



Agastache 'Blue Fortune'

Agastache, or Himalayan mint is a plant that has many points in its favour. Growing to between 0.4m and 1.2m the agastaches are exceptionally long flowering, from June to September. The spent flowers look stylish, both the flowers and the leaves are scented, and the leaves can be used to make a tisane. What's more you will rarely see a flower head without a bumble bee or hoverfly feeding from it. The leaves are in the form of a rosette, dark and neat. Although a relatively short lived perennial, it really is a trouble free plant. Here we have it in blue, but agastaches come in white, reds and orange. In this garden, every single plant needs to sing for it's supper, and one might say that all the plants are star plants. Although each plant must perform over most or all seasons, herbaceous perennials still need to play a part. In a garden such as this, the agastaches would always be high up on the list.





Pyracantha 'Orange Glow'

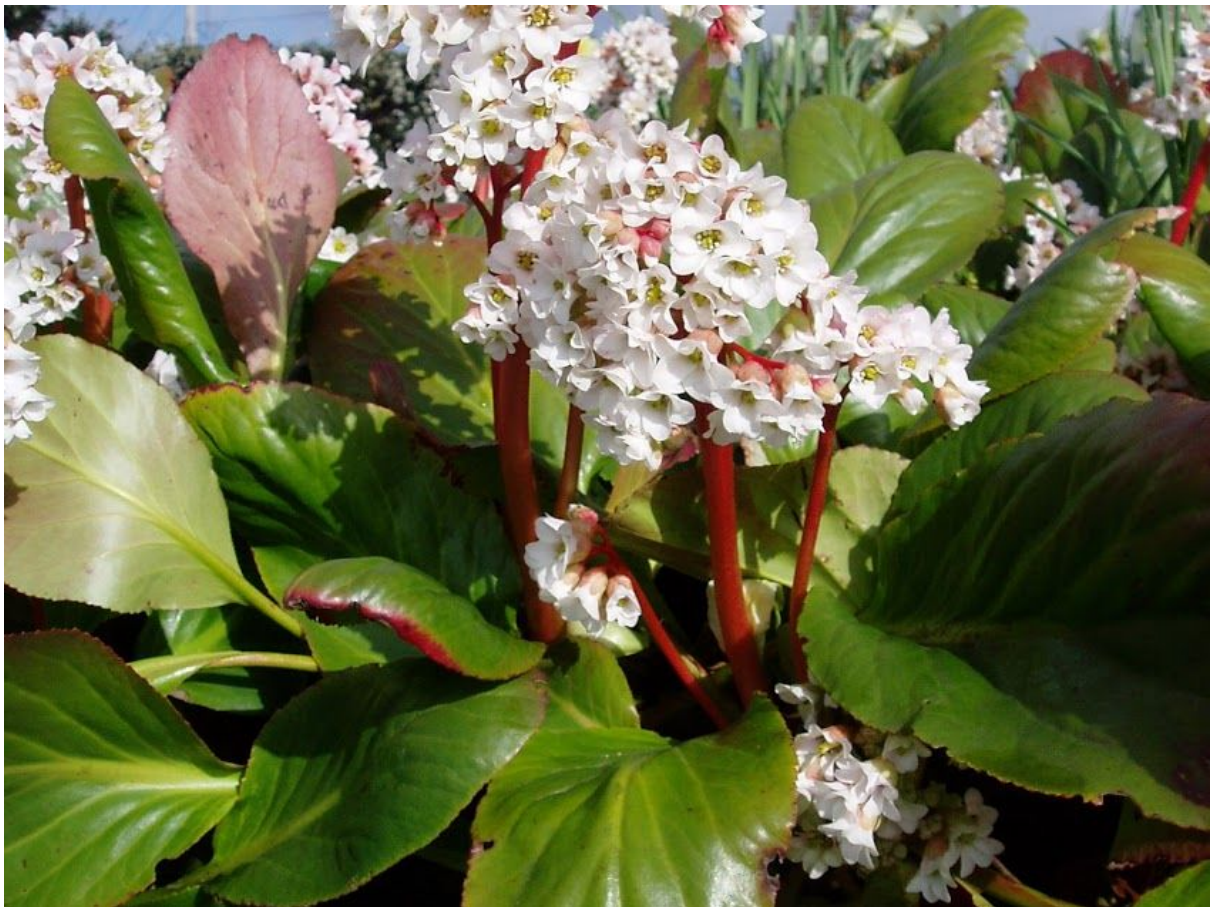
Pyracantha is a striking evergreen shrub which has both a delicate beauty and quiet strength. In this garden, *Pyracantha* finds itself happily growing up the wall of the house, adding vertical structure to the garden. Sprays of pure white flowers appear in May covering the whole shrub with a frivolous froth of blossom softening the crisp tidiness and attracting pollinators from far and wide. Bright, glowing orange berries take the place of the flowers in early Autumn, and provide a pop of colour over the harsh winter months to follow, that is until the birds strip it down to the very last berry. Both the flowers and berries offer two distinct seasons of interest, and with the leaves a permanent fixture, this makes *pyracantha* a shrub with an evolving and permanent presence all year round.





Bergenia 'Bressingham White'

Often referred to as 'Elephant Ears,' this rhizomatous perennial is best known for its rounded, leathery leaves. *Bergenias* offer year round interest, sitting snug in their clumps of deep green leaves which develop highlights of scarlett edging. In colder climates such as ours, some leaves turn a deep red in their entirety, offering a much needed burst of color throughout the winter. Most notably, white bell shaped flowers appear in May supported by red tinged stems which suspend the clusters of flowers about 50 cm in the fresh spring air, perfectly in the flight path of bumblebees and honeybees. For a garden such as this, varying interests such as leaf color, flower shape and winter presence is a necessity. 'Bressingham White' has just that which makes it a star in our eyes!





Stachys byzantina 'Lamb's-Ears'

Evoking a sense of nostalgia and familiarity, *Stachys byzantina* is a much welcomed member of this garden, carpeting the earth with soft, felty silver grey leaves. 'Lamb's Ear' offers ample texture and color which constantly evolves as the plant sends up a 45 cm magenta pink flowering shoot; a beacon for native bumblebees and honey bees alike. The softness and texture of this herbaceous perennial makes it a consistent and valuable player in the overall aesthetic. Growing to an average height of about 40 centimeters and width of 50 centimeters, 'Lamb's Ear,' proves itself time and time again as one of the best plants for groundcover and underplanting.





Crataegus monogyna 'Hawthorn'

A native deciduous tree, Hawthorn's are vitally important to UK wildlife. Growing to a maximum height of 15 meters, their intertwining branches and thorns create a microworld for wildlife. Visiting hazel dormice in May feast on the white flowers, honeybees and bumblebees buzz away as they pollinate the flowers and visiting flocks of waxwings enjoy the abundance of red haws. The leaves turn yellow and then rust in the autumn leaving the haws exposed, adding winter colour and interest. Exceptional for wildlife but also exceptional in this garden adding definition, structure, evolving color palettes and interest as wildlife is welcomed into an urban setting.

