**Brooklin Horticultural Society Presentation for June 12, 2013 meeting**

Sofie’s Picks - A listing of plants presented at the Brooklin Horticultural Society meeting June 13, 2012, a combination of new and newer introductions and other interesting plants. We are located in zone 5b in Whitby, Ontario.

**SOME GARDEN PLACES I SHOP AT IN THE DURHAM REGION:**

***Below are websites of garden centres that list all the plants they sell at their nursery or by mail order.* Most allow you to pick up your order if you do not want to pay for shipping. I refer to these websites to see if they carry the plants in my presentations and include them in my “Where to Buy” column. I prefer to shop locally in the Durham region. You may find the plants I feature at many other nurseries as well.**

[www.gardenimport.com](http://www.gardenimport.com) Mail Order Company, Thornhill, Ont. 1-800-339-8314 Pick-up allowed – Bayview Highway 7 area.

[www.goldenbrookhostas.com](http://www.goldenbrookhostas.com) Blackstock, Ontario (located just east of Port Perry) Mail order (Canada only) + pick up. Great website listing a huge selection of hostas with photos, prices and latest varieties. Tour their garden to see many varieties for sale.

<http://www.lamrockscountrygarden.com> – hostas, roses, some perennials. Varieties & prices listed on website – they have not updated their website since 2012 so don’t know what is happening there – located in Port Perry

[www.masonhousegardens.com](http://www.masonhousegardens.com) 3520 Durham Road #1(Brock Rd), RR 4 PO Box 886 Uxbridge, ON L9P 1R4, south of Goodwood Rd.
905-649-3532 – New introductions, unusual plants, perennials, grasses, vines, shrubs, tropicals, succulents, vegetables + a huge selection of heritage tomatoes. *All varieties listed on their website – this is not a mail order company – a family owned specialty nursery. You can tour the gardens as well.*

<http://pickeringnurseries.com> Mail order company specializing in roses – hundreds of varieties available. Located in Port Hope, you can pick up your order if you wish – call ahead. Bare root spring and fall delivery, plus potted roses once the delivery season is over.

[www.richters.com](http://www.richters.com) Goodwood, Ontario Located on Highway 47, west of Brock Road. Mail order & pick-up. For all things to do with herbs in a greenhouse setting – plants, seeds, books, & a huge selection of dried herbs & teas. Sample for free various tea mixes. Check under events on the website for free seminars presented by guest speakers in the greenhouse. All lectures are now taped & available on the website if you cannot attend. You can also order or pick up a printed catalogue.

***The following websites are “generic” – they do not list their plants so I don’t know what varieties they have for sale.* Therefore, you won’t see them listed on my “where to buy” column even though they may stock the plants.**

**Century Home & Garden Greenhouses** at 1431 Hwy 7a, Port Perry ON L9L 1B5, 905-985-2672.

**Country Market Garden Centre**, 2535 Taunton Rd. E., Bowmanville, L1C 3K2, 905-263-2090 – has a good selection of perennials, roses, trees, shrubs, conifers, annuals and tropical plants at very reasonable prices. Also local produce, baked items and giftware. He always has something unique every year. No website.

[www.kingswaygreenhouse.com](http://www.kingswaygreenhouse.com) Oshawa, Ontario 905-434-3851 A family run business – Plants are not listed on their website

John’s Perennials, <http://johnsgarden.wordpress.com> 905-862-8175, Uxbridge, ON Perennials, annuals, roses, shrubs, trees, rare conifers + more. Open weekends only

<http://www.ottergreenhouses.com> 315 Medd Road, Port Perry, Ontario, L9L 1B2 | (905) 852-4187 Annuals, hanging baskets, perennials, - a family owned business

**Peter Keeping**, Bowmanville, Ontario – sells unusual & hard to find **clematis** as well as perennials at very reasonable prices– Peter imports clematis from Europe/England. Phone 905-697-7842, e-mail peterkeeping@hotmail.com. Call or e-mail for his list of current clematis for sale. Peter and Sheila grow over 250 clematis on their property. They also have assorted perennials and other plants for sale. Does not have a website.

**Pineridge Garden Centre** 2215 Brock Rd, Pickering, ON L1V 2P8 905-683-5952 No website

[www.rekkers.com](http://www.rekkers.com) Rekker's Garden Centre, 2258 Regional Highway 2, Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K7 905-623-2300

[www.sheridannurseries.com](http://www.sheridannurseries.com) Whitby location, 410 Taunton Road West, Whitby, ON L1P 2A9 905 686-0844

[www.vandermeernursery.com](http://www.vandermeernursery.com) 905-427-2525 588 Lakeridge Rd. S., Ajax, ON (corner of Lakeridge and Bayley). Plants not listed. They carry a huge selection of various plants – trees, shrubs, roses, perennials, annuals, seeds, etc.

It is June 12, 2013

**QUOTE FOR THE DAY**: There is no spot of ground, however arid, bare or ugly, that cannot be tamed into such a state as may give an impression of beauty and delight. –*Gertrude Jekyll*

Well, I am about 2/3 of the way getting everything in order, weeded, planted, sorted, seeded (mostly in the vegetable garden), edged, and generally tidied up. The weather has been challenging to say the least, unexpected frost twice – I lost plants the first time and the second time everything went in the garage. My place looks like a nursery right now, as I have plants to go in every part of the many gardens on the property. They are mainly annuals, my mainstay to maintain colour throughout the growing season. I love to change the look of the garden every year and do so with the annuals – worth all the work. Once they are in place, I can sit back and relax!! Yikes, did I say relax! Never in this garden - just when I finish all the planting, I have to start deadheading, edging, and weeding again. I also have several new shrubs to plant (buddleias, Sambucus black tower, viburnum and hydrangeas, mahonia, evergreens, perennials, hostas, several new clematis and amazing heirloom tomatoes.

The next meeting is June 26th. I am going to talk about garlic, how to plant, when to plant and which variety is the most beneficial. Also, I will talk about growing raspberries – a variety I grow called Polana – an everbearing type with virtually no thorns/bristles on the stems. I hope to have some for sale as this variety is virtually not available anywhere close by. See below for information about clematis, the topic for the June 26th meeting.

**WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN?**

Two or three years ago, there was a cooking show presented by British chef Jamie Oliver with vegetables harvested from somebody’s garden in England –not sure if it was his. I loved the “feel” of that garden – full, lush and very English like. My aim in my own garden is to create the same ambience as was on the show. I think I may have finally achieved that “look”.

