CSGGA Newsletter

August 2024

RHS Affiliated Membership Number: 10570237

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Cyclamen - Paul Whitlock

This month Paul Whitlock from The Cyclamen Society gave us a fascinating talk on 'Easy Cyclamen for the garden". Cyclamen are hardy in most situations as long as they are not sitting in water. They are ideal in a shady garden.

There are 23 species of cyclamen and they are split into autumn, winter and spring flowering varieties. Originally evolving in the Mediterranean, most species are available in a spectrum of flower shades from pink to white with a wide range of different leaf forms that vary in colour and pattern. To grow Cyclamen from seed use a large seed tray with sterilised garden soil and add a layer of leaf mould or wood chippings to retain moisture as seeds will go into dormancy if they get too got or dry. Peak proliferation of flowering occurs between 3 - 8 years.

Seeds and plants from the Cyclamen Society will be available to purchase at RHS gardens and other garden events - check the website for the latest dates. www.cyclamen.org

Vicky Mogford

Next Meeting - Thursday, 12th September

A-Z of Foolproof Gardening - Chris Day

Chris will share his hints and tips on how to get the best from your garden and your plants. A seasonal gallop through 26 letters of the alphabet featuring a range of plants and props along the way.

M's Action Diary for August

- Keep deadheading faded flowers from summer bedding, roses and container plants.
- Plant hyacinth bulbs for indoor display.
- Give lawns an Autumn feed to boost growth before cold weather sets in.
- Trim hebes lightly after flowering to encourage bushy, compact growth.
- In the next few weeks purchase hardy perennials, roses and deciduous trees and shrubs as they are best planted during Autumn whilst the soil is warm. Conifers, evergreens and grey leafed or slightly tender plants are best left until Spring.
- Top up your pond.
- Prune rambling roses.
- Sow hardy annuals.
- Prune back the new shoots on pyracanthas.
- Take penstemon cuttings and semi ripe cuttings from flowering shrubs.
- Tidy up heucheras by trimming back old flowers stems and old tatty leaves.

Green Gardening Tip – Collecting Seeds from Annuals

Most annual flowers are prolific seed-bearers, but you can also collect seeds from biennials and perennials, as well as vegetables and fruit. Even if you don't intend to plant them all yourself, saved seeds make a thoughtful gift for fellow gardeners. Better still, exchange them in a seed swap – why not bring them along to the next CSGGA meeting? Remember to leave some seedheads for the birds!

- Choose flowers from your healthiest and most vigorous plants.
- Allow the flower head to fade and dry out on the plant.
- Use clean secateurs or scissor to cut the pods or seed heads from the plant.
- Place the seeds in a paper bag or on absorbent paper and allow them to dry for about a week.
- Clean them by removing any husks or pods then store in an airtight container in a cool, dark, dry location.
- Sow the seeds in spring.

For very detailed guidance go to https://seedsavers.org/learn/seed-saving/

Your CSGGA Committee

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