

Lavant Horticultural Society

“Late Summer Flowers” Marina Christopher 13th September 2023

This is a list of just some of the flowers that Marina mentioned in her talk’.

Click on the links (shown in blue) for a picture and more information on the plant.

A link to a commercial site does not imply any recommendation by Lavant Horticultural Society.

Dahlias

Semi-doubles and singles with open centres, such as [‘Bishop of Llandaff’](#), are better for pollinators.

[Helenium](#) (Sneezewort) – range of colours: red, orange, yellow, brown.

[Echinacea](#)

Again, from North American prairies. Sweet smelling. Tend to be short lived – attractive to slugs. Avoid doubles as their nectar is not available to insects.

Rudbeckia

[Rudbeckia triloba ‘Prairie Glow’](#)

Unlike the very bold [‘Goldsturm’](#), [‘Prairie Glow’](#) bears a mass of smaller flowers that start yellow and turn more orange as it gets colder.

[Rudbeckia hirta ‘Cherry Brandy’](#)

[Rudbeckia ‘Indian Summer’](#)

Asters (new name Symphyotrichum) i.e. Michaelmas daisies:

[Symphyotrichum ‘Little Carlow’](#) AGM

The centre of the flower is yellow when it opens. However, when it has been pollinated it turns red. Bees cannot see red and therefore concentrate on the yellow ones that still need pollinating.

Aster [Symphyotrichum lateriflorum ‘Chloe’](#) – formed into hedges at Dixter.

[Heliopsis ‘Burning Hearts’](#)

5 ft tall – strong colour – goes well with purple shades of Michaelmas daisies and ironweed

[Vernonia \(Ironweed\)](#): strong dark stems that look good in low light of autumn and winter.

[Chrysanthemum ‘Dixter Orange’](#): Can flower as early as June.

[Achillea](#)

This is also a daisy, its many individual flowers making a flat head to provide a different shape in borders.

Solidago (Golden Rod)

One of the best plants for honey bees at this time of year, but typically it runs and can be difficult to keep in check; e.g. traditional varieties *‘le Mans’*, *ledsham*.

However, there are some North American varieties that are more clump-forming: e.g. *speciosa*, [‘Fireworks’](#)

[Silphium integrifolium](#) sunflower type flower

[Silphium perfoliatum](#) gets to 8ft-10ft tall.

[Helianthus \(sunflower\) ‘Lemon Queen’](#)

[Helianthus ‘Gullick’s Variety’](#)

[Nicotiana mutabilis](#)

[Daucus carota 'Black Knight'](#)

Grown particularly for the cut flower trade, but leaves an interesting shape after flowering.

Cow parsley

Pollinated by beetles and flies, attracted by its fetid smell.

Don't cut down cow parsley after flowering, as it provides a winter home for many insects.

Persicaria (now renamed **Bistorta**): Very good for honey bees. Drops old flowers to leave room for new.

[Persicaria amplexicaulis](#)

'Blackfield', 'Orange Field', 'Fat Domino', 'Pink Elephant', 'Firedance'.

Scabious family:

[Scabiosa ochroleuca](#) lemon colour, unusual for scabious.

[Devil's bit scabious](#)

[Knautia macedonica](#) wonderful for insects but also gives movement and can be seen through

[Verbena 'Bampton'](#)

[Verbena macdougallii](#)

[Kniphofia rooperi](#) Red-hot poker that still produces plenty of nectar in October

[Salvias](#) – many will just go on and on flowering. There are over 900 species.

Marina recommended visiting the **RHS hardy salvia trials** currently in progress at Wisley, covering 60 hardy salvias, of which '[Blue Marvel](#)' and '[Rose Marvel](#)' look outstanding (both PBR).

Grasses – they are wind pollinated so no use to insect pollinators, but give movement to garden

[Molinia](#) grows well in wet soil

[Miscanthus](#) in a wet year is red when in flower, but in a dry year it will be buff.

[Miscanthus 'Rotfuchs'](#) [*red fox*] – always deep red

[Calamagrostis](#)

Diamond Grass ([Calamagrostis brachyathera](#))