

SHRUBS AND TREES
FOR HEAVY CLAY

Plants for Heavy Clay

Heavy clay soils are hard to work because they are waterlogged and sticky in winter, yet dry out in summer to resemble a form of concrete. Their other disadvantage is that they are slow to warm up in spring. However, they are fertile and will grow a wider range of plants if the structure can be lightened by the addition of compost or grit which will help to aerate the earth. Ideally this can be incorporated in the spring when the worst of the wet has drained. It is better to avoid working on the ground earlier in the year, because of the nature of the clay. At this time the heavy soil will become compacted if trodden on when sticky. The following plants will tolerate heavy clay.



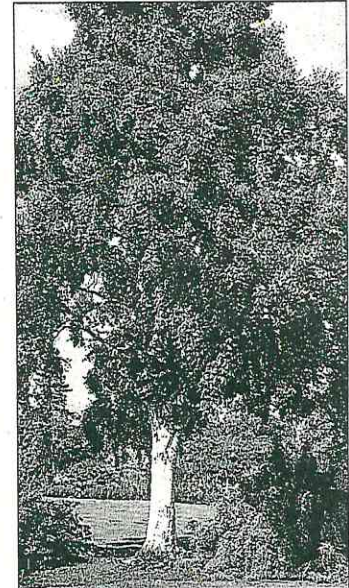
Abelia ○
All forms of this shrub need fertile soil but it must be well-drained. *A. schumannii* is valuable for its late flowering from summer to autumn. Needs shelter as not fully hardy. 1.5m/5ft H and W



Betula albo-sinensis. The white Chinese birch tree is noted for its fine rufous peeling bark, light green leaves and airy habit. 15 x 4.5m/49 x 15ft



Aesculus parviflora ○
The bottlebrush buckeye produces its candles of flowers from mid to late summer. It is also valuable for its changing leaf colour – from bronze when young, to green, to yellow in autumn. Shrubby growth of 3m/10ft H and W.



Betula ermanii
Another beautiful-barked birch, with a pinkish-cream trunk. Glossy leaves colour well in autumn. 15 x 4.5/49 x 15ft

Handwritten signatures and initials at the bottom of the page, including 'M P', 'Dh', and 'B ce'.

