



In the garden with Wendy Matheson

Whilst writing this – the anticipation of a flaming June is very high, however looking out of the studio window I see April basked in a delightful but unexpected heatwave and irrigation issues being discussed in the south already!

June in Scotland is one of those months where you think “why would I want to be anywhere else?”. With long, warm days and the lushness of early summer planting tempting us towards mid summer.

Some of my favourite June plants which offer both scent and shape as summer begins include

FLAMING JUNE



Cirsium rivulare 'Atropurpureum'

Cirsium rivulare 'Atropurpureum' – Good planting companions: Geranium himalayense 'Gravetye'; Luzula nivea; Papaver orientale 'Patty's Plum'; Sanquisorba 'Tanna' Geranium macrorrhizum 'Bevan's Variety' – Good planting companions: Eryngium planum 'Blauer Zwerg'; Foeniculum

vulgare 'Giant Bronze'; Paeonia lactiflora 'Adolphe Rousseau'; Iris sibirica 'Caesar's Brother'



Astrantia 'Roma'

Astrantia 'Roma' – Good planting companions: Aquilegia vulgaris var.stellata 'Ruby Port'; Eryngium planum 'Blauer Zwerg'; Hesperis matronalis; Miscanthus sinensis 'Malepartus'



Aconitum napellus

Aconitum napellus – Good planting companions: Cirsium rivulare 'Atropurpureum'; Echinacea purpurea; Foeniculum vulgare 'Giant Bronze'; Geranium 'Johnsons Blue'



Artemisia 'Powis Castle'

Cosmos atrosanguineus 'Chocamocha' – Good planting companions: Aquilegia vulgaris 'William Guinness' Artemisia 'Powis Castle'; Helenium 'Wyndley'; Perovskia atriplicifolia 'Little Spire'



Dianthus carthusianorum

Salvia nemorosa 'Caradonna' – Good planting companions: Artemisia ludoviciana 'Silver Queen'; Dianthus carthusianorum; Euphorbia palustris; Eryngium giganteum 'Silver Ghost'

Garden tasks to be considered this month:

Support plants – Many tall border plants need support. Have a wander round your flower borders to see if any plants need staking. Many of your late summer flowerers can be cut back in late May or early June in order to reduce the eventual height of the plants and reduce the dangers of them flopping over. Asters respond very well to this treatment.

Lily care – Keep a vigilant eye on your lilies now and if you see the bright red lily beetle, pick it off and destroy it without further delay. These can reduce lily leaves and flowers to shreds in no time at all. I tend to have a wander round my lilies when it is warm and they are out and visible.

Rose care – Make sure the base of your roses is clear and not covered in weeds. Sprinkle fertiliser about the base of your rose plants. Look out for and pick off leaves affected by black-spot if the attack is just started. Otherwise you may need to spray. Aphid infestations can be much reduced by rubbing or washing off the aphids. Growing garlic bulbs near your roses can reduce aphid attack.

Sow seeds – Now is a good time to sow annual flowers and biennials.

This month's must-have book

Please also remember to refer to the bible of Scottish gardens open to the public throughout the season Scotland's Garden Scheme (SGS)

The Garden Handbook – Scotland's Garden Scheme

£7 incl p&p at: www.gardensofscotland.org

Dahlias – If you have been overwintering your dahlias these should be planted out now that the danger of frost has passed. If you left them in the ground protected by straw or mulch remove this now so that the dahlias can take advantage of the sunshine and start their vigorous growth spurt. Clear away all the straw as otherwise this provides protection for the army of slugs that will be waiting to attack your dahlias!

Young shoots of dahlias can be used to make cuttings in order to increase your dahlia stocks and encourage your parent plant to be nice and bushy at the same time. The same applies to fuschias.

Clematis – Keep an eye on clematis plants and tie in new shoots if necessary. Clematis montana should be flowering magnificently at the moment. When it has finished flowering it can be pruned back a little if

necessary. This is an incredibly vigorous plant and pruning is not necessary except to control growth and tidy up the plant. Once pruned stick a few sections in the ground where you would like new plants as Clematis montana tends to propagate from cuttings much more readily than other clematis.

Weeding – Keep on weeding! Once weeded and all the perennials are through this is a good time to put down bark mulching to prevent weeds reappearing, this can cut down the back breaking weeding during the summer months considerably.

Clipping and pruning – June is the traditional month in for clipping the box hedging and topiary. Box shapes are a great addition to the garden to give structure and to provide winter interest. Give these a trim now to keep in shape.

In the potager

Buy young tomato plants. These can be planted outside in a sunny, sheltered spot in exceptional

summers but on the whole more success if found by planting in the greenhouse. The same applies to cucumbers, peppers and aubergine.

Continue to sow salad plants, carrots, spinach and beetroot.

Sow autumn cauliflowers, peas and French beans.

Sow melons, squashes and courgettes. Pumpkins and squash are always a great favourite and every year they provide a big colourful autumn display. Pumpkins store very well too and are delicious baked or in soup.

Stop harvesting asparagus in June to allow the spears to grow and store up energy for next year's crop. The ferny asparagus plants look very decorative in the garden.

CONTACT WENDY

If you have any gardening queries, please contact Wendy at: info@wmgarden.design.com

ID:2063141
size:2.092 by257.96
BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

ID:2076314
size:4.276 by527.26
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