

THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

The Hardy Plant Society exists to stimulate interest in growing hardy herbaceous plants. This international Society, formed in 1957 by a group of prominent gardeners and nurserymen, now has a membership of 9,000. Roy Lancaster, the eminent plantsman, is its President. It provides members with information about familiar and less well-known perennials and how to grow them. The Society also works towards ensuring that all garden-worthy perennial plants remain in cultivation and have the widest possible distribution. From the earliest days, the Hardy Plant Society has always been a very friendly society and the range of activities offered locally and nationally gives members plenty of opportunity to meet other keen gardeners, sharing ideas and information in a convivial atmosphere. The activities and work of the Society inform and encourage the novice gardener, stimulate and enlighten the more knowledgeable, and entertain and enthuse all gardeners bonded by a love for, and an interest in, hardy perennial plants. It promotes this interest in growing hardy perennials by producing illustrated journals, newsletters and specialist booklets. Local Groups keep members in touch with others in their area and Specialist Groups further interest in particular plant families. An annual seed distribution offers over 1500 varieties of seed, and national meetings, workshops and study days are held throughout the country.

The design of this year's stand is based on an English Villa Town Garden, featuring a tranquil area of the garden's herbaceous borders. A planted rill runs through the garden, bordered by a pathway separating the two main planted areas. The path steps up to a raised central area where a large terracotta pot containing plants is surrounded by further planting. At each corner of this central area, slatted columns, connected by arched cross-beams at the top, are set in planted boxes. The theme for this exhibit was chosen to highlight the Specialist Groups which operate within the Society. The Hardy Geranium Group was formed in 1974 and was followed by the Variegated, Peony, Half Hardy and Pulmonaria Groups and in 2007 by the Ranunculaceae Group. They all produce their own newsletters and organise meetings and events for their fellow enthusiasts.

THE VARIEGATED PLANTS GROUP

The Variegated Plants Group of the HPS was formed during the late 1980s by members of the Society who had a particular interest in growing and collecting these fascinating and eye-catching plants. Although an interest in variegated plants may be thought of as specialist, there are many ways these plants can lighten and enhance our gardens, and knowledge of them is useful to all gardeners. The aims of the group are to make the less common variegated forms more widely available, used and appreciated. Additionally, by the study of the mechanisms leading to variegation, to improve the selection, stabilization and propagation of variegated cultivars. Over the years members have been responsible for the introduction of now well known variegated plants. Probably the most prolific and successful VPG member in this regard was Stephen Taffler and there are many popular plants with a name including "Taff's" and commemorating not, as is sometimes thought, a South Wales origin, but his skills of selection.

Actaea simplex variegated (*Ranunculaceae*)
Ajuga incisa 'Frosted Jade' (*Lamiaceae*)
Ajuga reptans 'Toffee Chip' (*Lamiaceae*)
Athyrium niponicum var. *pictum* (AGM) (*Woodsiaceae*)
Athyrium niponicum var. *pictum* 'Wildwood Twist'
(*Woodsiaceae*)
Carex elata 'Aurea' (AGM) (*Cyperaceae*)
Carex siderosticha 'Golden Falls' (*Cyperaceae*)
Carex ornithopoda 'Variegata' (*Cyperaceae*)
Euphorbia characias 'Kestrel' (*Euphorbiaceae*)
Hacquetia epipactis 'Thor' (*Apiaceae*)
Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola' (*Poaceae*)
Hesperis matronalis 'Variegata' (*Brassicaceae*)

Heuchera sanguinea 'Monet' (*Saxifragaceae*)
Heuchera sanguinea 'Taff's Joy' (*Saxifragaceae*)
Hosta decorata (*Hostaceae*)
Hosta 'Eskimo Pie' (*Hostaceae*)
Iris foetidissima 'Aurea' (*Iridaceae*)
Iris pallida 'Variegata' (AGM) (*Iridaceae*)
Ligusticum scoticum variegated (*Apiaceae*)
Melica uniflora 'Variegata' (*Poaceae*)
Origanum vulgare 'Country Cream' (*Lamiaceae*)
Podophyllum 'Kaleidoscope' (*Berberidaceae*)
Polemonium reptans 'Touch of Class' (*Polemoniaceae*)
Polemonium reptans 'Stairway to Heaven'
(*Polemoniaceae*)