The vegetable garden was finally completed the first week of June and some seeding by June 9th – never too late! All the crops have been rotated so nothing is grown in the same place every year. There are 16 beds surrounded by 3 dry stone walls, with boxwood and chive hedges. I seeded okra, cucumbers, pumpkins “Freaky Tom, “Red Warty Thing” and “Peanut”, butternut squash, beets, chia seeds (germinated in 3-4 days), climbing bean “fasold”, sunflower seeds, cosmos, and zinnias. The tomato bed is under planted with nasturtiums and big, crinkly, lettuce leaf basil, plus my Mighty Mato “Tangerine”. The tomatoes will be grown on spiral poles – so no tying required, I just train the plant on one stem wrapped around the spiral. Swiss chard this year is a mixed variety called “Bright Lights” (with stems in shades of pink, yellow, orange, scarlet, and white) – a row is planted in 6 beds. I am trying a new method for carrots as I have trouble getting them to germinate. McKenzie seeds sell carrot seed tapes – seeds pre-spaced and glued to 1 inch wide tapes - a total of 15 feet in the package. I just wet the tapes in the ground and then covered them with soil and wet them again. All the rain we have had will ensure good germination.

The Austin roses in the vegetable garden are about to burst forth with glorious bloom. I have lost 2 mature rose climbers, plus 3-4 newly planted roses – not sure why this is happening. One bed will be planted entirely with pink varieties of cosmos as the soil there is congested with tree roots from the neighbouring ash trees; there will be cactus zinnia rows in 5 beds (if the seedlings survive the slugs), cool long handled gourd vines, self-seeded sweet pea matucana, Japanese white & pink morning glory Heian Nokaori, and clematis and roses for summer colour and to attract bees. The pumpkins will be draped over the stone walls.

Herbs this year are parsley, wasabi arugula, fruit sage, lemon verbena, basil, Profusion sorrel and Profusion chives (both are seedless varieties). The lavender hedge flanking each side of the central path is enormous this year and will be spectacular when in bloom. I had great success with eggplant and okra last year and will try them again this year. The zucchini will be planted after the first week of July – I read somewhere that the late planting avoids the squash borer infestation. I am trying strawberries again this year planted in the wooden boxes to contain them as they are very invasive. Not sure if they are worth growing but I can’t seem to resist the sweet taste of home grown strawberries. I have left a swath between the leeks and carrots for my “love it or hate it” love-lies-bleeding plants - great long deep pink ropes dripping to the ground from 4-5 foot tall plants.

I was seeding corn and sunflowers at dusk on June 9th, trying to fend off huge swarms of mosquitoes because I knew it was going to be a rainy day on June 10th – which it was. I should be immune to West Nile virus because the mosquitos sure do love me. Extra sweet corn “Mirai, onions and potatoes were planted in a cleared area of the property (which was part of the wildflower garden), along with 14 varieties of sunflowers – from tallest 12 footers+ to 3-4 foot tall ones. I have left some room for sweet potato slips which I will pick up from Mason House Gardens next week.

Lots of rhubarb has been frozen but the asparagus bed has become full of weeds and has yet to be cleared. I might have to provide a new sunnier site, as trees have started to shade parts of the bed. Let’s now hope for some warm weather!

**WHAT’S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE IN THE GARDEN?**

***The black garden*** is coming nicely, having weeded it several times already. There are 9 Sambucus black lace shrubs which looks quite spectacular now that they are in their 3-4th year. Other black perennials include Cimicifuga Black Negligee, Cimicifuga Chocolate, black mondo grass, Weigela Wine & Roses, three annual black grasses Pennisetum Vertigo, and blackie potato vine. The theme this year is Pink Panther – pink bubblegum petunia supertunias vista have been added, along with a river of tiny self-sown seedlings of Nicotiana Whisper Shades of Pink – eventually reaching 2-3 feet tall and blooming until frost. I am hoping the slugs don’t eat the seedlings.

***The jelly bean garden*** located within the hopscotch garden has been planted with dozens of regular petunias in shades of pale pink, rose pink, yellow, orange, white, purple, and black. Green spires of plume fern provide the green jelly bean colour. I am quite liking this colour combination.

***Heuchera’s:*** There are so many new heuchera’s. I like them as an alternative to hostas as slugs don’t bother them, they flower for a long time and some have unique ever-changing leaf patterns and colours as the season progresses. Most nurseries carry a selection of heuchera’s so you may have to shop around to get the ones you want. Heuchera’s vary in their site requirements, from full sun (with adequate moisture), to morning light only to filtered shade to full shade. You may have to move your heuchera to get the best growing conditions. I find that most of mine do best in filtered light or morning sun.

I now have so many heuchera’s planted in the south end of the Austrian Pine Allee that I have put up a trellis at the point where they start and attached a stone plaque and called it Heuchera Hall. They are looking fabulous and many are already blooming – especially nice is one called Rave On. ***I will give a report at the next meeting of the ones that have survived the winter and are especially nice (most of them!!).***

***Justin Beiber –* no I mean Justin Beaver!!! We have a carved wooden 2 ½ foot tall beaver that is sitting atop a 5 foot pine stump that was recently felled as it was dead – his name is Justin Beaver!**

***The tropical garden*** has finally been put together, using a combination of several cannas, house plants, acacias and other tropical plants grown from seed and overwintered, hibiscus, dahlias including a giant dahlia called Imperialis grown from seed, succulents, tall nicotiana, dracaenas and more. It looks ridiculous right now, just a “jumble” of plants thrown together. It took me two days to figure out where everything was to be planted. It will become a beautiful jungle much later in the season, when I open the garden in late August.

**THE CONTINUING SAGA OF THE PATIO TROPICAL GARDEN**. The last couple of months, I have made some suggestions for a dramatic tropical look on your patio. In April 2013, I told you about growing figs in a pot (this may take 2-3 years to get to a large size but worth the wait); in May 2013 how to grow a very large banana called ensete murelli. Add a tall palm, a very tall annual grass like pennisetum “Prince”, and this month I would like to suggest giant Cyperus papyrus King Tut. Grow this grass in a large pot without drainage holes – it is a pond grass so will take lots of water. Also, there is an annual tropical plant called Gomphocarpus physocarpus (balloon cotton bush) – a tall (4-6’) willowy plant, with white flowers and in late summer, translucent spikey pods the size of golf balls. Quite unusual. Add some hanging baskets or tall pots of petunia supertunia vista “bubble gum” or “fuchsia” for an entire season of bright colour.