PROSTRATE AND
SHORT
EVERGREENS

ALLEGATO M
Evergreens

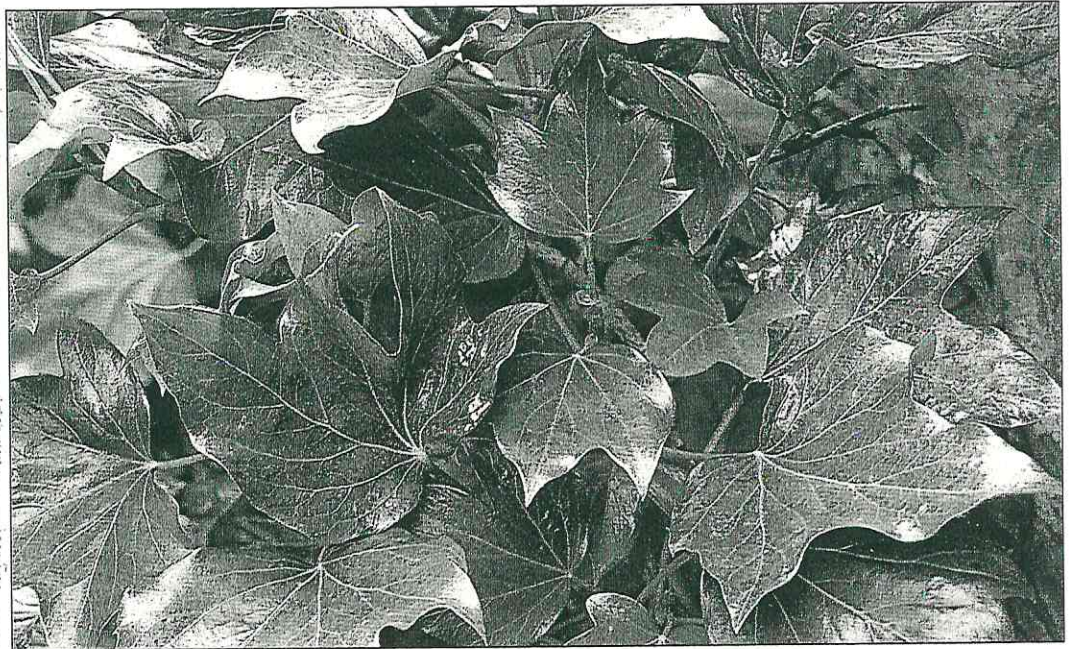
2

It is a cardinal rule that evergreens should form the backbone of a garden, and this is especially true in the area near the house. These are the plants that will keep the garden looking clothed in winter in a northern climate and if they are neglected here, particularly, you will be looking out at a bare area of masonry for half the year.

The best possible use of evergreens is to place them with a view to their collective appearance when all else has withered around them in winter. Don't bunch them all together but space them out around the boundaries, in the corners, near the house and at the furthest point from the house. In this way, you can ensure that the garden looks dressed even in the bleakest months. Vary the type of evergreens, too; choose small as well as tall subjects, conifers but also broad-leaved shrubs, and both delicate and bold-foliaged plants. Supplement the list with evergreen climbers (pages 220-229), with evergreens from gold and bright green plants (pages 60-67) and those plants which have been marked with an E throughout the book.



Dryas octopetala
(Mountain avens) E: ○
Mat-forming shrub with oak-like leaves, shining green above, and white, yellow-centred flowers in early summer. 10 × 37cm/4in × 1ft 3in



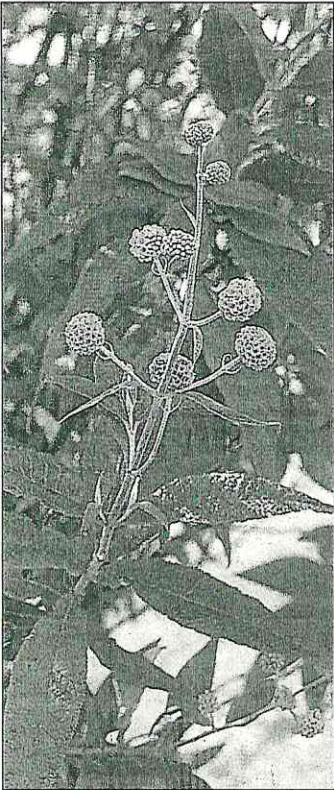
× *Fatshedera lizei* E
Shade-tolerant, glossy-leaved plant which is a cross between *Fatsia japonica* and ivy. Lax-growing stems make spreading, prostrate ground-cover or they can be tied to supports to form a shrub up to 2.1m/7ft.

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page, including a large signature and several smaller initials.

