

## *'Digging Deep'*

### **Our in-depth Garden Knowledge Pages**

This area is devoted to gardeners who want advice with different projects or would like to learn more about their favourite flowers.

### **Understanding your Garden**

To make our gardens look truly beautiful, we have to understand the plants that we use. We will cover different projects here from plans for borders to planting up a shade garden. Pond design & construction. Planting a wild flower garden etc.

## **Ponds & pond plants.**

### **HARDY WATER LILIES (NYMPHAEA)**



### **Nymphaea 'Frobeli' for small ponds.**

The focal point of any pond, and in my opinion the most beautiful of all the water plants, floating on the surface of a pond. Their decorative leaves or pads screen the water of sunlight, helping to break down algae growth, as well as making a safe haven for pond life such as fish or frogs.

The flowering period for most lilies is from the end of May to the first frosts, the blooms last for 3 to 5 days each and most varieties close their petals as the sun goes down. There are varieties to suit every pond size and depth. Water lilies are relatively trouble free, but to grow water lilies successfully we would recommend the following.

1. Make a careful choice when choosing Water Lilies, if you plant too deep your lilies will not perform well, in fact you can kill them. Use our chart below to work out the surface spread and the right plant for the depth of your pond.
2. They should not be placed near water fountains, strong water from filtration pumps, or water falls.
3. Do not plant in full shade lilies love sunshine. The only water lily to flower in the shade is Nymphaea James Brydon.
4. When replanting a water lily do not cover the growing tip.

### **WATER LILY CHART**

**Our water lilies are sold as two to three-year-old tubers**, which should flower with in the first year of purchase, (although we can not guarantee this as we are so weather dependant). The lilies are clearly marked with the recommended planting depth and for your

information and identification purposes the following code has been used to for the surface spread as a guide on three year old plants.

- V. Vigorous types should be planted in 2 to 3 feet ( 60 to 95cm) depth of water. Surface spread 4ft ( 125cm )
- M. Medium size plant in 18 inches (45cm ) Spread 3ft (90cm) Small, up to 12 inches (30cm) deep.
- MI. Surface spread 2 ft (60cm.)
- P. Dwarf forms for 4"/ 9"(10cm to 25cm)  
Surface spread 12 "(30cm)

### **Advice & Tips for Pond Building:**

Before building your pond consider these points first...

Sighting: The pond should be in full sun or partial shade. There should be no over hanging trees polluting the pond. Can you view the pond from the house? Consider where you would like to sit and relax near the pond, you will find that its not only hypnotic but very therapeutic as well, so allow some room.

Shape: Look at the rest of your garden, is it formal or informal? If formal, you should be looking at a square, circular or oblong pond. With maybe a central fountain to compliment the setting.

Formal Pond Planting: Your planting for formal ponds should be minimal and repetitive, orchestrating the bold lines of the pond.

Informal Ponds Planting: For informal gardens the pond shape should be more relaxed, kidney shaped, natural, oval or meandering. No fountains for this type of pond, instead, try a waterfall from an old pipe or half open log at the side of the pool.

What does the addition of a pond do for your garden? Whether you have a lake, a pond, a tub, a puddle or a bog garden, take advantage of the surrounding area, making it a feature by the introduction of water marginal and bog plants.

**What is the best bit of advice I can give you? GET YOUR LEVELS RIGHT BEFORE YOU START DIGGING AND CHECK THEM AGAIN BEFORE YOU LAY YOUR POND LINER. Always remember that water finds its own level.**

If you would like any further advice please call us, we are always willing to help.

- [Sandy Worth](#), Water Meadow Nursery.Cheriton.Go back to [Water Plant](#) list

### **INVASIVE Water Plants**

**Words of Warning. Beware of rampant thugs in your pond!**

We have found to our own sad experience and costly labour charges that there are a few undesirables water plants that we will not sell and can only be described as rampant thugs !

