

Lavant Horticultural Society

Alan Pasco "Create a garden for every Season"

Wed 2nd December 2000 on Zoom

Please note: this is in no way attempts to replicate Alan Pasco's excellent presentation; it is merely an aide-mémoire listing many of the plants he mentioned that you might not have had time to note down.

Most of the names are linked – click on them for a picture and basic details of that plant.

A link to a commercial website does not imply any recommendation on the part of Lavant Horticultural Society

Adam started by giving some examples from his own garden – mainly a cottage garden with lots of hardy perennials, bulbs and summer patio pots:

- [Golden hop](#) (*Humulus lupulus* 'Aureus') and [honeysuckle](#) trained over archway –
- '[Alabast](#)' – early summer flowering clematis
- [Rose 'Bonica'](#) – good repeat flowering
- **Tired flower border** – to revitalise this border, he took all the plants out and divided them, but he had to wait until spring to replant as the soil had become waterlogged, the plants were all overwintered in pots.

Adam then set out 10 main points for achieving colour and interest throughout the year:

1) Use plants with structure & form

- [Cornus contraversa 'Variegata'](#) – layered branches - can see through it - does not obscure other planting.

2) Pick plants with long period of interest

- '[Yucca gloriosa variegata](#)' (variegated Spanish Dagger): hardy – happy in a pot outside all year round - change bedding plants that go round edge of pot to provide colour through the seasons
- Sedums in pots, also houseleeks

3) Use plant combinations for continuity & colour

- Gardens at [Oxburgh Hall](#):
 - [Phlomis russeliana](#) looks very good growing through [Nepeta racemosa](#) – leave Phlomis in place after flowering for winter structure and seed for birds
 - Shady border: [Epimedium](#), [hellebores](#), [Brunnera 'Jack Frost'](#)

4) Add features & focal points

- Benches, tables – put some seats in the shade – more restful in hot summer.
- [Wollerton Old Hall](#)
 - rose garden: topiary, [Nepeta 'Six Hills Giant'](#), painted pavilion.
- [East Ruston Old Vicarage](#) garden, Norwich
 - [Miscanthus](#) repeated either side of steps, [Catalpa](#) (cut back to form multi-stemmed small tree), clipped yew, formal water feature with neatly clipped box balls.

5) Create stunning seasonal displays

- [Red borders at Hidcote Manor](#): although red is the theme, other colours are worked in.

6) Add value across all seasons

7) Excite the senses (especially smell)

- [Nemesia 'Wisley Vanilla'](#) – long flowering and incredible vanilla fragrance; although generally grown as annual, nemesia can be carried over into a second year.
- Lilies also provide a wide choice of fragrance and colour.

8) Grow something different

- [Sophora 'Sun King'](#) – evergreen, flowers in June
- [Ptilotus 'Joey'](#) – tender bedding plant from Australia – good in dry hot places and pots

9) Welcome in the wildlife

- [Alstroemeria inticancha 'Sunshine'](#) – flowers from May/June through to November/December – great in patio pot.

10) A star plant for every month of the year:

Early spring:

- Daffodils (Narcissus): using different varieties can achieve a long flowering season.
- [Summer snowflake \(*Leucojum aestivum*\)](#) growing through [Brunnera 'Jack Frost'](#)

Mid-spring:

- [Magnolia stellata](#) – much smaller than *M. soulangeana* – flowers March/April – flowers may need protection from frost – wrap with fleece
- Pear – fabulous in blossom – 'Concord' from own garden, and can train clematis up it.
- [Epimedium](#) – good for dry shade – flowers April/May and also attractive bronze tinted new leaves - [Epimedium 'Frohneiten'](#)

Late spring:

- [Rhododendron yakushimanum](#) - species rhododendron; great in acid soil, early and long flowering
- [Erysimum 'Bowles Mauve'](#) (and other perennial wallflowers)
- [Clematis koreana 'Amber'](#)

Clematis through the seasons:

- April: [Clematis armandii](#), [Clematis montana](#)
- Early summer large flowered hybrids: very wide variety to choose from – see [Raymond Evison website](#)
- [C. viticella 'Étoile Rose'](#), [C. 'Bill MacKenzie'](#) – hanging yellow flowers followed by beautiful silky seed-heads

Early summer:

- Geraniums
- Roses: ['Kew Gardens'](#) repeat flower Autumn, ['Geoff Hamilton'](#), ['Graham Thomas'](#), ['Harlow Carr'](#) – not too tall, ['The One and Only'](#) – very fragrant HT.