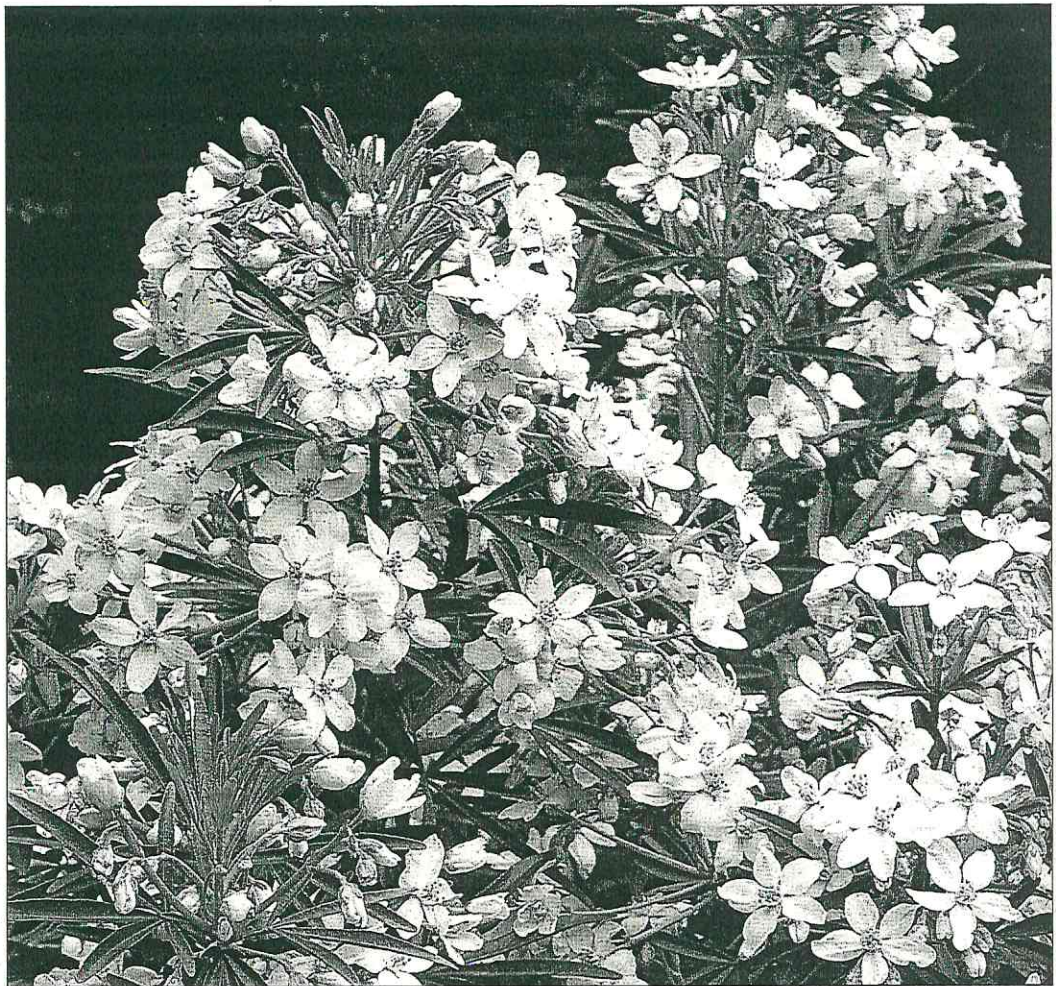
SHRUBS WITH
FRAGRANT
FLOWERS

Scented Plants

Fragrance is an unseen dimension to plants, invisible but nonetheless very potent. Some plants are imbued with it so that each part carries the scent, whereas in other plants only the flowers are perfumed. A number emit so pervasive a scent that it can be smelt twenty yards away whilst others release their volatile oils only when rubbed or brushed. It will give you the greatest pleasure if you can grow a few of the sweeter scented plants near the house so that their fragrance becomes a constant companion. Alternatively an ideal way of growing these plants is to put them in an enclosure which will intensify their scent.



Buddleja globosa Semi-E:
○
Honey scented small orange globes are produced in late spring to early summer. 1.8 x 1.2m/6 x 4ft



Choisya 'Aztec Pearl' E: ○
A more compact pretty relative of the Mexican orange blossom (*C. ternata*) with finely cut leaves. Flowers profusely in late spring. 1.2 x 1m/4 x 3ft

[Handwritten signatures]

LOW-GROWING
GROUND-COVER
PLANTS



Cornus canadensis
(Creeping dogwood) LH
Plant for sun or shade but
needs peaty, lime-free soil.
Creamy-white flower
bracts in early summer
followed by clustered red
berries. 15 x 60cm/
6in x 2ft



Dicentra 'Bacchanal' ● ●
Very accommodating
running herbaceous plant
with bright green leaves
and pendent crimson
flowers in spring to
summer for a long period.
45cm/1½ft H and W

ALLEGATO H
Ground-cover Plants

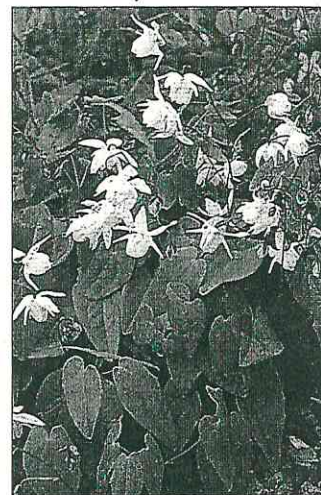
4

Ground-cover plants, whether shrubs or perennials, are subjects whose habit of dense growth suppresses the weeds which might grow beneath them. If you confine your plantings to weed-suppressors only, you will achieve the kind of garden that is nearly labour-free.

