

## Plants for Problem Areas – Work with Nature

All gardens, even the smallest have several different habitats & microclimates within them eg shade, dry & sunny, moist, wall hedge etc. All these are usually regarded as problem places but in fact each has specific flora that will thrive there.

Working with nature is exploring your gardens underlying potential by using plants that are well suited to the conditions you are working with, choosing those that are native or that readily naturalise because they come from similar habitats in temperate parts of the world. In doing this you will end up with a healthy thriving garden that flows with both the weather & the season. Trying to fight nature eg growing shade loving plants in the sun will never bring rewards.

The starting point is –

### Assess your garden

- Location ie local environment
- Soil ph
- Beds & borders – existing or planned
- Lawn
- Sun or shade – Dry shade, Damp shade, Deep shade, Sunny sites – extent
- Damp places
- Wind – exposed or sheltered
- Trees
- Longer grass
- Fences, trellis & walls
- Pools, ponds, streams

### Give Plants the best start

- Improve soil
- Create shelter – but take care not to create a frost pocket
- Weed control
- Make & use your own compost

### Match plants to habitats

- Visual Characteristics

Hot sunny dry – small narrow leaves, silver coloured plants

Windy exposed – leaves split into small leaflets, finely divided, plants form low growing rounded shapes

Shade – large thin leaves to catch maximum sunlight & rain

- Latin plant name clues eg *sylvatica* (growing in wooded area)

### Caring for plants in tough situations

- Planting - get plant off to good start, plant correctly, incorporate manure
- Watering
- Pruning
- Mulching
- Staking
- Control overly successful plants & Frost protection

## Plants for Clay Soils

### Shrubs

Plant Name	Situation
Abelia x grandi flora	Sun - Sheltered
Berberis darwinii	Sun or semi shade
Chaenomeles japonica	Sun
Cytisus Killiney Red	Sun – acid soil
Choisya Ternata	Sun or semi shade
Philadelphus virginal	Sun
Hydragea arborescens grandiflora	Sun or semi shade
Magnolia Stellata or Magnolia Susan	Sun
Pyracantha orange glow	Sun or semi shade
Roses	Sun or semi shade
Viburnum davidii	Sun or semi shade
Escallonia rubra Crimson Spire	Sun
Escallonia langleyensis	Sun
Colutea x media Copper Beauty	Sun or Semi shade
Kerria japonica Pleniflora	Sun to shade
Rhododendron Mrs G W Leak	Sun or semi shade – acid soil
Ribes sanguineum White icicle	Sun
Spiraea japonica Anthony Waterer	Sun
Wiegela Fiesta	Sun or semi shade
Potentilla Elizabeth	Sun
Syringa vulgaris Charles Joly	Sun

### Perennials

Michaelmas daisy – carnival or alma potschke	Sun
Astrantia major	Sun or semi shade
Anemone Honorine Jobert	Sun or semi shade
Astilbe	Sun or semi shade
Monarda –bergamot	Sun
Pulmonaria	Sun or semi shade
Rubeckia - Goldstrum	Sun
Alcea rosea - hollyhock	Sun
Digitalis – foxglove	Semi shade
Hosta	Sun or semi shade
Polemonium retans – Lambrook mauve	Sun or semi shade
Cirncifuga simplex	Sun or semi shade
Helenium Moerheim Beauty	Sun
Heliopsis Ballet Dancer	Sun
Solidago Goldenmosa	Sun
Kirengeshoma palmata	Semi shade acid soil
Persicaria bistorta superba	Sun
Aconitum Bressingham Spire	Sun or semi shade
Brunnera macrophylla	Semi shade
Crocsmia Lucifer	Sun
Eupatorium Maculatum Atropurpureum	Sun

Aruncus dioicus	Sun or semi shade
Inula hookeri	Sun
Ligularia The Rocket	Sun or semi shade
Rodgersia podophylla	Sun or semi shade
Trollius europaeus	Sun or semi shade
Dodecatheon pulchellum	Shade
Phlox	Semi shade

#### Trees

Acer - various	Sun or semi shade
Alnus incana – grey alder	Sun
Sorbus	Sun or semi shade
Salix	Sun or semi shade
Sambucus	Sun or semi shade
Aesculus hippocastanum Baumannii - Double Horse Chestnut	Sun
Cotoneaster frigidus	Sun or semi shade
Catalpa bignoniodes – Indian Bean Tree	Sun or semi shade
Quercus robur – English Oak	Sun
Populus maximowiczii	Sun
Ilex – Holly	Sun or semi shade
Malus	Sun
Carpinus betulus	Sun or semi shade

#### Bulbs

Arum Italicum	Sun or semi shade
Cyclamen	Semi shade
Fritillaria	Semi shade