THE PULMONARIA GROUP

The Pulmonaria Group was formed in 1992. Pulmonarias belong to the *Boraginaceae* family and they are known by several common names including 'lungwort' and 'soldiers and sailors'. There are at least fifteen species of which seven are most likely to be found in gardens: *P. angustifolia*, *P. longifolia*, *P. mollis*, *P. officinalis*, *P. rubra*, *P. saccharata* and *P. vallisarvae*. Depending on the species and/or variety, pulmonaria flowers can be pink, red, blue, white and sometimes striped. Some of them change colour as they age. While *P. rubra* can flower in December, many pulmonarias will be in bloom from late March and during April, with a few producing flowers into May. Most pulmonarias enjoy growing where they have good light in spring, when they're flowering, but with more shade in hotter months. So they are ideal for growing near deciduous trees and shrubs. They benefit from an annual mulching which helps to keep their roots cool and fairly moist. However, they do not like to be waterlogged.

Pulmonaria 'Diana Clare'

Pulmonaria 'Linford Blue'

Pulmonaria 'Majesté'.

THE HARDY GERANIUM GROUP

The Hardy Geranium Group was formed in 1974 when interest in these members of the *Geraniaceae* family was booming: an RHS trial had encouraged gardeners to consider the plants seriously. Joy Jones volunteered to run the Group (and did so for 20 years). Publication of Peter Yeo's monograph (1985) helped to clear the confusion in geranium nomenclature and the Gardeners' Guide to Growing Hardy Geraniums (Trevor Bath and Joy Jones 1994) provided further inspiration. Readers could see photographs of plants they had not encountered before. HGG plant sales and the seed exchange helped to supply a growing demand. Plant hunters discovered new species, and breeders such as Alan Bremner produced new plants from seed. Recent RHS trials have demonstrated the huge proliferation of cultivars and new introductions. We are still the only association dedicated solely to this large family of garden-worthy plants, which have been voted the Hardy Plant Society's favourite flowers. Our members provide advice and information about the plants to gardeners, nurserymen and journalists in the UK and abroad.

Geranium 'Brookside' seedling
Geranium (Cinereum Group) 'Ballerina' (AGM)
Geranium (Cinereum Group) 'Purple Pillow'
Geranium clarkei 'Kashmir White' (AGM)
Geranium 'Dusky Crûg'
Geranium maculatum 'Elizabeth Ann' (AGM)
Geranium maculatum 'Espresso'
Geranium maculatum f. *albiflorum*
Geranium 'Mavis Simpson' (AGM)
Geranium nodosum
Geranium nodosum 'Silverwood'
Geranium phaeum 'Alec's Pink'
Geranium phaeum 'Blue Shadow'

Geranium phaeum 'Lily Lovell'
Geranium phaeum 'Margaret Wilson'
Geranium phaeum 'Mottisfont Rose'
Geranium phaeum var. *phaeum* 'Samobor'
Geranium pratense Victor Reiter Junior strain
Geranium pyrenaicum 'Bright Eyes'
Geranium pyrenaicum 'Isparta'
Geranium robustum
Geranium sylvaticum 'Album' (AGM)
Geranium sylvaticum 'Hilary'
Geranium sylvaticum 'Nikita'
Geranium 'Tanya Rendall'

