

Plant of the Month: *Tulipa sprengeri*

Joe Sime

This is undoubtedly my favourite tulip. It is fully hardy, seeds itself around, does well in shade and is not dug up and eaten by the stripy faced weasels that think they own our garden and consume all other tulips with relish.

It originated in Turkey, where it is rare if not extinct. It was introduced into cultivation in the first half of the nineteenth century and is now fairly common in gardens. If you want to buy flowering sized bulbs they will cost you about £3 each. By far the easiest way to get a decent population is to grow from seed although it will take 4-5 years for them to flower. We find the best method is to scatter a reasonably large quantity of seed where you want them to grow. This is not hard.



They produce copious amounts, so either beg some from a friend or buy one bulb and save your own. In the first year or so they look just like grass seedlings, so be careful that you do not weed them out at this stage. As they age the leaves get broader and they are easier to identify. Once established they self-seed freely and can be dug up (they root deeply) for the sales table.

They grow well in any decent woodland soil that is not too wet in winter or bone dry in summer. They grow quite tall and flower profusely in part shade, but will also survive and flower with quite a dense canopy.

Two Natives

Joe Sime

I am a plant addict and spend a lot of time and too much money on chasing exotic introductions from China, or North American woodland treasures. However there is one area of our garden that every year reminds me that this is all vanity. It consists of a hawthorn tree which we grew from seed we collected from the banks of the River Laver in Ripon in Yorkshire underplanted with a self-perpetuating population of forget-me-nots.

I think that May is not used enough in gardens. If the tree had been introduced by Wilson from China and described as a freely blossoming tree with glossy, lobed leaves, good autumn colour and masses of red berries we would all be buying it. And forget-me-nots are so easy in shade. Let them set seed, then remove the plants as they go over in July and they will look after themselves. There is no better blue in spring.



Yet more on epimediums from seed

Joe Sime

We are getting close to the time when the epimedium seed ripens and next month I will be offering it again. I thought I would tempt you to try with a picture of one of my seed grown plants. The seed parent was 'Amber Queen'. I like the neat, low growing glossy leaves with the pink flowers floating above. Wendy says they look like bubblegum, which is what we have decided to call it.



Available Seed

If you would like some of the following seed and are a paid up member of the Shade Group send a S.A.E to S.J. Sime at Park Cottage, Penley, Wrexham, LL13 0LS. Please include your email address in case there is a query.

If you have seed to donate please send it to the same address.

Ampelopsis megalophylla

Arisaema ciliatum

Cardiocrinum giganteum var. *yunnanense*

Hydrangea aspera subsp. *villosa*

Hydrangea heteromalla var. *xanthoneura* 'Wilsonii'

Hydrangea paniculata ex 'Brussels Lace'

Hydrangea scandens subsp. *chinensis* f. *macrosepalum*

Kirengeshoma palmata

Rhododendron yakusianum

Senecio tangutica

Aquilegia canadensis

Meconopsis paniculata

Aquilegia longissima

Rosa moyesii

Euonymus myrianthus

Name this plant

Name this Plant E***** h*****

'Plants 25–80(–100) cm, sparsely to densely pubescent. Leaves 3–10, orbiculate, elliptic to narrowly lanceolate, 4–18 × 1.5–8.5 cm. Inflorescences racemes, loose to moderately dense, commonly 1-sided; floral bracts spreading, linear to narrowly lanceolate, 10–40(–70) mm, often exceeding flowers. Flowers 15–50, small; sepals greenish, often suffused with purple; lateral sepals 10–13 × 5–6 mm, apex oblique; petals ovate, pale green, pink, purple, or yellowish, 9–11 × 4–6 mm; lip indistinctly veined, constricted at middle into 2 parts, proximal part purplish to brownish, deeply concave, not papillose, 9–12 × 8 mm, distal part recurved, pink, broadly triangular-ovate, ± flat to tip, 5 × 5 mm; calli 2, near base, brownish, not rugose; column 3–6 mm; ovary glabrous. Capsules obovoid, 9–14 mm, glabrate to densely pubescent. 2n = 36, 38, 40, 44.

Flowering Jun--Oct. Moist to dry, rocky, shaded, deciduous to mixed woods; cedar swamps and forested stream margins'

Last month's plant was *Thalictrum ichangense*



This is a small thalictrum with attractively marked leaflets. At home in any decent woodland soil in part shade, it will seed itself around gently.

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SHADE MONTHLY is compiled by Joe Sime
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