Almost any plant whose skirt comes right down to the ground and is evergreen (or, if herbaceous or deciduous, is nonetheless densely leafy) qualifies as a weed-suppressor. So a large number of other plants mentioned elsewhere in this book will fulfil this role and you can use these to supplement the list below of effective shrubs and perennials. However, in all cases, the ground has to be kept weed-free until the plants establish themselves, join up and take over the job themselves. After this stage your only task will be to curb by cutting back (or digging up) the more vigorous plants which threaten to ramp outside their territory.



Ajuga reptans 'Pink Surprise' E
Neat carpeter with bright pink flower spikes in late spring and bronze leaves. 15 x 60cm/6in x 2ft. There are also several other cultivars, the best of which is 'Burgundy Glow'. 10 x 45cm/4in x 1½ft



Epimedium E: ○ in variety
All excellent for cool,
shady positions. *E.*
youngianum has white
flowers in the form
'Niveum' (shown above),
E. grandiflorum 'Rose
Queen' is pink, both
blooming in late spring.
Other epimediums bear
similarly shaped flowers in
yellow, orange, red or
mauve. One of the most
vigorous is the yellow *E.*
perralderianum. 30cm/1ft H
and W

Handwritten signatures and initials in red ink.

SHRUBS FOR SEASONAL DISPLAY: SPRING

Shrubs for Seasonal Display

Whether you are planting a mixed or a shrub border, it is a good idea to ensure some continuity of flowering throughout the year. A selection of flowers for winter is given on pages 138-9 but here is a choice of some of the best flowering shrubs for a spring to autumn display. They represent a possible nucleus to which you can add shrubs from the rest of the book.

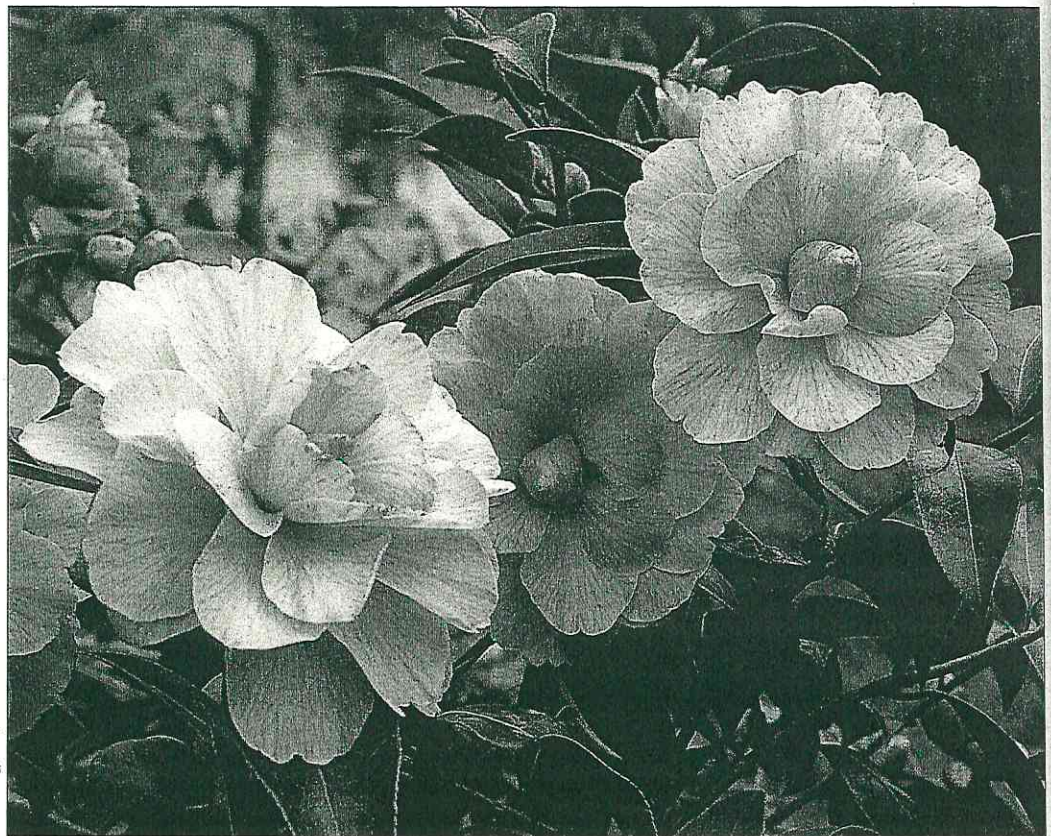
You might decide to confine yourself to different representatives of just one (or two) genus for a particular season. If so, arguably the best for spring are camellias; for midsummer and after, roses (with cistus quite a good second in mild-winter areas, even though they are not reliably hardy nor as long-lived); for later summer and into autumn, hydrangeas. These groups alone will give you an enormous choice of cultivars.