**MY FAVOURITE WEEDERS:** I don’t mulch in any of my garden beds as it would cost me a fortune. What I do instead is place a hoe in every garden and leave them there for the summer. When I pass by and see weeds, I simply scrape them off – very easy and effective. Here are my favourite weeders:

**Hula ho** – long handled, I have one of these in every garden. No bending required and very effective, use it on an angle for finer tuning, and straight up to scrape off weeds. Mine are made by Black and Decker but I can’t find anyone that sells them anymore (I got mine at Superstore a few years back). This one from Lee Valley tools looks the same <http://www.leevalley.com/en/Garden/page.aspx?p=69740&cat=2,44823&ap=1>

**Winged weeder** – I got this weeder years ago at Success with Gardening from a distributor from Alberta. It was available at Home Hardware and Lee Valley tools for a while and both have discontinued sales. It is an amazing weeder (I prefer the smaller blade) - shaped like a wide blade of an arrow. The sharp ends on each side of the blade allow you to “grub” out shallow rooted weeds, get in very close to the base of a plant, and when used on an angle, pull out tons of weeds – small and large. I grasp the weed in my left hand and scoop it out with the weeder in my right hand (great for lefties as well). I am hoping that Lee Valley might carry this again – as I was told there may be a possibility again. <http://www.wingedweeder.com/wingedweeder/products.html>

**Garden Bandit** – this is one amazing tool but short handled so bending is required. Great for people with arthritis. It has a closed loop design with thin blades that slice effortlessly through the soil to remove weeds. Its narrow form can be used close to tender plants for precise weeding. I also use it to aerate the soil by running the blade through the soil – excellent when creating a row for seeding – it loosens the soil as deep as you want and creates a nice soft cushion for the seeds. I use it for edging – just scrape deeply at the edge of the bed where it meets the grass, then move the soil away from the edge to create a raised bed. It is also wonderful when used sideways to remove a wider swath of weeds and aerate the soil at the same time. <http://www.gardenbandit.com/>

***You will notice that most of the varieties listed below are from a small nursery specializing in unusual plants called Mason House Gardens. Jeff Mason, the owner, lists his plants on his website so I know what is available. Jeff Mason is always current with the latest plants and trends. I have grown many of the varieties listed, except the ones introduced this year. I am sure many of the plants will also be available at other nurseries, especially places like Whistling Gardens and Lost Horizons – a long drive and out of area. Check with your local nursery for availability or ask them to order for you. Sofie Bigham***

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| **ANNUALS & TROPICALS**  |
| Alternanthera “Red Threads” | You have to see this plant in person to appreciate it, especially when planted in a group of 3 or more but still lovely as one plant as it can grow 18-24 inches wide. I saw several plants on the sale table from a distance and they immediately caught my eye – beautiful. <http://parkseed.com/alternanthera-red-threads/p/46348-PK-6/>  | Mason House |
| Coleus “Stained Glassworks” | I found this coleus at a supermarket – Superstore - and was drawn to it right away. The pink in the leaves is very vibrant – a true hot pink. First time growing it, I will put it in full sun and will take a cutting to try it in a shadier location.  | Superstore |
| Anagellis monelli | Bright gentian blue 1” flowers accentuated with a pink eye & yellow anthers absolutely cover this neat & compact Mediterranean native over a long season. 10” tall & 20” across, it is drought tolerant.as well. It self-sows but of course you have to remember what the seedling will look like next spring. It also comes in orange. <http://plantlust.com/plants/anagallis-monelli/>  | Mason House |
| Mirabilis Jalapa Four O’clock  | These are great plants, in a pot or in the ground, blooming ‘til frost. The plants form tubers – carrot-like but black in colour, and can be lifted for the winter and stored indoors. Pot grown plants can simply be brought in for the winter and stored in the furnace room. The pot will get dry as a bone, but they recover in the spring when given water. | Most nurseriesMason House has a nice selection of named plants |
| Asclepias Gomphorcarpus physocarpus | From the milkweed family, it’s fast growing, tall and willow like. Grows to 6’. White, pendulous blooms. 2-2.5” inflated, translucent lime green “hairy” seed pods – very much a conversation piece! I grow this plant every year and get comments every year. <http://www.anniesannuals.com/signs/a/asclepias_physocarpa.htm>  | Mason House – **rarely** available – seeds can be saved |
| Petunia “Pretty Mulch Picasso” | Wide spreading, try under a group of shrubs or shrub, or under pink roses, stunning – each plant can get 3-4 feet in diameter. Keeps the weeds at bay! <http://www.romencegardens.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/plants.plantDetail/plant_ID/2557/index.htm>  | Mason HousePineridge |
| Petunia “Picasso in Pink” | More mounding than Picasso, I am trying it out for the first time this year. <http://www.provenwinners.com/plants/petunia/supertunia-picasso-pink-petunia-hybrid>  | Mason HousePineridge?? |
| Petunia supertunia Vista series | Love, love these petunias – use them under shrubs, under a group of roses, in hanging pots, as groundcovers – each can become 3-4 feet in diameter. There is fuchsia, bubble gum and silverberry. No deadheading required, just plant and enjoy. [http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/77337-product.html#](http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/77337-product.html)  | Mason HouseVandermeerPineridge |

