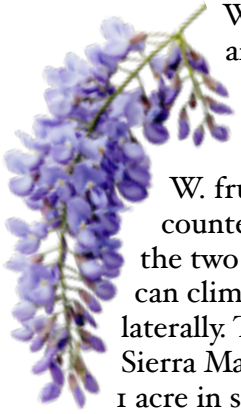
NEWSLETTER

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Wisteria

Wisteria is a genus of flowering plants in the legume family, Fabaceae (Leguminosae). The genus includes four species of woody twining vines that are native to Asia, southern Canada, the Eastern United States, and north of Iran and were later introduced to Europe.



Wisterias climb by twining their stems around any available support. W. floribunda (Japanese wisteria) twines clockwise when viewed from above, while W. sinensis (Chinese wisteria) and W. frutescens (American wisteria) twine counterclockwise. This is an aid in identifying the two most common species of wisteria. They can climb as high as 20 m and spread 10 m laterally. The world's largest known wisteria is in Sierra Madre, California, measuring more than 1 acre in size and weighing 250 tons. Planted in 1894, it is of the 'Chinese lavender' variety.

The flowers have drooping racemes that vary in length from species to species and are noted for their sweet and musky scents. For those among us who love wisteria but have neither the time nor the ability to climb ladders twice yearly in order to prune them, Wisteria frutescens 'Amethyst Falls' provides gardeners with the perfect solution. Quick to establish and flower, often in the first year – the top growth remains manageably compact when planted in a container. It will still grow to around 3-5m if planted in the ground. While there is much information out there regarding this cultivar, there is one tiny little detail that is often omitted, purposely or not. As beautiful as 'Amethyst Falls' may be, this cultivar of wisteria unlike other sweet smelling varieties smells like cats pee.

BHS News

Looking forward to seeing you all next Wednesday for our garden visits. I will send out more details over the weekend. Very little rain forecast for the coming days so with everything growing like crazy its difficult to keep on top of the watering. Plus its still cold at night so I can't decide what to plant out but the greenhouse is so hot during the day the small seedlings are suffering. Heyho, thats gardening for you!



Barb

Top Tips for maintaining Wisteria from Mark Saunders, head gardener, at Fittleworth House in Sussex



- Buy a plant in flower if possible, you will know it can flower. Cut the flowers off at planting to encourage root growth
- Make sure the new plants home is big enough to allow it to grow, not in a pot, and make sure any supporting structure is strong enough
- Pruning three times a year will encourage flowers but only lightly prune young plants
- Don't site in a frost pocket
- Watch out for growth going under tiles, into gutters, along phone/electric wires and stop accordingly
- Anyone planting a new one should really think in the long term about how the wisteria will be supported whether its vertically or horizontally. Wooded pergolas can create a good frame.

Many of us will remember this magnificent specimen from our visit to the house some years ago.

WHAT'S COMING UP AT BHS IN 2025/6

Meetings are held at St James Parish Church Hall,
Church Street, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 8DE.
from October until April
on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month from 1.30 - 3.45pm.
Tea/coffee and biscuits when you arrive. Talk at 2pm.

Summer Garden Visits see next page for details

Wednesday May 7	All day self drive to Chobham gardens
Wednesday June 18	Coach Trip to Penshurst Place and Gardens
Thursday July 24	am Gilbert White gardens: pm Hanging Hosta garden
Friday August 22	pm: Waterers Garden, Lightwater
Saturday September 13	pm: BHS garden party, Sue V's in Pyford

Upcoming In-House Meetings

1st October 2025	Behind the scenes at Savill Gardens John Anderson
5th November 2025	The Creation and Restoration of Painshill Cherrill Sands
3rd December 2025	The Best of British Paul Whittle
7th January 2026	The World of Alpines Jon Evans
4th February 2026	TBC
4th March 2026	Garden Quiz Geoff Hawkins
1st April 2026	AGM and Spring Show

Annual Membership is £20.00
£2.00 for non-members (first visit is free)

Garden Visits

May 7: 10.30am Timber Hill Garden, Chertsey Road, Chobham, GU24 8JF
£7 garden entry (coffee/biscuits - bring cash on day)

Optional light lunch at Heathfarm Cafe https://www.heatherfarm.cafe/

2pm Westways Farm, Chobham, GU24 8HH
£10 entry to include tea and cake

These gardens are opening specially for us but check out the details on the ngs website

June 18: Coach trip to Penshurst Place in Kent
£25 (more details in January newsletter)

July 24: 10.30am Gilbert White House and Gardens, Selborne, GU34 3JH

25 acres of gardens created by 18C naturalist Gilbert White. On site cafe, free parking, in the centre of the lovely village of Selborne and a house to explore with The Oates exhibition of his tragic expedition to the South Pole if time allows.

