

## TREES, SHRUBS AND FLOWERING PLANTS FOR SPECIFIC HABITATS

### FLOWERING PLANTS AND SMALL SHRUBS FOR TUBS AND CONTAINERS

The following lists are selections of both native and non-native flowering plants and small shrubs suitable for growing in tubs and containers and which could be used as an educational resource as many have medicinal, culinary or domestic uses. All the species listed are wildlife friendly, particularly for insects and are low maintenance. All require an open, sunny site.

**Cornfield Annuals:** these will need to be resown every autumn and require a bright, sunny aspect in soil with a low nutrient content. A sustainable method of re-seeding is to shake out all the dead flower heads in September into the container ready for germination the following spring. (The seeds of the corn poppy annuals need to be exposed to frost before germination so sowing in spring may not result in flowering in the same year.)

Corncockle: *Agrostemma githago*; Note: seeds are poisonous, sow in the autumn

Corn poppy: *Papaver rhoeas*; Note: seeds are poisonous, sow in the autumn

Cornflower: *Centaurea cyanas*; Also autumn sown

Corn marigold: *Chrysanthemum segetum*; Can be sown in spring or autumn

Cornflower: *Centaurea cyanas*; Favours an autumn sowing

**Herbs: (shrubs):** these small shrubs require a dry, south facing aspect such as a patio area. All containers for herbs should be prepared with a layer of broken crocks at the bottom of the container for drainage as these species will be killed by water-logging. Do not use peat based compost as this dries out too rapidly; use "home-grown" compost. Plant one species per container.

Hyssop: *Hyssopus officinalis*; Ht: 60cm, soil must be humus rich, good for bees and butterflies.

Lavender: *Lavandula agustifolia*; Ht: 80cm, requires poor soil, good for butterflies and bees

Rosemary: *Rosmarinus officinalis*; Ht: 1.5m, requires humus rich soil, may require covering with horticultural fleece in severe frost, good for butterflies and bees.

Lemon verbena: *Lippia citriodona*; Ht: 1.5m,

Sage: *Salvia officinalis*; Ht: 70cm, may need covering with horticultural fleece in severe weather conditions, good for butterflies and bees.

**Culinary herb mixes:** Use one species per container.

Borage: *Borago officinalis*; Ht: 50cm, annual

Dill: *Anethum graveolens*; Ht: 2m, annual

Fennel: *Foeniculum vulgare*; Ht: 1.6m, perennial

Lovage: *Levisticum officinale*; Ht: 1m, perennial

**The following can be mixed according to preference:**

Chervil: *Anthriscus cerefolium*; Ht: 30cm, annual

Chives: *Allium schoenoprasum*; Ht: 30cm, perennial

Curry plant: *Helichrysum italicum microphyllum*, perennial

German chamomile: *Matricaria chamomile*; Ht: 10cm, annual

Lemon balm: *Melissa officinalis*; Ht: 60cm, perennial

Lemon thyme: *Thymus citriodorus*; perennial  
Oregano (wild marjoram): *Origanum vulgare*; Ht: up to 1m, perennial  
Pot marigold: *Calendula officinalis*; Ht: 25cm, annual  
Sweet marjoram: *Origanum majore*; Ht: 25cm, perennial

### **Spring flowers:**

Grape hyacinth: *Muscari armeniacum* - good for early bumble bees, at least 50 bulbs required for an 85cm /34" container, nperennial.  
Perennial wallflower: *Erysimum* varieties; good for early bumble bees.

### **Summer flowers:**

Nasturtium: *Tropaeolum majus*; annual, but will self-seed, use a mix of climbing, trailing and recumbent varieties. Good for flies, hoverflies and butterflies, good companion plant.  
Scabious: *Scabiosa caucasica*. v. *Pink mist* good in combination with  
Erigeron: *Erigeron* v. *charity*; both perennials.

### **Resources:**

1. Mabey.R.(Editor), "The complete New Herbal", Penguin Books, ISBN: 0-14-012682-1
2. Sulzberger.R. "Herb Gardening; a Step-by- Step gardening Guide", Aura books plc ISBN: 0-947793-70-4
3. Landlife, "How to make Wildflower Habitat Gardens", Landlife National Wildflower Centre" ISBN: 0-9523472-2-9, Telephone: 0151 7371819, email: [info@landlife.org.uk](mailto:info@landlife.org.uk)  
[www.landlife.org.uk](http://www.landlife.org.uk)
4. For approved suppliers of native wildflowers, use the Floralocale, [www.floralocale.org](http://www.floralocale.org)