***Berberis darwinii* E**
Clustered orange flowers followed by dusky blue fruits on a large, prickly weed-suppressing shrub, growing to 4m/13ft H and W.



Forsythia x intermedia
A vigorous shrub which makes a very showy display early in the year, which makes up for its rather dull green foliage. One of the best cultivars is 'Lynwood'. 3 x 1.8m/10 x 6ft



***Camellia x williamsii* 'Galaxie' E: LH: O**
This bushy shrub with glossy dark green leaves is arguably one of the most floriferous of all the camellias. It makes twiggy growth which is festooned with masses of soft pink flowers, veined with a deeper rose. It is a manageable choice for a small garden. 1.5 x 1.2m/5 x 4ft

Handwritten signatures and initials at the bottom of the page, including 'A F Lh' and 'B G'.

TEMPORARY EFFECTS:
RAPID CLIMBERS OR TRAILERS

Temporary Effects: Annuals, Pots etc.

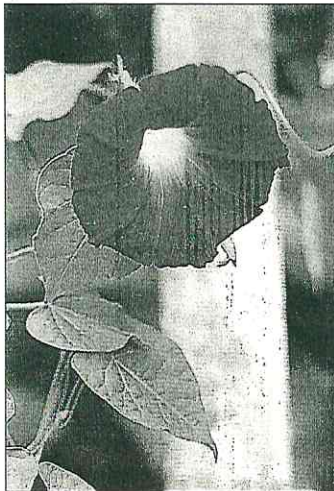
In any confined space, one needs a change of plants to avoid the monotony of looking at the same scene day after day. Annuals and half-hardy annuals are temporary residents and will give an abundance of flower and/or lushness of foliage that only the warm weather makes possible.

The most useful are those annuals with a long season in flower and also those plants which perform well in pots and tubs. Plant annuals in bare pockets or areas, or sow the longer-flowering varieties in the empty spaces of any missing paving stones, so long as the soil is friable. Consider also using tender, rapid-growing climbers either to fill spaces on walls or to festoon large shrubs or to conceal structural eyesores etc. before permanent plants have begun to cover them.

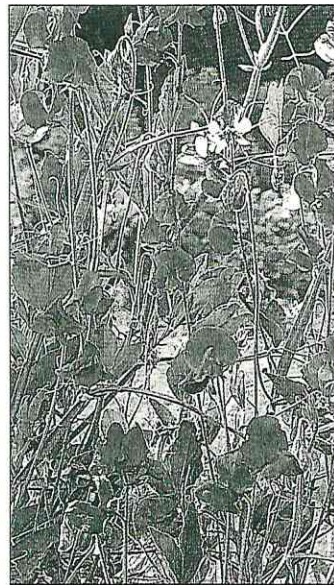
Most annuals will flourish only in full sun, but a few in the lists on these pages will thrive in shadier positions.



Cobaea scandens ○
Tender perennial grown as a half-hardy annual. Purple bells or cream in the form 'Alba'. Gives dense coverage, but needs support. May sprint to 6m/20ft in the season.



