

Letters

Rabbit damage

Tim Ingram's observations on the varied tastes of rabbits are all too familiar to me, living at the other end of Kent. They breed in our garden and the woodland beyond, and although our young dachshund pursues them with enthusiasm he cannot make much impression.

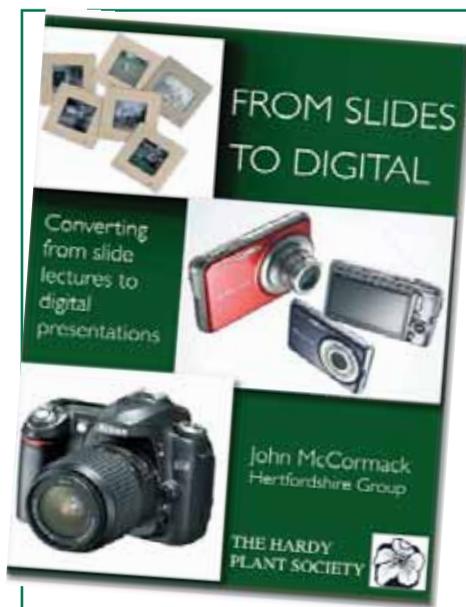
Euphorbia always features on lists of rabbit-proof plants, not surprisingly, but even this has succumbed here: a young plant of *E. sikkimensis* had its new shoots bitten off, and a large clump of *E. polychroma* 'Midas' had all but two of its young stems (over 40 of them) removed and, apparently, eaten. I hope the culprit suffered some nasty after-effects! This particular plant is at the edge of a border, which seems to tempt passing nibblers, as another, further back, escaped damage.

I also find that the new growth of geraniums (another supposedly rabbit-resistant species) is a popular treat, but as they quickly grow back I tend not to bother with protection. The only one that is never even nibbled is *G. macrorrhizum*, no doubt due to its pungent smell.

Like Tim, I find that wire cages round new plants and tempting young growth do the trick, and they can usually be removed as the season progresses.

Looking on the bright side, at least I am not troubled by deer!

Karin Proudfoot, Kent



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Erratum Vol.30 No.1: page 31 showed *Callistemon* 'Little John' (not *Xeronema*).