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| **PERENNIALS**  |
| Aralia cordata Sun King | I have just purchased this perennial which I thought was a shrub. It will get 3 feet tall, is a beautiful golden colour and will grow in shade. Give it a couple of hours of sunlight if you can. Looking forward to this tropical looking shrub in a shadier part of my garden. <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/General-Perennial/2181_Aralia-cordataSun-King.aspx>  | Mason House (may be sold out)Lost Horizons |
| Echinacea “Milkshake“ | Did you know that Echinacea’s come in white? The following website gives an excellent description of Milkshake. I have coconut lime but milkshake is supposed to be a much better variety, blooming all summer. The problem I have is the sunflower moth that lays eggs on the top of the cones, eggs hatch, burrow into the cone and turns them into an ugly, brown mess as they devour the inside of the cone. The voles also did a number on most of my Echinacea’s this year as well, eating out the roots. I don’t know why I bother to garden sometimes, it is always a struggle with certain rodents and insects and rabbits!!! The secret I have found to growing all the new introductions is to plant them in the spring and remove the flowers to let the roots develop so they will survive our winters. If you are tempted to purchase any on sale in the fall, overwinter them in the garage instead of planting. Make sure they are watered over the winter if your garage is above freezing.<http://www.plantsnouveau.com/2008/10/16/echinacea-purpurea-milkshake/>  | Mason House has a nice selection of various Echinacea’s that have survived one winter in their unheated greenhouse so are well established. |
| Geranium “Rozanne´ and “Azure Rush | How many perennials bloom all summer? One of my favourites is geranium Rozanne. Rozanne needs to be sighted in the right place – perhaps under a shrub or in a border by itself or in a tall pot or elevated planter box. Rozanne can become quite large with extended “arms” – 3-4 feet in diameter - but can be cut back to tidy it up in mid-summer when you see new growth in the centre. I grow Rozanne between my daylilies to give me colour when they are not blooming. Azure Rush is not as rambling as Rozanne, so will be a much neater plant. Both will bloom from mid-June until frost. Wonderful! The CIBC bank in Brooklin on Baldwin St. has an extensive raised planter in front of the building. This is the type of situation where this plant would excel – I can just see it dripping over the edge all summer, right to frost. See this website for more info[http://www.bloomsofbressinghamplants.com/us/Gardeners/Variety/Geranium\_Azure\_Rush.html&s=1&genus=&common=&variety](http://www.bloomsofbressinghamplants.com/us/Gardeners/Variety/Geranium_Azure_Rush.html%26s%3D1%26genus%3D%26common%3D%26variety)=  | All nurseries |
| Heuchera “Rave On” | I love this heuchera. It is a great plant for “neatniks” – a neat plant with lovely grey foliage, and flowers that bloom from mid-May onwards for weeks and weeks. Mine has already been blooming for a month. Plant more than one for a nice show – you can gently pry apart one plant to get more if there are multiple crowns. <http://www.terranovanurseries.com/gardeners/heucheraraveon-p-157.html>  | Vandermeer |
| Hibiscus “Blue River 2” | This is a beautiful pure white dinner plate type hibiscus. I grew some plants from seed but all of the seedlings were destroyed by voles. I have grown this plant and was hoping to get more seedlings to plant a row of them. Hibiscus is very easy to multiply by cuttings. Gently remove ½ inch stems right to the base and place in a deep pot in a soilless mix. Keep watered and you should get roots within a few weeks. <http://www.gorgetopgardens.com/perennials/hibiscus-blueriverII.html>  | Mason House – once again call ahead – see note below |
| Hibiscus summerific series | Summer storm – this new hibiscus is supposed to bloom for 12 weeks with huge 8” pink flowers. However, it is the foliage which bowled me over and drew me to it right away as soon as I saw it – deep dark burgundy leaves tipped in green, worth growing just for the foliage. It reminded me of Pysocarpus “centre glow”. None of the links show the foliage but here is a photo of the flower. This link describes the difference between summer storm and kopper king. I am excited to try this hibiscus as I have kopper king and look forward to the much extended bloom time of Summer Storm. <http://www.greenhousegrower.com/article/25975/battle-of-the-hibiscus-summer-storm-vs-kopper-king>Cranberry Crush <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/view/?plant=1877> deep redBerrylicious <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/view/?plant=2134> rare lavender colourAlso try Jazzberry Jam <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/view/?plant=1781> pinkHeartthrob <http://www.plantdelights.com/Hibiscus-Heartthrob-PPAF-Heartthrob-Hardy-Mallow/productinfo/7882/#.UbdBdZRzaUk> red black | Mason House – please call ahead as the supplier has yet to deliver these new varieties, some of which are part of the new summerific series with extended bloom time. As of June 8th, there was one summer storm in stock at Mason House – I purchased the other. |
| Sedum Dazzleberry and Cherry Tart | Last year I told you about a sedum called Dazzleberry boasting flowers as much as 6 inches wide. It is looking quite lovely in my garden - about 6-8 inches tall with greyish foliage. <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/General-Perennial/2261_SedumDazzleberryPP22457.aspx> Here is another ground cover type sedum with cherry red foliage that holds its colour throughout the season.<http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/General-Perennial/2260_SedumCherry-TartPPAF.aspx>  | Mason HouseKingsway  |
| Sedum Lime Zinger | 4 inches tall, groundcover type. It has succulent green leaves edged in red. Blooms in fall. <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/General-Perennial/2262_SedumLime-ZingerPPAF.aspx>  | Mason House – this is still not available at Mason House as of June 10th - tryKingsway |

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| **ANNUAL GRASSES** |
| Cyperus Papyrus “King Tut”Cyperus prolifer Dwarf papyrus | **Here is another very tall and dramatic plant that can be used as part of your tropical collection on the patio. I love this grass – it is so unusual. Each long stem ends with a puff of feathery grass on top – like an upswept umbrella! Excellent in water and this year, I am going to grow some in the ground to see how it does. It can get quite tall and should be transplanted into a large pot if placing it in the pond– it will grow quite a bit over the summer.**[**http://www.provenwinners.com/images/cyperuskingtutjpg**](http://www.provenwinners.com/images/cyperuskingtutjpg)**This is the dwarf version of the above grass. Very nice for smaller ponds.** [**http://www.provenwinners.com/plants/cyperus/dwarf-papyrus-cyperus-prolifer**](http://www.provenwinners.com/plants/cyperus/dwarf-papyrus-cyperus-prolifer) | VandermeerMason HouseMost nurseries that sell water plants |
| I had the following grasses listed in the May 22/13 presentation and will leave them again this month as they are worth growing.Here is a list of grasses that are in the Royalty Collection that I have found for sale at Mason House Gardens. I have never seen them for sale anywhere else – perhaps this year – I actually saw one of the varieties listed below at Hotner greenhouse after I wrote this last month. Check this website for a summary of the Royalty Collection of Pennisetum grasses. <http://www.gpnmag.com/crop-culture-report-pennisetum-first-knight> I have grown all of them except Princess and Princess Caroline. They start green and get darker and darker as the season progresses. Prince grew 6-7 feet tall last year. Vertigo (Vertigo is not part of the series but is very similar) was very dark, as was Princess Molly, both shorter versions of Prince. First Knight is the latest addition. You can plant these in large pots but do not mix them with other plants; they will take over the pot. They will not survive our winters, but worth every penny as an annual. I am very excited about Pennisetum Fireworks and Cherry Sparkler. Unlike any grass I have seen before, the grass comes in shades of red/pink/rose/green/white, with Fireworks being more intense. I will be planting these in the tropical garden this year. |
| Annual Pennisetum “Jade Princess” | One of the most unique and eye catching plants in the garden due to the large, fuzzy seed head. As the flower inflorescence emerges the color begins with a rich maroon and chartreuse coloring and matures into a solid dark maroon plume. The large fluffy panicle flower emerging from the foliage brings to mind the image of a fox sneaking through tall grass. Foliage is a wide chartreuse leaf blade. Scroll to the very end of this website for photos of Jade Princess. I will be trialing this grass for the first time this year.<http://www.flowertrials.colostate.edu/trial_winners.php?year=2012&category=Annual>  | Mason House |
| Annual Pennisetum “First Knight” | **New this year, part of the Royal Collection. Deepest, darkest, blackest, purple foliage, it grows 48-54” tall. A beauty!**[**http://www.ecgrowers.com/Pennisetum-First-Knight-38-p/2458.htm**](http://www.ecgrowers.com/Pennisetum-First-Knight-38-p/2458.htm) | Mason House |
| Annual Pennisetum Vertigo | **Height 38-48”, it did not grow anywhere that tall in my garden last year – about 2 ½ feet. Very dark broad leaves, I grew it with hibiscus manihot – a tall plant with 6” pale yellow flowers with a black eye. Nice combo!** [**http://www.provenwinners.com/plants/pennisetum/graceful-grasses-vertigo-pearl-millet-pennisetum-purpureum**](http://www.provenwinners.com/plants/pennisetum/graceful-grasses-vertigo-pearl-millet-pennisetum-purpureum) | Mason House |
| Pennisetum “Fireworks” | Foliage colors are an amazing blend of red, pink, burgundy, green and a little white, deepening to burgundy flanked by hot pink margins. Purplish-pink plumes top the plant beginning midsummer. Foliage height is 24 inches with plumes up to 36 inches.<https://www.jungseed.com/dp.asp?pID=09186>  | Mason House Other nurseries? |
| AnnualPennisetum “Cherry Sparkler” | Stripes of pink, burgundy, green and white explode in graceful arching foliage, topped by midsummer with a mix of reddish-purple seed plumes. Forms mounds of foliage 18 to 24 inches tall, up to 36 inches with the plumes.<https://www.jungseed.com/dp.asp?pID=09185>  | Mason House Other nurseries? |
| AnnualPennisetum Villosum | **Not part of the royal collection**, but a grass worth trying, especially if you have a white garden. Villosum has white, rabbit-tail spikes produced on clump-forming deciduous plants – grows 16 inches tall. Annual – will not survive our winters. I am trying this plant for the first time this year. <http://www.thompson-morgan.com/flowers/all-other-seeds-and-plants/bamboo-and-grasses/pennisetum-villosum-cream-falls/5442TM>  | Mason House |

