasonal plants at their best both in Europe and the UK

There are many flower-rich meadows of great note in the former Soviet bloc. **Kyrgyzstan**, a former Soviet republic in central Asia, stands out as a plantsman's paradise. A country around half the size of Germany, it has around 3,900 native species. In late June, early July, the nurseryman and plant specialist Brian Kabbes runs botanical

tours to this virtually unexplored Asian country that borders China's Xinjiang province. We went in 2012 and I have never seen such a rich abundance of flora. Fields of foxtail lilies, *Linum olgae*, and many, many more – too many to mention; you can sometimes find more than 100 species in a single square metre. It is a truly amazing sight. You can find

details of Brian's tour for June 2019 at kabbes.nl
 For more than 20 years now our nursery De Kleine Plantage has exhibited at the **International Specialist Nursery Days** at Bingerden in the central Dutch province of Gelderland. It is one of the highlights of the Dutch plant show year, and takes place this year over the weekend of 15-17 June, offering as ever an

incredible choice of rare and unusual plants. The gardens themselves are worth a visit at any time of year. The 23-acre estate, surrounded by a moat dug in 1791, is one of the oldest preserved estates in the Netherlands. It is made up of five separate gardens, including the original potager and exuberant borders, which include a large collection ▷

TROLLIUS BUDDAE

Plants from the genus *Trollius* are more commonly known as globeflowers, although in this case at least that name is somewhat misleading as the wide-open flowers look more like flat dishes. These flowers, which are large and golden yellow, are composed of petal-like sepals around smaller nectar-bearing petals. It's a real eye-catcher, all the more so as it flowers much later than other *Trollius* species. Give it enough fertiliser and moisture, and it will treat you to a second flowering in late summer. Ideal for growing along a riverbank, it also works well in a sunny border, and makes a wonderful cut flower too.

Height 70cm.

Origin Central Asia, China.

Conditions Moist soil; full sun.

Hardiness RHS H7.

Season of interest Spring to summer.



SANGUISORBA MENZIESII

This was our first sanguisorba and it is still our favourite – it's also much loved by butterflies. It flowers far earlier than other sanguisorbas, adding height to a border or prairie plantings from the end of May with thick, dusky-red spikes that are surrounded by a soft-pink mist. These brush-like flowers held on purple-red stems combine beautifully with its fernlike, grey-blue foliage. After flowering it can become a bit sloppy, but you can improve this with a rigorous cut. It works well as a cut flower and can be grown in a pot, but I think it looks best in a moist border alongside blue *Iris sibirica*. AGM*.

Height 1m.

Origin Alaska.

Conditions Average or moist soil; full sun or part shade.

Hardiness RHS H7.

Season of interest Spring to autumn.



LUZULA NIVEA

Despite appearances, *Luzula nivea* is neither a grass nor a sedge. It is in fact a member of the rush family or *Juncaceae*, and is more commonly known as snow-white, wood-rush. The snow white in the name comes from the sprays of fluffy white flowers that rise, from June to July, on rounded stems, above the grey-green foliage. It's a useful plant for shady areas, especially when planted en masse, or for filling in the spaces between shrubs. Its evergreen leaves with their tufted edges make an attractive addition to flower arrangements whether they are used fresh or dried.

Height 50cm.

Origin Central and southern Europe.

Conditions Moist to dry soil; part to full shade.

Hardiness RHS H5.

Season of interest Year round.



▷ of roses that are in full bloom in June. Bingerdeweg 21, 6986 CE Angerlo, the Netherlands. Tel +31 (0)313 484238, bingerden.com

Bingerden is not far from **Hummelo**, the private garden of the renowned Dutch designer Piet Oudolf, which is opening to the public for the last time in 2018. For many years now Piet has used his garden to

test out new designs and create some of the new perennials that are so important to his trademark style. Open 31 May – 7 July, Thursday – Saturday, 11am-4pm. Broekstraat 17, 6999 DE, Hummelo, the Netherlands. Tel +31 (0)314 381120, oudolf.com

Another designer's garden to visit this month, although one in a very different style, is that of

Arabella Lennox-Boyd's country home **Gresgarth Hall** in north Lancashire. It's a gloriously romantic affair with deeply planted, herbaceous borders that are filled with colour through to autumn, beginning in June with nepeta, geraniums and alliums. There's also a lovely walled vegetable garden, nuttery and orchard. Open 10 June, 11am-5pm. Gresgarth Hall, Caton,

Lancaster LA2 9NB. Tel 01524 771838, arabellalennoxboyd.com
Less than an hour's drive from Gresgarth, in the Lake District, is the exciting new garden at **Lowther Castle**. Within the castle's ruins, Dan Pearson has created a beautiful parterre where perennials, such as *Salvia pratensis* 'Indigo' and *Thalictrum* 'Elin' mix with ferns and climbers to create

a lush feel of abandonment in the inner castle. Dan is currently creating a new Rose Garden, where briar roses will form the shape of a rose around a beautifully planted ornamental rose collection. Head gardener Martin Ogle is leading a behind-the-scenes tour of this new garden on 14 June. Lowther, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 2HH. Tel 01931 712192, lowthercastle.org