**1) Tilleae recurva. or Crassula ssp** Oxygenator / pond edging plant very invasive & uncontrollable when it escapes the pond into your garden.

**2)Nymphoides peltata / Benettii/ Villarsia nymphoides.**

Common name **Water Fringe**. Still listed by some Wild Life Conservation Trusts, far too invasive for general use, each leaf node forms another plant.

**3) Ranunculas ligua grandiflora** far too invasive with creeping root stock it spreads from one side of the pond to the other, and is quite at home in your herbaceous border!.

## Papaver Super Poppy hybrids

The Way To The Future ? Sandy Worth thinks so.  
Inspecting the new Trial area of Super Poppy seedlings at  
Water Meadow Nursery , . (View our [Super](#) Poppy Range)



## Centre Stage Papaver Super Poppy series



### **So What Is A 'Super Poppy' (The full story.)**

The 'Super Poppies' are a new inter specific hybrid form of perennial poppy. They were originally created & bred in the U.S.A. by Mr James DeWalt from a breeding programme of crossing *Papaver atlanticum*, *californicum*, *rupifragrum*, *somniferum* & *orientale* /*bracteatum*, which took over thirty years to achieve.

As a young botanist Mr De Welt wanted a perennial poppy that would with-stand the hot & high U.V. rays of the sun in California. The *orientale* poppy in his part of the world, withers & dies while trying to flower, sometimes with in one day!

By crossing the above species of poppies he produced, ( remember it took 30 years to achieve) a perennial poppy that was fast growing, longer flowering, with prolific blooms, & hardy, with standing high UV Rays & colder winter temperatures.

The Super Poppies love normal to dry soil; they will not tolerate wet soil. The U.S. & World rights to these poppies are with Sandy Worth of Water Meadow Nursery in the U.K, who has carefully monitored the plants since 1998.

The Super Poppies were grown along side the Nation Collection of *Papaver orientale* so that their differences could be recorded and documented.

#### **Sandy's comments about the 'Super Poppy'**

"The 'Super Poppy' is a welcome addition to the Poppy group, as some people find the beautiful *orientale* Poppy too fleeting a flower in their gardens, some colours, notably the mauve or blue-pink shades of the *orientale* poppy are susceptible to strong hot sunshine, U.V. rays & rain.

The New Super Poppy comes into its own here; the petals on the 'Super Poppy' hybrids are much thicker, so the petals last longer and although some of the varieties fade, they fade so beautifully, (unlike *Papaver* or: 'Patty's Plum' who really would prefer to be in semi shade).

To give you some idea of the length of flowering of the 'Super Poppy', the record is held by 'Super Poppy' 'Medallion', one flower lasted 18 days before the petals dropped. In the U.K. we seem to be luckier still, because of our temperate, (some might say cold summer!) we find we can get a second flowering from them in August or September depending on the weather .

A brief description of our trialing results.

**The Super Poppy leaves**, are different from variety to variety.

**The Super Poppy flowers**, most varieties have thick glossy petals, all have 6 petal flowers or more.

**Stems**, Most have upright sturdy stems favouring bracteatum genus.

**Second flowering.** Normal flowers, as first flowering, on straight stems but with auxiliary flowers emerging from leaf nodes on the stem. To promote a second flowering we deadhead as soon as the petals start to fall. Never leave a seed pod to form.

**After first flowering.** We cut back all vegetation to ground level. The ground is treated with Vitex Q4 and lightly dug into the surface, watered well and mulched with bark chip to conserve the moisture in the soil. .

If you would like to have an enjoyable day out and learn more about Poppies why not join us on one of our [Super Poppy Days](#)



### **The NCCPG National Collection of Papaver orientale -**

**The National Collection of Papaver Orientale** at Water Meadow Nursery is home to 185 cultivars of Orientale Poppies and the Nursery is open for inspection of the collection from May to early July.

There are talks & one-day courses on care, propagation and assessments.