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| **SHRUBS AND TREES** |
| ShrubWeigela Sonic Bloom Pearl | A weigela that blooms all summer? Weigela sonic bloom pearl has beautiful pearly white flowers with a yellow centre, changing to pink. I will be purchasing one of these this year as I love weigela’s and this is an unusual colour . <http://www.michiganbulb.com/product/Sonic-Bloom-Pearl-Reblooming-Weigela-> These also come in pink and red. | Sheridan |
| ShrubHydrangea quercifolia Pee Wee | This shrub is a compact version of our native oak leaf hydrangea. *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Pee Wee' is hardy from Zones 5 to 9, and thrives in shady as well as sunny gardens. It has white panicles of flowers and beautiful large oak like leaves which turn bright in the fall. <http://www.abnativeplants.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=plants.plantdetail&plant_id=244>  | Mason House |
| Tree or large shrubSalix Sachalinensis Golden Fantail Willow | For larger lots, this willow has bright yellow leaves but what I like about is that it sports curious flattened and curled stems (fascinated) – these stems are quite often for sale during the holidays. I read somewhere that it should be pruned hard in spring to get the flattened stems. <http://crabtreegardens.wordpress.com/2013/01/09/wallowing-in-willow/> <http://www.easytogrowbulbs.com/p-1263-willow-fantail.aspx>  | Mason House |
| TreeTaxodium Disticum Shawnee Brave conifer | This conifer loses its beautiful feathery leaves in the fall, much like a larix. This variety is more narrow growing than regular bald cypress. It will tolerate all types of soil, including wet locations, where it may grow “knees” which stick out of the ground. It will not form “knees” in regular soil. Make sure you do some research before planting to make sure you have room. <http://www.songsparrow.com/2013/plantdetails.cfm?ID=4012&type=WOODY,&pagetype=plantdetails&plant_name=Taxodium%20distichum%20'Shawnee%20Brave>'  | Mason HouseWhistling Gardens |
| TreeChionanthus virginicus Fringe tree | Common name Fringe tree - I love the flowers on this tree – flowering profusely in early June with white fringy flowers, looking much like fringed tassels. It will tolerate wet conditions as well and is slow growing, with lovely foliage. I don’t understand why no one sells it.<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/trees/hgic1027.html>  | ??? If you find it, buy it. |
| Tree or large shrubHeptacodium micanoides | Common Name 7 seven flower - Another tree I have told you about in the past but worth repeating. It has peeling tan coloured bark and blooms in late fall – October. The foliage reminds me of peach leaves, but is disease resistant, unlike peach leave. The calyxes turn red after flowering, giving an extended period of interest late in the fall. Love this tree, also difficult to find. Can be grown as a bush or trained as a tree.<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/plant-finder/plant-details/kc/k450/heptacodium-miconioides.aspx> or<http://www.waysidegardens.com/seven-sons-flower/p/48969/>  | Kingsway GreenhousesTry Vandermeer |

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| **VEGETABLES - GARDEN OF EATIN’ Highlighting a vegetable or herb each month (I saw the “eatin” part on a sign I saw on Brock Rd. – I thought it was neat phrase)**  |
| **Sweet Potato Slips** | These will be available the week-end of June 15 or 16 at Mason House. I would call ahead to make sure before you go. 905-649-3542 | Mason House |
| Tomato – Mighty MatoEggplant & peppers | Mighty Mato’s are heirloom tomatoes grafted onto hardy rootstock, apparently producing more tomatoes with less disease. They can become massive plants, producing copious amounts of tomatoes. Perhaps we will only need one tomato from now on!! Superstore also has Mighty Mato cages for 14.99 – huge tomato cages to handle this huge plant. This cage would also be excellent for clematis durandii, clematis that does not climb but can grow to 8 feet so needs something to drape over. Mason house will have over 100 varieties of regular tomatoes as well this year, along with a slew of unusual vegetables, including okra and male asparagus. Try growing asparagus as a very tall, ferny ornamental – wonderful!Mason House will also carry grafted Mighty Eggplants and grafted Mighty Peppers. | Mason HouseSuperstoreMany NurseriesMason House |
| Arugula Wasabi | I first tried this arugula last year and was most impressed with the genuine wasabi flavour. It takes about 20 seconds to kick in once you eat it. It has seeded in my garden and I have lots of little seedlings this year. I don’t do much with it other than to nibble on a few leaves when I wander about in the vegetable garden | Mason House |
| Sorrel – Profusion | This is a trademarked plant from Richter’s Herbs. It does not set seed, is perennial, and provides lots of tart tasting, tasty leaves, for salad and for sorrel soup if you can find a recipe on-line. It very very slowly spreads in my garden, likely because it is planted in a compacted pathway, and comes up reliably every year, stays fresh all summer. I am going to try to use it more in salads this year. Try it in a pot, and overwinter in your garage. It grows about 8 inches high. | Richter’s Herbs |

