

Lavant Horticultural Society

"Alliums" Jackie Currie

13th October 2021

This is not a complete list of the varieties that Jackie mentioned in her talk, nor of her comments. Hopefully it will serve as a reminder.

What to do after flowering: there are three basic ways to help repeat flowering in subsequent years, depending on the individual variety:

1. Leave in ground and split every 3 years (as you would for most perennials);
2. Divide every year (will not flower every year);
3. Lift every year, dry and "bake" at 24-26°C (e.g. in a greenhouse) for 4 to 6 weeks before replanting.

Lift directly after flowering, as some bulbs drop, making them difficult to find; some even track sideways.

Alliums to flower throughout spring, summer and autumn:

Clicking on the variety names shown in blue will take you to a site where you can see an image of that variety. Where this is a commercial site, this does not imply any recommendation of that site.

March

[Allium paradoxum 'Normale'](#): only plant the variety 'Normale', not the species paradoxum as this spreads like a pernicious weed.

Allium triquetrum (Three-cornered garlic/leek): can spread and become a weed.

Early April

[Allium 'Early Emperor'](#): can leave in the ground.

Allium basalticum 'Silver Spring': not recommended - almost impossible to grow under UK conditions.

[Allium 'Michael Hoog'](#): good doer.

[Allium 'Cameleon'](#): 15-20 cm high. Colour of sepals turns from white to pink.

Late April into May

[Allium unifolium 'Eros'](#): shuttlecock shape. Plant as early as possible (Oct-Dec). Frost proof. Can leave in ground.

May

[Allium 'Purple Sensation'](#): best for purple colour. If left in ground it will self-seed, with the seedlings flowering in three years.

Allium aflatunense: Small head – not recommended.

[Allium 'Violet Beauty'](#): a cross of Allium christofii. Easy to grow. Lift and divide every 3 years. Lift the bulbs directly after flowering, otherwise they will drop, making them difficult to find.

[Allium 'Globemaster'](#): Very reliable. Has been around since 1929. Bulbs can be expensive, since it is sterile and cannot be propagated from seed.

[Allium fistulosum](#): (Welsh onion) Good architectural shape.

[Allium stipitatum 'Mount Everest'](#): one of only two white alliums recommended. Leave in ground. 1.2 m tall.

Allium 'Mont Blanc': This white allium is not hardy and is not worth growing.

End May

[Allium oreophilum](#): Must be lifted and baked each year.

[Allium siculum](#) (previously Nectaroscordum)

Allium schoenoprasum (chives): Although we are used to them as a culinary herb, we should also think of chives as ornamental plants. They flower for quite a long time and are available in shades from a very pale mauve to purple.

Allium atropurpureum: This must be lifted every year and baked at a high temperature, so it is best to treat it as an annual.

End May – early June

Allium roseum: Will seed around.

Allium caeruleum: If you cut in full bloom and put in a vase without water, it will dry but the flower will keep its blue colour. You can do this also with 'Eros', which will also keep its colour when dried.

Allium karataviense: *incl. A. k. 'Ivory Queen'* – Does not like the look of them, as stems too short.

Beginning June

Allium 'Mercurius': lift and divide after first year, but will not flower again until year 3.

Allium schubertii: does better in alkaline soils.

Allium cristophii:

Allium altissimum 'Goliath': 1.6 m high. Can leave in ground and divide every 3 years.

Allium nigrum: the other white allium that is worth growing. Will deal with semi-shade.

June

Allium giganteum: is distinctive in that it had rounded sepals. Must lift and bake each year.

Allium 'Ambassador': do not need to lift and bake.

End June

Allium cernuum: 20 – 24 cm tall.

July

Allium sphaerocephalon:

Allium flavum: Yellow – leave in ground, but it will only last 2 – 3 years.

Allium scorodoprasum: do not grow this, or cultivars of it, such as 'Art'!

Allium 'Forelock'

End July

Allium ampeloprasum 'Purple Mystery': (the species *ampeloprasum* is white)

Allium carinatum subsp. pulchellum:

Allium 'Millenium: must divide every 3 years.

August

Allium wallichii: easy to grow, but likes moist conditions. It has fleshy roots, rather than a bulb and sends out runners.

September

Allium tuberosum: White blooms that flower for a long time.