Free entry if RHS (partner garden) house top-up available

2pm Narra, Frensham Lane, Lindford, Hampshire, GU35 0QJ

This is the garden of John Baker who gave us the great talk on Hostas in November. Parking is about a 3 minutes walk and there will be plants for sale.

£7 entry to include tea and cake

August 22: 2pm Waterer's Garden, Lightwater, Surrey, GU18 5TA

A ⅓ acre plot within the village of Lightwater, hidden away behind the house built for George Waterer and family in 1931. Designed and laid out in the 1930s by the Waterer family, who were nursery owners and now own Crocus. Restored and gardened by the current owners since 1997

£8.50 entry to include tea and cake

Opening specially for us but check out details on the ngs website

September 13: Saturday afternoon visit to BHS committee member Sue V's wonderful garden in Pyford with refreshments provided by the committee

Spring Show Exhibits and Winners

	1st	2nd	3rd
Spring Flowers	Sue Vlassopulos	Lesley Behrendt	Di Balding
Pressed Flowers	Sue Vlassopulos	Elizabeth Palfrey	Patsy Jagdev
Single Sprig	Di Burnand	Georgina Jefferies	Jackie Aylott
Photo	Priscilla Austen	Jackie Aylott	Barb Royston
Cheese scones	Ginnie Jones	Georgina Jefferies	Di Balding
Hyacinth Bulb	Di Burnand	Jackie Aylott	Jayne Gray
Best in Show Salver	Sue Vlassopulos's Spring Flowers in a vase		
Ellen Palfrey Cup	Sue Vlassopulos's Pressed Flowers		

An excellent show
19 members exhibited 52 entries
Well done everyone!











Invasive Plants

What not to plant, how to avoid a fine and what to do if they're already in your garden

There are over 35 plants listed on the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 that are deemed to be invasive non-native plants in the UK as they spread rapidly and threaten ecosystems, habitats or native species and regulations exist to prevent further sales or planting of these plants.
If a listed plant is already growing on your land, Defra does not consider it to be intentionally kept or cultivated and you're not committing an offence. This includes plants in private gardens, parks and estates open to the public. You do not have to remove listed plants growing wild on your land. However, you must not intentionally grow, cultivate, sell or allow wild listed plants to reproduce.
If any of these invasive plants appear or are already established in your garden, it's your responsibility to prevent them from spreading and causing harm to surrounding landscapes, or you might be fined.
Although it is enshrined in law, there does not seem to be any reported enforcement action undertaken by Natural England or the Environment Agency in the last year for this specific offence. However, it is worth being careful if you spot any of these plants to make sure they don't spread to neighbours' gardens or the countryside, or cause damage to or lower the value of your home. For serious offences, you could be facing up to two years imprisonment, or an unlimited fine. For lesser offences, up to a year's imprisonment and a fine of up to £40,000 (or both).

Here are some that will be no surprise to you but a few that probably will be!

Fallopia japonica (Japanese Knotweed)



Notorious for its invasiveness, Japanese Knotweed is a particularly aggressive plant which requires specialist treatment. The Environment Agency must be informed whether you decide to treat the plant at the growth site or remove and dispose of the plant at an authorised facility.

Gunnera tinctoria (Giant Rhubarb)



Once admired for its large, umbrella-like leaves, giant rhubarb plants have been banned from sale since 2023 as the sheer size of the plant blocks sunlight and nutrients to native species.

Heracleum mantegazzianum (Giant Hogweed)



Although beloved by pollinators, this enormous umbellifer escaped into the wild in 1828 and has since spread throughout much of the UK. Giant Hogweed is classed as 'controlled waste', and you'll have to inform the Environment Agency and dispose of the plant at a registered site. You should not touch it without full protective clothing on as the sap can cause burns when exposed to sunlight.

Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora (Montbretia)



This colourful perennial is a common garden plant in the UK, and its arching stems of deep orange bell-like flowers are easily recognisable. However, its spread into the countryside is a cause for concern, earning it a place on schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Spreading vigorously through a network of rhizomes, the plant is now endemic in many of our native habitats and it's endangering local ecosystems.

Rhododendron ponticum (Rhododendron)



There have been incredible efforts to eradicate Rhododendron ponticum from the British Isles. Although attractive and once a prized ornamental garden plant, Rhododendron ponticum has an aggressive growth habit, seeds prolifically through wind dispersal, and forms large, dense bushes which steal sunlight and nutrients from native habitats.

Cotoneaster horizontalis (Cotoneaster)



According to the Wildlife Trust, it's taken over large sections of limestone grassland and has outcompeted many of our native species. There are actually five different Cotoneaster species on the offenders list and if you have any of them growing in your garden, you should make sure to dispose of any cuttings responsibly. Contact your local authority to check how to do this without risk of a fine.

