



Visiting the Gardens in high summer

Summer is a time when the Gardens show the results of all the early work and preparation. The beds by the glasshouse terrace are in full bloom with massed planting giving varying colour schemes. Those near the Centre change each season. The other plots reflect the individuality of each plot, sweet peas in some, cosmos and dahlias in others, soft fruit in others and vegetables in most. Blousy oriental poppies give vibrant colour which is followed by phlox and aconitum. These are slowly followed by the dahlias, the pinks and mauves of the asters and the colourful out door border chrysanthemums and schizostylus.

The glasshouse comes into its summer colourful and exotic glory, once all the half hardy plants and vegetables are planted outside. This year there will be a selection of decorative peppers, the heliotropes will be struggling with the heat (see them in March when they are in full bloom.) The hedichiums and eucomis are in flower, and the enlarged collection of sweet leaved geraniums is a reminder of the old fashioned attraction of these plants

The cutting border is a mixture of late bulbs, dahlias and annuals, cornflowers calendulas, and sunflowers and provides flowers for sale when the Gardens are open..

The summer is the time to see the wide range of vegetables grown in the gardens including, broad beans, runner beans including the old 'Painted Lady' and French beans and many different salad plants. There is also the opportunity to see onions, shallots, leeks and carrots grown by methods used for exhibition purposes.

Herbs are grown in nearly all the plots with a mixed herb border in two of the gardens. The range is wide with decorative thymes, selections of mints, tansy, French sorrel and many more.

Rhubarb, 'Victoria' and 'Timperley Early' started the fruit season with gooseberries and currents, black, red and the dessert white ones to following on. August sees the start of the top fruit with plums, mainly 'Warwickshire Drooper', followed by the apples 'Beauty of Bath' and then by 'Devonshire Quarrendon', a delicious red eater.