THE PEONY GROUP

Peonies, which have their own family, the *Paeoniaceae*, are a fascinating group of plants that include spectacular shrubs such as *P. rockii* and its hybrids that have been grown in China for thousands of years, as well as a number of herbaceous plants and their cultivars, ranging from the elegant Mediterranean *P. cambessedesii* that is ideal for growing in a rock garden, to the many, often beautifully scented, cultivars of *P. lactiflora*, which are indispensable for the herbaceous border. Increasingly popular are the Itoh or inter-sectional hybrids, which result from crosses between tree and herbaceous peonies. They are basically herbaceous in character and do not grow as tall as tree peonies but have a woody base. They have large, flamboyant flowers in a range of brilliant colours such as the orange-flamed *P.* 'Julia Rose' and striking *P.* 'Kopper Kettle'. The Peony Group was set up back in the 1980s by keen peony lover Margaret Baber who holds a National Collection of *Paeonia* cultivars dating from around 1900 and before. Under the chairmanship of David Victor since the spring of 2000, the group has run a much-valued seed exchange. The group serves as a point of contact, and encourages the exchange of information about wild species peonies and their cultivars, between members all around the world.

Paeonia 'Buckeye Belle'

Paeonia lactiflora 'White Wings'

THE RANUNCULACEAE GROUP

The family *Ranunculaceae* – think buttercups – is perhaps one of the most familiar and most loved of all the plant families. A field of buttercups is a welcome sight in spring, and it is repeated in early summer in many parts of the world. The early-flowering habit of the humble meadow buttercup highlights one of the common characteristics of the family. Members of this family are mostly perennial herbs, and burst into growth as soon as the spring arrives (e.g. *Eranthis*, *Helleborus*, *Anemone*, *Pulsatilla*, *Hepatica*, etc.); but there are a few annuals (*Consolida*, *Adonis*). However, one very notable exception to the rule is the genus *Clematis*, which gives us so many semi-woody climbers with a range of species flowering throughout the year. Another interesting aspect of the family is the size, somewhere in the region of 60 genera and 2500 species, not forgetting numerous garden-worthy cultivars. Enough to retain the interest of both the Ranunculaceae Group and the Hardy Plant Society for many years! Come and join us and enjoy gardening with the relatives of buttercups.

Aconitum 'Ivorine'
Actaea pachypoda 'Pewter & Pearls' a brand new plant from Kevin Hughes
Anemone leveillei
Aquilegia chrysantha 'Yellow Queen'
Aquilegia 'Hensol Harebell' (AGM)
Aquilegia vulgaris 'Nivea' (AGM)
Aquilegia vulgaris 'William Guinness'
Clematis 'Fond Memories'
Clematis Hyde Hall

Clematis Parisienne
Delphinium 'Ailsa'

Delphinium 'Gossamer'
Delphinium 'Spindrift' (AGM)
Ranunculus aconitifolius
Ranunculus aconitifolius 'Flore Pleno' (AGM)
Ranunculus gramineus (AGM)
Thalictrum aquilegifolium var. *album*

Thalictrum flavum subsp. *glaucum* (AGM)
Thalictrum honanense
Thalictrum minus 'Adiantifolium'
Thalictrum tuberosum
Trollius x cultorum 'Alabaster'

THE HALF HARDY GROUP

The Half Hardy Group was formed by a band of enthusiasts from within the Society who felt passionately that half-hardy perennials should come under the HPS umbrella. Most members grow at least a few of these plants. Every 'Half-Hardy', wherever in the UK, hoping to bend the rules and extend the range, will have had disappointments this winter. Why do we do it? Simply because it is around 20 years since the last 'bad' winter and there has been the joy of seeing the beautiful *Leucadendron argenteum* growing to fifteen feet over 14 years; to have been amazed yearly by the huge pink and cream 'everlasting' flowers of *Protea* 'Pink Ice'; so many delights – personal, and for all Half-Hardies who risk the different, the new, the gorgeous, the bizarre. Now, we of this band of super-optimists will dispel the short days of gloom by sowing seeds, searching for new sources and, soon, replanting, confident that we will have 10 or 20 years of excitement before the next black frost. Go on! Be optimistic! Be adventurous!

Aeonium arboreum 'Variegatum' (Crassulaceae)
Aeonium decorum 'Variegatum' (Crassulaceae)

Aeonium goochiae (Crassulaceae)
Aeonium 'Zwartkop' (AGM) (Crassulaceae)

INFILL PLANTS

These plants were chosen to complement those that are the particular interest of the Specialist Groups.