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| **GROWING UP! Try these annual vines while you wait for your clematis to establish. If planting morning glories, plant only one per trellis – they are very aggressive and will self-seed for next year – perhaps too much**! |
| Clematis “Joe Zary” | Drooping, quilled, lavender/purple flowers – this clematis really stands out in my garden as it grows up a pine tree. It is June 10th, and blooming profusely. It has really just taken off in my garden after 3 years, so not sure how long it will bloom - it is supposed to bloom all summer. I like it so much I ordered another one from Peter Keeping, and will plant it in the Austrian Pine Allee, along with 50+ other varieties. Grow it in a bit of shade if possible to prevent the flowers from fading. <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=1851>  | Peter Keeping |
| Clematis “Romantica” | I cannot find a link that shows the true colour of this clematis. Peter Keeping indicated that it is much admired by visitors. It is the deepest, darkest, blackish purple, quite lovely. <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=396> This site is more like the colour I saw at Peter’s. <http://igardendaily.com/tag/clematis-romantica/>  | Peter Keeping |
| Clematis | Pink Fantasy – just purchased this one – a very lovely pink variety that can be chopped back in the spring – group 3 and easy care. <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=375>  | Peter Keeping |
| Annual Vine Nasturtium Yeti | This is a creamy white nasturtium – a rare colour in the world of nasturtiums. It was named after the mystical rare ape like creature that is said to inhabit areas in the Himalayas. I am trying this trailing vine for the first time this year as I was looking for an annual white vine. I have given it a space of 3 feet by 6 feet in the tropical garden and hope it will fill in the entire area as I am going to let sprawl rather than climb. I don’t know how one would train a nasturtium on a trellis – do they have tendrils???<http://australianseed.com/shop/item/nasturtium-yeti-cream-white>  | Mason House |
| Annual Vine Ipomoea Lindheimeri | I grew this vine for the first time last year (2102). It grew very fast, as most morning glories, and completely overwhelmed the 3 foot high obelisk. This year, I am giving it much more trellis area. I thought the flowers were incredibly beautiful – it bloomed til frost. The interesting thing about this morning glory is that forms a tuber, much like a dahlia which can be stored over winter. Just think what the plant will do with a more mature tuber that has been overwintered. The problem for me was that it started to sprout in mid-January and I should of potted it up and keep it trimmed until I could put it in the garage – above freezing of course. The tuber ended up shriveled and dead but luckily I got another one this from Mason House!<http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/104857/>  | Mason House |
| Annual VineIpomoea Heian Nokaori | This is a Japanese morning glory in white with a tiny circle of pink in the throat. I am going to try growing it in my white garden on a white obelisk, and hope it is not too aggressive. Here is a photo. <http://www.onalee.com/catalog.php/onaleeisrael/dt66284/JMG_Heian_Series>  | Mason House |

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| **A ROSE FOR YOU:** **It appears right now that I have lost many roses this year – not sure why, some of them were old, some have crown gall, some are diseased, some were weak, but some were very vigorous and strong and still they appear to be dead. I always plant the bud union below ground – 4-6” deep, so I will not remove these roses until well into June as quite often, the roses will sprout from below ground, even though they appear to be dead. After June 30th, any that have not sprouted will be removed. You can continue to plant potted roses all summer. I get great bargains in the fall, when some nurseries reduce their roses to $5.00.**Rose Information: Brooklin is considered to be in zone 5b. I have over 400 roses, none of which are pampered or hilled for the winter. The secret in cold climates is to plant the rose so that the bud union is 4-6 inches below ground level (the bud union is the swollen part at the base of the plant where the rose is grafted to a hardy root stock). The colder the zone, the deeper to plant. Don’t prune roses in fall (unless the canes are whipped by the wind or are in the way), mulch with leaves if you have any. Climbers – do not prune in the fall or spring except to remove dead canes. Once bloomers, never cut back more than ½, don’t fertilize roses after August 1st in our climate. I have moved many roses in late fall before the ground freezes.Another tip: In the spring, the dead branches are mowed down indiscriminately with a battery-powered hedge trimmer – this method has not affected the plants adversely. A little more fine-tuning can be done later.  |
| Rose Velvet Fragrance | This is a hybrid tea rose. The flowers are deep red and last a very long time on the shrub. When they leave that pointed tea rose form, they open to a full and “cabbage” form, much like a David Austin rose. They have won awards for fragrance. Buy it if you can find it.  | Pickering Nurseries |
| Rose “Lilian Austin” | A David Austin English rose; this is a favourite rose of Joel, owner of Pickering Nurseries in Port Hope. Beautiful cabbage type flowers in pink cover the bush from top to bottom. | Pickering Nurseries |