Impatiens gladulifera (Himalayan balsam)



Commonly spotted along waterways, this tall annual with scented flowers in shades of pink and purple achieves its vigorous spread through seed dispersal, growing into a dense plant which outcompetes native species for vital resources. Himalayan balsam is also regarded as 'controlled waste' meaning the Environment Agency needs to be informed of any removal, and it can only be disposed of at registered waste or landfill sites.

Rosa rugosa (Japanese Rose)



A popular hedging plant, Rosa rugosa is tough and easy to grow with attractive pink, fragrant blooms in the summer and bright red rosehips in autumn. It spreads quickly from seed and resilient suckers, and forms dense thickets that can shade out and smother native plants, dramatically altering delicate habitats. Although not banned from sale, this Japanese Rose poses a high-risk of a fine because gardeners like to grow it along boundary walls where it could easily escape.

Interested to hear what you have in your garden.

I have cotoneaster and Crocosmia and did have Himalayan balsam but seem to have got rid of that but definitely didn't report it. In addition I have been pruning the cotoneaster regularly and dumping it into the 'brown garden bin'



Open Garden

A few members went here last year with Surrey Garden Trust and really enjoyed it - check out last July's newsletter (if you still have it!) for a review by Georgina, Jenny T and Priscilla

SURREY HORTICULTURAL FEDERATION

Our 2025 GARDEN VISIT is on

Sunday 29th June to

'Lower House',

Bowlhead Green, Godalming, Surrey, GU8 6NW

(By very kind permission of Georgina Harvey)



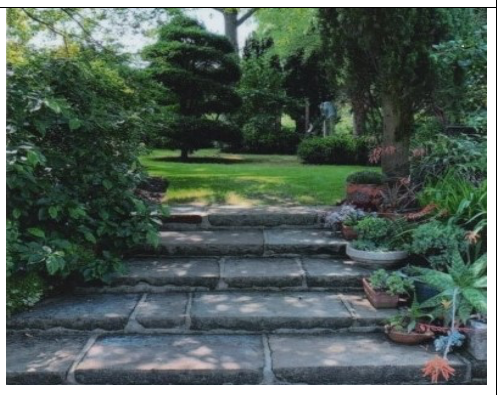
This large private garden will be open on this day exclusively for SHF Clubs.

Garden entry from 2.00 to 4.30 pm

Teas Available on the Terrace

Entry £8 each which will be donated to the owner's charity. Free parking and plants for sale.

Gertrude Jekyll's 1916 plans resonate throughout the garden with recent additions. Topiary area with Buxus and white roses, and climate change areas of drought-resistant, pest and disease-free species. Many unusual shrubs, trees and Roses, kitchen garden and greenhouses. Routes available for wheelchair users.



To find it:- Take the main A3 south from Guildford, leaving at the Thursley/Bowlhead Green junction (shortly before the tunnel), then follow Bowlhead Green sign left into French Lane and approx. 1 mile until the small green. Turn left into Lower House Lane and follow until the end. Alternatively, take the A 286 from Milford to Brook, then follow Bowlhead Green signs, turning right at the small green. Both ways are very narrow roads, please take care!

Bits and Bobs



ASHFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

PLANT FAIR

Saturday 3rd May

10am – 11.30am

Vegetables Plants
Bedding Plants
Trailing Baskets Plants
Shrubs
REFRESHMENTS

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH HALL
MUNCASTER CLOSE
ASHFORD TW15 2EE

Best gardening gloves ever - Barb has plenty left



Amazing value at just £3.50
Small, medium and large



Someone took the wrong pot home after the show - I have it if you want it back plus someone left their bonsai kit raffle prize behind

We all grow salvias I think but did you know they have an added bonus: their stems and leaves are full of sulphur. This compound can help protect against plant disease. Sarah Raven says that she has under-planted her roses with them and five years on they are almost free of black spot and mildew.

Would be interesting for you to look at any plants nearby your salvias and see if they are any healthier.



Lovely Spring Flowers

Stunning Clematis cartmanii 'Avalanche', crab apple blossom, Auricula Mariano and an alpine trough in Sue V's garden











This amazing very early flowering rose, 'Canary Bird' was bought 21 years ago by Elizabeth for her mum. Liz says last year it nearly died but has certainly had a new lease of life this year!

SOCIETY INFORMATION

Committee Officers and members

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Garden Visit organisers:	Barbara Royston and Georgina Jefferies
Refreshments:	Georgina Jefferies and Sue Vlassopolus
In House speakers:	Barbara Royston
Raffle:	Diana Burnand
Plant Sales:	Ginnie Jones
Advertising:	Jennifer Tribe
SHF Representative:	Jennifer Tribe
Newsletter Editor:	Barbara Royston
Website administrator:	Barbara Royston