Acanthus hirsutus (Acanthaceae)
Achillea 'Moonshine' (AGM) (Asteraceae)
Adiantum aleuticum 'Miss Sharples' (Adiantaceae)
Ajuga reptans 'Purple Torch' (Lamiaceae)
Artemisia arborescens 'Faith Raven' (Asteraceae)
Artemisia schmidtiana 'Nana' (AGM) (Asteraceae)
Astrantia 'Buckland' (Apiaceae)
Astrantia major 'Gill Richardson' (Apiaceae)
Astrantia 'Roma' (Apiaceae)
Athyrium filix-femina 'Victoriae' (Woodsiaceae)
Athyrium 'Ghost' (Woodsiaceae)
Athyrium otophorum var. *okanum* (Woodsiaceae)
Baptisia australis (AGM) (Papilionaceae)
Carex 'Amazon Mist' (Cyperaceae)
Chloranthus fortunei 'Domino' (Chloranthaceae)
Cirsium rivulare 'Atropurpureum' (Asteraceae)
Digitalis purpurea f. *albiflora* (Scrophulariaceae)
Digitalis purpurea 'Sutton's Apricot' (AGM) (Scrophulariaceae)
Epimedium Asiatic hybrid (Berberidaceae)
Epimedium wushanense 'Caramel' (Berberidaceae)
Erodium 'Spanish Eyes' (Geraniaceae)
Eryngium x zabelii 'Jos Eijking' (Apiaceae)
Euphorbia characias subsp. *wulfenii* seedling (Euphorbiaceae)
Hakonechloa macra 'All Gold' (Poaceae)
Heuchera 'David' (Saxifragaceae)
Heuchera 'Frosted Violet Dream' (Saxifragaceae)
Heuchera 'Green Spice' (Saxifragaceae)
Heuchera 'Lime Rickey' (Rainbow Series) (Saxifragaceae)
Heuchera 'Marmalade' (Saxifragaceae)
Heuchera 'Mars' (Saxifragaceae)
Heuchera 'Mint Frost' (Saxifragaceae)

Heuchera 'Peach Flambé' (Saxifragaceae)
Heuchera 'Venus' (Saxifragaceae)
Hosta 'Blue Moon' (Hostaceae)
Hosta 'June' (AGM) (Hostaceae)
Hosta 'Raspberry Sorbet' (Hostaceae)
Iris 'Winter Olympics' (Iridaceae)
Kniphofia pauciflora (Asphodelaceae)
Moricandia arvensis B&F MA19 (Brassicaceae)
Onychium lucidum (Adiantaceae)
Osmunda regalis 'Purpurascens' (Osmundaceae)
Penstemon heterophyllus (Scrophulariaceae)
Penstemon 'Margery Fish' (AGM) (Scrophulariaceae)
Phygelius New Sensation (Scrophulariaceae)
Podophyllum versipelle (Berberidaceae)
Polystichum munitum (Dryopteridaceae)
Polystichum setiferum 'Pulcherrimum Bevis' (Dryopteridaceae)
Sanguisorba menziesii (Rosaceae)
Saruma henryi (Aristolochiaceae)
Saxifraga fortunei 'Silver Velvet' (Saxifragaceae)
Saxifraga stolonifera 'Maroon Beauty' (Saxifragaceae)
Saxifraga x urbium 'Miss Chambers' (Saxifragaceae)
Sedum caudicola 'Coca-Cola' (Crassulaceae)
Tanacetum vulgare 'Golden Fleece' (Asteraceae)
Tiarella cordifolia (AGM) (Saxifragaceae)
Trifolium repens 'William' (Papilionaceae)
Verbascum (Cotswold Group) 'Cotswold Beauty' (AGM) (Scrophulariaceae)
Verbascum (Cotswold Group) 'Cotswold Queen' (Scrophulariaceae)
Verbascum (Cotswold Group) 'Gainsborough' (Scrophulariaceae)
Viola cornuta Alba Group (AGM) (Violaceae)
Viola 'Primrose Dame' (Violaceae)