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| **SOME PREVIOUS ENTRIES WORTH REPEATING** |
| Annual | Browalia Americana | Not your typical browalia and difficult to find, Americana grows about 1 foot tall, with delicate ½” blue with white centred flowers that look like lobelia. Unlike lobelia, which fizzles out in the heat of summer, it blooms all summer into fall. Grow enmasse for best effect – Mason House sells several plants in a cell pack. Will self-seed. | Mason House |
| Perennial Sun Lover, average to dry soil | Amsonia hubrichtii | A wonderful plant with a long season of interest, with its blue spring flowers, attractive feathery leaves, and golden yellow fall color. Spectacular in the fall with golden foliage. It may look haggard when young; it doesn't shine until a few years old. Grow this one for the foliage! | Mason HouseMost nurseries |
| Perennial Sun Lover, average to dry soil  | Aster Frikartii Monch | A lovely aster (1 ½’ tall) that is not invasive, does not self-seed all over, does not get mildew, with bright yellow centered lavender blooms and blooming much earlier than other asters from mid-July to frost. Mulch well with leaves in the fall – may be a bit tender but worth growing as an annual. Full sun. | Mason HouseVandermeerPineridge in Pickering |
| Perennial – woodland garden, dappled shade | Ban Zia | This plant is similar to jack- in-the-pulpit. Delicate green spathes with a 6-12” whip. The whip is the interesting part! Green tripartite leaves; 12” high. Quite unusual. Can be late to emerge in spring (June) so mark the spot with a tag. | Richter’s Herbs |
| Perennial Sun Lover, average to moist soil | Rudbeckia subomentosa Henry Eilers | This Rudbeckia grows 5-6 feet tall, produces masses of 2 inch wide yellow flowers with unique finely quilled petals. A welcome addition to the late summer garden. Produces a good sized clump in about 3 years but flowers first year. Full sun/part shade | Mason HouseVandermeer |
| PerennialSun Lover, average to moist soil  | Tradescantia Sweet Kate | Spiderwort. Gorgeous lime green colour with deep purple flowers – will scorch in hot afternoon sun – morning sun location is best or light shade. Mine grows in the woodland garden. Grows about 1-1 ½ feet tall. Blooms in June/July. | Mason HouseMost nurseries |
| PerennialShady Average to moist  | Heuchera Blackout | Similar to Obsidian, but darker and more vigorous, this hybrid has very glossy, near-jet black leaves, the blackest yet. White flowers on tall black stems in June/July. Very dramatic. | John’s Perennials |
| PerennialShady Average to moist | Huechera Rave On | Blooming since mid-May in my garden and showing no signs of stopping, it is one of the heaviest spring bloomers producing masses of pink flowers above highly silvered foliage. Very long blooming, more spring flowers than any other heuchera. Compact plant with small leaves, plant enmasse for a huge display of flowers, use as an edger or in pots. Flowers are very long lasting in a vase. | Vandermeer |
| PerennialShade/Part Sun | Hosta Bridegroom | Medium size. This hosta really stands out from its peers with shiny dark green leaves with twisted tips that turn upward, reaching for the sky! Purple flowers. Recipient of the '04 AHS Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award | Mason HouseGoldenbrook Hostas |
| PerennialShade/Part Sun | Hosta Minuteman | (Machen 94)Medium-sized, 22" high x 50" wide. You will notice this hosta from a distance! The leaves are cupped, with a very stark contrast between the dark green centre and the white wide border. Lavender flowers in July. Rapid growing. | Goldenbrook Hostas |
| PerennialShade/Part Sun | Hosta Niagara Falls | Extra-large sized, 30" high x 60" wide. The clump resembles a waterfall, hence the name. This semi-upright hosta has dark green, heart-shaped leaves with wide, deeply impressed veins and pie-crust edging. Pale lavender flowers**. Winner of several awards. Spectacular showpiece!** | Golden Brook Hostas |
| Perennial Shade/Part Shade | Hosta Ripple Effect | Narrow, elongated leaves are trimmed by a very wavy, narrow, blue-green edge that randomly streaks into the yellow center. It forms a low, horizontal mound of twisty foliage about 12" tall and 18" across – lavender flowers. The very first plant to be released in the 2010 American Hosta Society Online Auction brought over $100. This is a really nice hosta! | John’s PerennialsGoldenbrook Hostas |
| Perennial GroundcoverShady Average to dry | Vancouveria Hexandra – groundcover  | Vancouveria will grow in rich moist or dry soil, full shade or part shade. 6-8” tall, it looks like epimedium but with white upside-down flowers and leaves that resemble a duck’s foot. The leaves emerge bright green, then darken with age, creating a two-toned effect. Easy to control without invasive roots, it slowly forms a lacy carpet under conifers or deciduous trees. Beautiful! | ??? Sofie’s garden |
| Shrub  | Sambucus racemosa Morden Golden Glow | Features fine-textured, ferny, golden foliage all season long which often emerges with a reddish tint, along with showy creamy white flowers in spring followed by red berries; ideal compact size for the home landscape. More compact at 5’x5’, great alternative to Japanese maples. Full sun or part shade, moist or dry sites. More refined than Sutherland Gold and smaller. | Mason House |

**CLEMATIS Peter Keeping will be our speaker on June 26th. Check this list to see if he sells some of the varieties that interest you and perhaps you can call him to order ahead of time to bring them to the meeting. He is located in Bowmanville – check the information at the beginning of this presentation. 905-697-7842**

To access the links below to see a photograph, place your curser on the website, hold down the control button then click again on the website, or just copy it to your address bar.

It is important to keep your plant tags next to your newly planted clematis so you know how to prune. Use a permanent marker or HB pencil to indicate on the tag how to prune so you are not guessing in the spring and keep it with your clematis. The problem now is that many growers are not indicating group 1, 2 or 3 on their tags, but keep in mind the descriptions I have given to determine the pruning requirements.

**Group “1” or “A”:** usually alpine type – do not prune in spring as they begin blooming in April. Pruning can then be done when they have finished blooming. Prune after blooming or not at all.

**Group “2” or “B”**: if the tag says blooms May, June, then Sept. it is a Group “2” or “B”. ***Do not prune these in spring or you will cut off the blooms – like lilacs.*** This group blooms on buds formed on last year’s wood in early spring, then again, if you are lucky, in late summer. The doubles seem to fall into this category. My recommendation is to establish these on an arbour to take advantage of that early bloom which formed on last year’s growth. Then grow an annual vine beside it for the rest of the summer – i.e. Asarina “Joan Lorraine”, Eccremecarpus***). Do not mix Group 2 & 3 together on the same trellis/arbour as both have totally different pruning requirements.***

**Group “3” or “C”**: easiest by far – hard prune in early spring close to the ground, above new shoots. (The viticella types are group 3 & seem to be resistant to clematis wilt. They usually bloom for several weeks in mid-summer with smaller flowers but in such profusion there could be hundreds of blooms.)

Integrifolias: generally Group 3 – hard prune in spring. They are non-climbing types that require support – obelisk or very tall tomato cages – let them drape over the edge – my favourite in this category is Durandii.

This is an amazing website where pretty well every clematis that exists is listed, along with photos.