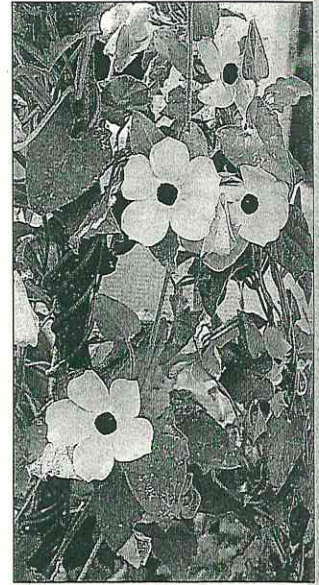
Ipomoea rubro caerulea ○
This is the blue morning glory. Other forms have deep violet, carmine or white flowers, or striped or variegated blooms or leaves. Grown as a half-hardy annual, but blooms well only in warm summers. Support is necessary. 3m/10ft



Lathyrus odoratus (Sweet pea) ○
There is a large colour range of this hardy annual, including bi-colours. All are fragrant. The antique varieties are even more scented but tend to have small flowers and an untidy habit of growth. 1.8m/6ft



Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum*) ○
The climbing form flowers all summer in a range of yellows and reds. Will trail to give ground-cover or climb on a trellis, shrubs or a hedge. One of its virtues is that it will do well on poor, dry soil. Hardy annual. 1.8m/6ft



Thunbergia alata ○
Thin climber with cream or orange flowers with a black centre, or white with a yellow centre in the form 'Angel Wings'. Blooms for a long period. Support with a wire trellis or canes, or use as a trailing plant in a container. Tender perennial grown as a half-hardy annual. May reach 2.4m/8ft.

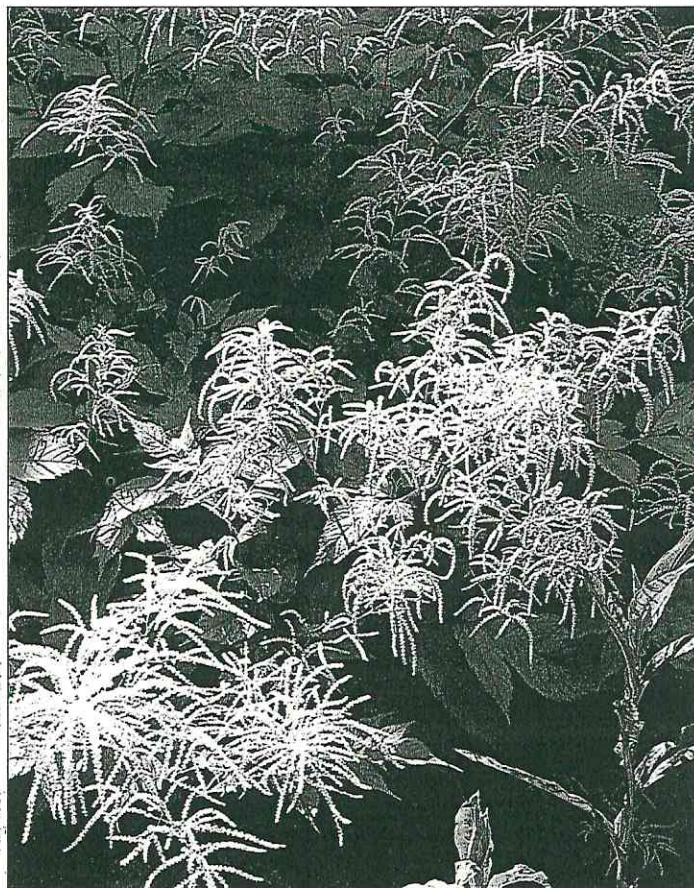
Handwritten signatures in brown ink at the bottom of the page.

One criticism levelled at the mixed border is that it involves its owner in hard work to make it prosper. This need not be true. A mixed border is easy to maintain so long as its inmates are carefully selected with this aim in mind. Plan it along the lines suggested on page 8, and when you come to choose hardy perennials, pick them from the following list. All the plants in this section have been chosen not only for their beauty but also for their labour-saving qualities. You won't need to stake them or lift and divide them regularly to keep them flourishing. If you give them the conditions they need, and mulch as required, they will thrive undisturbed in the same position for many years, and there are some which insist on being left alone for ever.



Agapanthus 'Headbourne Hybrids' ○

Handsome, relatively hardy clump-forming plants bearing large heads of deep or pale blue tubular flowers in mid-late summer. 75cm/2½ft H and W



Aruncus dioicus 'Kneiffii' ○

Mound-forming, cut-leaved foliage plant with creamy plumes of starry flowers in mid-summer. Part-shade and good, moist soil. 1m x 60cm/3 x 2ft



Aquilegia 'Snow Queen'

White spurred flowers for early summer (for several months if dead-headed). Big colour range among other border hybrids. Short-lived perennials, best in light soil and longest flowering in part-shade. 60 x 45cm/2 x 1½ft

Handwritten signatures or initials at the bottom of the page.

