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 waterlogging. 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 major*; Ht: 25cm, perennial

**Spring flowers:**  
Grape hyacinth: *Muscari armeniacum* - good for early bumble bees, at least 50 bulbs required for an 85cm /34" container, perennial.  
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 caucasia* v. *Pink mist* good in combination with  
Erigeron: *Erigeron v. charity*; both perennials.

**Resources:**  
   ISBN: 0-947793-70-4
   [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)