<http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemalphasearch.cfm>

**Clematis 911** Gr. 2 <http://www.hollandbulbfarms.com/items.asp?cat=Clematis-Vines&Cc=clematis> This clematis has huge sky blue 6-8 inch blooms with long tepals – looks spectacular in the photos and I will be ordering one for sure. *MasonHouse2013*

**Avant Garde** Gr. 3 Viticella type <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=2983> This is the cutest little clematis. The flowers are really different. It is still a baby in my garden. Get it while you can. *MasonHouse2013*

**Cassis** Gr. 3 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=2977> So unusual and the flowers can be quite variable – doubles and singles. Still a baby in my garden. **This may be classed as a tender clematis**. So far mine looks dead so if I try it again, I will grow it in a pot and overwinter in the garage. *MasonHouse2013*

**Crystal Fountain** Gr. 2 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=1843> This one has a shaggy central boss which remains after the tepals have fallen off extending the season. I actually like it better when this happens. They look like little sputniks! *MasonHouse2013*

**Betty Corning** Gr. 3 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=562> – a viticella type– puckered little lavender skirts – vigorous – cut back to 6-8” in spring. It blooms a very long time. Some say it is fragrant, mine is not. *Mason House 2013*

**Blue Angel** Gr. 3 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=88> Also called BIekitny Angel. I love the colour of this one. A pale blue/lavender and I also love the texture of the tepals. The small flowers in profusion in summer remind me of an old-fashioned fabric called seersucker, wrinkly and puckered. *MasonHouse2013*

**Durandii** Gr. 3 <http://www.gardenimport.com/spblvl3.php?lvl=Clematis&nm=DURANDII&ref=CL5530> Most admired by visitors. I have about 18 of these in my garden. I love the colour as it goes from dark purple to sky blue, with both colours at the same time. The flowers are so perfect they look like plastic. I grow them in double tomato cages – they can get 6-8 feet tall and are not the climbing type. The stems drape over the edge of the cage and bloom most of the summer. I trim them when they get scraggly and they re-bloom. I use a heavy wire 4’ tall cage from Home Depot and then place another 5-6’ tomato cage over the heavy duty one which I get at Lowe’s for about $5.99. I find the really tall cages a bit flimsy but found these fairly sturdy extra tall ones at Lowe’s. *Peter Keeping and Garden Import and Mason House*

**Gillian Blades** Group 2 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=185> This is an old one but it is so beautiful. The edges of the white tepals are extremely ruffled. I love this clematis. *MasonHouse2013*

**Joe Zary Group 1 – no pruning** <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=1851> a beautiful early blooming variety (also supposed to bloom all summer) with lavender/purple quilled flowers. This clematis really stands out because of the quilled flowers.

**Mrs. Harvey** Gr. 3 <http://www.gardenimport.com/spblvl3.php?lvl=Clematis&nm=MRS._HARVEY&ref=CL4025> This is hard to find also so get it while you can. Little pale blue/purple twirling dancing skirts all summer. It blooms a very long time. One of my favourites as the drooping flowers are such an unusual shape. I have two – one each in my two asparagus beds. *Garden Import 2013, Peter Keeping*

**Omoshiro** Group 2 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=1545> This one is exquisite. It is the palest pink verging on white, edged in raspberry. I got mine at Garden Import – not carrying it this year. Keep an eye out for this beauty, perhaps next year.

**Perle d’Azure** Group 3 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=365> A real beauty and an award winner. It is growing up my weeping cypress. *Mason House 2013*

**Picardy** Group 2 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=2950> The photo here does not do it justice – it is very pretty and everyone loved it when I took one in to one of our hort. meetings. It is a beauty with the most unusual colour of purple red with a subtle red bar. *Peter Keeping*

**Piilu Group 2** [**http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/Vine/2195\_ClematisPiilu.aspx**](http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/Vine/2195_ClematisPiilu.aspx)Pink double blooms in spring and then again in late summer. A cute one. Just put it in 2012. *Mason House, Peter Keeping*

**Pink Fantasy Group 3** [**http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=375**](http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=375)I just purchased this so don’t know much about it other than it draws a lot of attention when blooming.

**Purpura Plena Elegans** Gr. 3 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=580> The flowers on this clematis last a long time. They are small and cute. Many visitors asked about this clematis in my garden. It had a lot of blooms last year even though it is still very young. *Peter Keeping*

**Rebecca** Group 2 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=3442> This one is a true red – not cherry red but real red with large beautiful flowers. This is also a new one for me in 2012 but I have seen the flowers and if you like red, this is the one to get. *Mason House 2013*

**Sprinkles** Group 2 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=1857> A new one for me and I will definitely be getting one as it quite unusual. *MasonHouse2013*

**Suzanne** Group 2 <http://hummingbirdfarm.net/suzanne.htm> Just bought this one last year so haven’t seen the blooms yet. Another one with an unusual flower. Looks beautiful and can’t wait to see it in bloom. *MasonHouse2013*

**Tie Die**  Group 3 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=3205> This is a hard one to find so if you like it, buy it. This vine was loaded with flowers last year. The flowers are so unusual – the name aptly describes it – just like the 60’s tie dye T-shirts, but, it looks like velvet. People went crazy for it when they saw it at our meeting. It is growing nicely up one of the pine trees. *Mason House 2013*

**Tracy Lee** <http://www.springvalleygreenhouse.com/Documents/SPRING_VALLEY-2012.pdf> Can’t find much about this one other than it is a pale pink double. Looks interesting. This is the only website I could find – hope you can open it. *Mason House 2013*

**Vienetta** Group 3 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=2979> Another must have this year. The flowers are so unusual; however, **this is tender clematis & will not survive our winters. Grow it in a pot and try overwintering in the garage or grow as an annual.** I have overwintered clematis in pots successfully in an unheated garage. *MasonHouse2013*

**Violet Elizabeth** Group 2 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=554> Another one I bought last year and have not seen it in bloom yet. Look at the number of tepals on each flower in the photo, outstanding! I can’t wait to see it in bloom. *MasonHouse2013, Peter Keeping*

**Hostas**: A hosta in a pot looks very deceiving, in most cases uninteresting, but wait ‘til they get in the garden. Hostas, like most perennials, roses and clematis, follow the old adage, “the first year they sleep, the second year they creep and the third year they leap”. Be patient.

**Red Lily Beetle**: Shown below is a formula which I discovered by accident which was recommended for aphids, but which I ended up using on the red lily beetle as I had the spray bottle in my hand, and low and behold, all the beetles I sprayed succumbed within 1 – 2 minutes. This spray is great as you can leave it in the garden – it won’t go bad but you must be persistent and hunt down the beetles regularly or they will get out of hand. The beetle larvae – covered in their own black excrement – look like black blobs and are usually hidden under the leaves. Brush them off with a brush – a long handled barbecue basting brush works well. Look for tiny orange eggs under the leaves and brush off or crush. The eggs will hatch in a few days, hence the need to be on the lookout. This spray is good for those who don’t like to crush with their fingers, or go through the tedious task of picking them off and crushing.

**Here is the formula** – 1 teaspoon (5 ml.) dish soap, 1 Tablespoon (15 ml.) mouthwash – I used Scope, 1 quart or 1 litre of water in a spray bottle. Mix gently or you will get a bottleful of bubbles. Hit the beetles with the spray. Try spraying the black blob larvae also or wipe them off with a brush.