EVERGREEN
HEDGES

Evergreen Hedges



Aucuba japonica E
Handsome hedge especially in the variegated form or berrying (female) clones. Tolerant of poor soil and shade. Large leaves need careful trimming with secateurs. Plant 1m/3ft apart. 2.4m/8ft

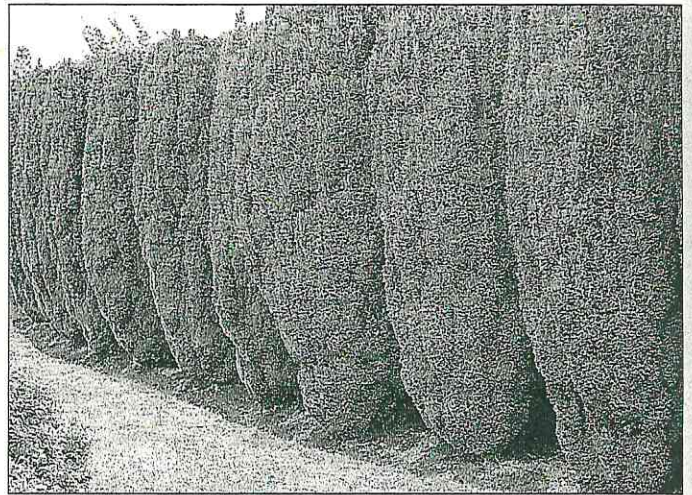


Berberis x stenophylla E
Vigorous, dark, dense hedge with an arching habit of growth. Its thorns help to keep out intruders. Gold flowers in early spring. Plant 45cm/1 1/2ft apart. Clip after flowering. 2.4m/8ft

Tall, dense, evergreen hedges are virtually living walls and can be used as such. At all times of the year, they form barriers within a garden and redoubtable boundaries around it. Some of those listed below are far too big for small gardens, as they will outgrow their station on reaching maturity. Others, however, can be kept clipped into slimness and should be preferred where space is short. Some flower and fruit, others give a more self-effacing display but lend themselves to intricate trimming to provide doorways, windows and topiary shapes. Quick-growing varieties are more demanding, as they require clipping three or even four times a year. The slow hedges make you wait, but repay this disadvantage by needing only one annual clip. Varieties with very large leaves look best if they are hand-trimmed with secateurs to avoid mutilating their foliage, and in such cases, the length of hedge should be taken into account. A few varieties are toxic to stock and should not be grown where animals can reach the leaves.



Buxus sempervirens
'Handsworthensis' E
(Box)
Makes a dark formal hedge up to 4m/13ft with aromatic leaves. Needs well-drained soil and is good on chalk. Plant 45cm/1 1/2ft apart. Trim in early summer and again, if needed, in early autumn.



Chamaecyparis lawsoniana (Lawson cypress) E
Coniferous hedge which is good in wind and part-shade. There are many cultivars of different shades from blue to bright green to gold. Normal rate of growth is about 60cm/2ft a year, but 'Ellwoodii' (above), with grey-green foliage, steel blue in winter, is a much slower cultivar, reducing the need to clip. Plant about 1m/3ft apart.

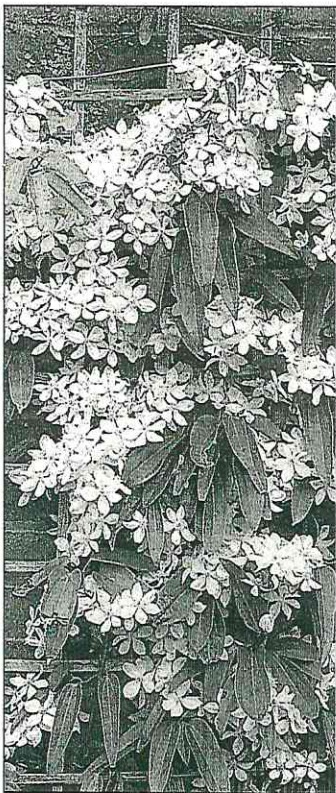
[Handwritten signatures and initials]