May/June:

- Alliums - after flowering leave wonderful seed-heads. Will self-seed – seedlings can be grown on to flower in 3-4 years.
- Annual climbers can be grown up a wooden obelisk: sweet peas, [Thunbergia alata](#) (black-eyed Susan), [Spanish Flag \(*Ipomoea lobata*\)](#), [Cup and saucer vine \(*Cobaea scandens*\)](#).
- Hostas: *H. nigrescens*, *H. 'Patriot'*, *H. 'Frances Williams'*, *H. 'Francee'*
- [Houttynia](#) (Chameleon plant) – interestingly variegated foliage

Midsummer:

- [Astrantia](#) – ([A. 'Roma'](#) is particularly good). Leave after flowering to help provide structure.
- [Echinacea Sparkling 'Magnus'](#)
- [Galtonia candicans](#)
- [Eucomis 'Burgundy'](#), [E. bicolor](#), [E. 'Leia'](#) – dwarf variety, good in patio pot.
- [Hydrangea 'Miss Soari'](#)
- Rudbeckia, Cosmos, [Alstroemeria 'Queen Elizabeth'](#)
- [Gladiolus murielae](#) [*previously known as Acidanthera*]
- [Liatris spicata](#)
- Japanese anemones
- [Colchiums – Naked Ladies](#)
- [Geranium 'Rozanne'](#)
- Lavender

Late summer:

- [Crocosmia 'Lucifer'](#)
- [Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm'](#) – flowers August to October

Foliage:

- [Acers](#), [Euphorbia 'Silver Swan'](#), [Viola 'Heartthrob'](#), [Brunnera 'Jack Frost'](#)
- [Persicaria 'Red Dragon'](#) (Knotweed).
- [Physocarpus 'Diabolo'](#)
- Foliage pelargoniums
- [Sambucus nigra 'Black Lace'](#)
- [Cornus 'Ivory Halo'](#)
- [Cornus 'Kelsey's Gold'](#)
- [Coleus](#)
- Ornamental cabbages and kales
- [Vitis coignetiae](#) – ornamental vine
- [Hydrangea 'Runaway Bride Snow White'](#) – every shoot and side shoot carries flowers
- Sedum – roots prone to vine weevil attack.
- [Helianthus 'Lemon Queen'](#) perennial sunflower
- [Aster x frikartii 'Mönch'](#)
- [Rhus typhina](#)
- Small ornamental trees, e.g. [Sorbus cashmiriana](#)

Late autumn:

- Ornamentals trees, such as crab apples, e.g. ['Red Sentinel'](#)
- [Skimmia japonica](#) – the female plants have red berries – the male ones flower in spring

Early winter:

- Silver birch – [Betula 'Silver Shadow'](#)
- Evergreen form and colour from [cotoneaster](#), [euonemus](#) and ivy

- [Hellebores](#)
- [Choisia 'Aztec Pearl'](#) and [C. 'Sundance'](#)
- [Hebe 'Margret'](#)
- Evergreen ferns e.g. [Polystichum](#)

Mid-winter:

- [Mahonia 'Winter Sun'](#)
- [Daphne bholua 'Jacqueline Postill'](#)
- Witchhazel e.g. [Hamamelis pallida](#)
- Winter aconite [Eranthis hyemalis](#)

Later winter:

- Evergreen conifers (can now get small, slow growing ones);
- Crocus, snowdrops.

Jobs for winter:

Plant hyacinths (prepared bulbs) in glasses – keep in a cool (10°C) dark place for 10-11 weeks then move indoors.

Collect and compost leaves for leafmould.

Plant bare-rooted shrubs, hedges and roses.

Feed birds – wash out feeders every few weeks and sterilise – do the same for bird baths.

Remove any reverted (green) leaves and shoots from variegated plants, to stop the green taking over from the variegation.

Plant spring-flowering bulbs and plants for winter:

- Tulips:
 - ['Exotic Emperor'](#)
 - ['Antoinette'](#) multi-flowered and changes from yellow to pink, therefore sometimes called the chameleon tulip.