CLIMBERS:
EVERGREENS

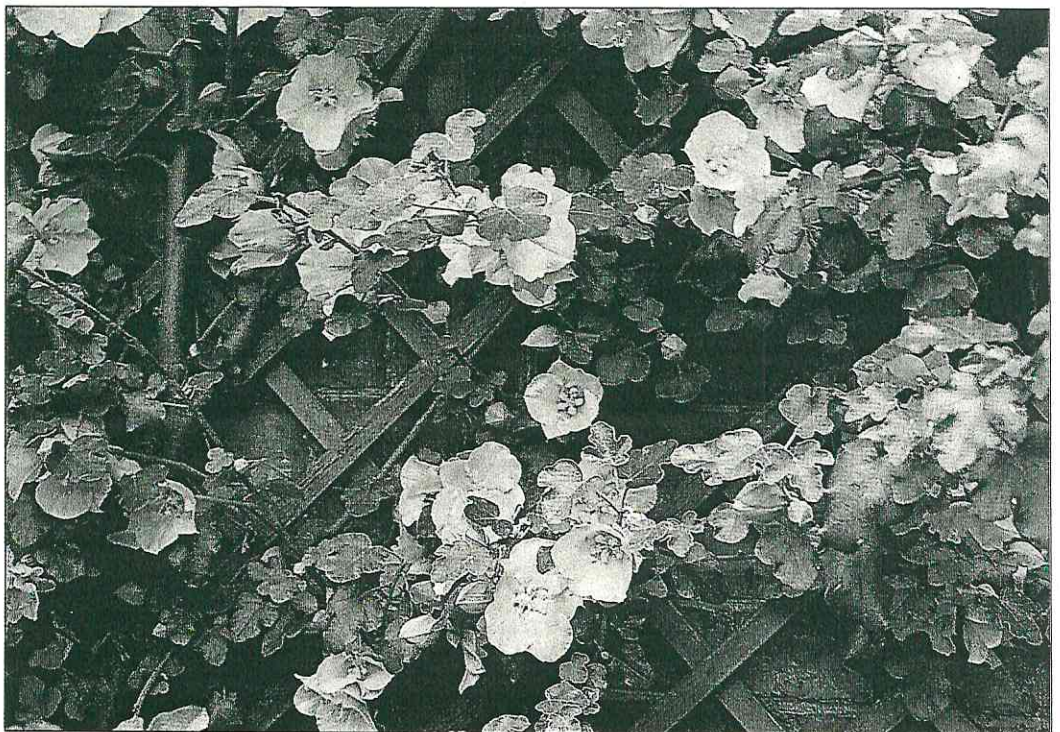
A WEATO M
Climbers

9

Climbing plants support themselves, whether by aerial roots or by adhesive pads or by twining stems (or leaf stems) or by spines on their long arching shoots which hook into and over objects in their path. Others are not strictly speaking climbers, but will shove and lean their way up a wall, or can be trained by securing their stems to wires or trellis. All these different types are indispensable for hiding unsightly boundaries or buildings, whether walls, fences, screens or sheds. Festoon these eyesores with colour and foliage, and you have a vertical garden instead. Climbers are also key plants for providing privacy, and if they are grown against a trellis or netting erected above a low wall, they will give a high degree of seclusion. Plan their position carefully, relating their ultimate height and vigour of growth to the situation they will occupy. This is important, because it is not so simple to rid yourself of a mistake when the plant has covered the wall.



Clematis armandii E: ○
Trifoliate leaves and scented flowers in spring which are white in the form 'Snowdrift' and blush in the cultivar 'Apple Blossom'. Vigorous to 4m/13ft but a sheltered, sunny wall is essential. Provide support.



Fremontodendron 'Californian Glory' E: ○
A fast-growing plant with beautiful golden cupped flowers produced from spring through until autumn. Its lobed leaves are felted beneath with rusty down. Not a climber but best placed against a sunny wall. Not fully hardy. 5m/16ft

Handwritten signatures and initials, including a large stylized signature and the initials 'B' and 'G'.