To find out more about the Poppy Collection & the plants we can provide,

**please call the nursery on 00 44 (0) 1962 771895.**

Of all the plants in our collection, these are my favourite. I am overawed by their beauty and I never tire of studying their different shapes and form. They are such versatile plants looking at home in both inner city gardens and country residences.

Our special collection of Papaver orientale, which numbers over 170 different varieties, is set in amongst mixed borders and presentation beds at our Nursery. We have gathered our collection from many parts of the U.K., Europe and the

USA. These include the new and exciting R.H.S. Award of Garden Merit varieties of 'Aglaja', 'Effendi', 'John III', 'Khedive', and 'Leuchtfeuer'.

The newer varieties have been bred with care and consideration to promote shorter, strong sturdy stems, longer flowering upright facing blooms, and tolerance to our climatic changes of sun, rain and wind. There are now several lower height poppies(18 to 24 inches. 45 to 60cm) which are well suited to the small garden and which can still look very impressive in a large herbaceous border as a front feature plants in country homes.

The colour combinations of the newer poppies are endless ranging from the purest white, palest blush pink through the colour spectrum of pink, both warming to salmon and cooling to old rose shades, and of course covering the fashion shade of plum to purple.

For personal visitors our display beds and borders will be brimming with their colour during May, June and July. Many Horticultural Societies from around the U.K. and the continent of Europe visit us at this time of year.

Since 2000 we have introduced new poppies that we feel are different enough and an improvement on the existing poppies for one reason or another for example. new colour breaks, lower growing height, upward facing flowers on firm stems, with very good form, and most importantly a longer flowering season. Millennium 2000. New poppies bred in Hampshire which we think are stunning.

Think of a mid raspberry shade, mixed with a little grey and you have '**Raspberry Ruffles**'. The magnificent blooms of '**Lauren's Lilac**' ( a x from its parent Patty's Plum) A ruffled large pinky apricot named '**Fiesta**'

2001 Saw the arrival of, Pure White, & lovely '**Snow Goose**', Large flowering warm and pale, '**Pink Panda**', *Oranges & Lemons* '**Flamenco**', *Elegant pastel pink, water lily shaped* '**The Promise**',

Between 2002 to 2008, each year we have bred or introduced more varieties into the collection including '**The Trinity**', '**Alison**', '**Brooklyn**', '**Earl Grey**', '**Sunset**', '**White Ruffles**', '**Pink Pearl**' which can all be found in our on line catalogue.

To qualify for inclusion we are looking for the following attributes, longer lasting flowering season, new colour breaks, shorter or taller growth with robust stems and general good form. (I'm still searching for a Blue P. orientale! or to breed a Black! Enjoy your garden, Sandy Worth

**Go to the catalogue [listing](#) of Papaver orientale**



# Wild Flower Meadow Advice

To View our Choice of Wild Flowers Click on this link [Wild Flowers](#)



***Tips for growing your own wild flower meadows, however small or large an area. We have sown several wild flower meadows in different environs we would suggest you take into account the following.***

1. Research your own specific area by contacting your local wild Life Trust and asking them which wild flower plants would be native to your soil and area. Or go to the following web site and download the post code native plants for your area, its a great site try it! [www.nhm.ac.uk/science/projects/fff/index.htm](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/science/projects/fff/index.htm) Its at the Natural History Museum. This way you have a better chance of getting the plants established, as they will be indigenous to the area and should flourish.
2. If you are planting for the first time, it is better to plant a group of established plants in 9cm pots or larger depending on the site, together with plug plants & flower seed, as the seedlings take a while to clump up, if they appear at all! **we do not use any grass seed**, as the grass will come what ever happens, this way you will be giving the new seedlings a chance of getting established before the grass tries to take over.
3. It is very pleasing to the eye to see the same plant 'on masse' planted in a swathe. Work out the areas & colour combinations and map it out with silver sand before sowing, over lapping the plant seeds s to give a more natural effect. With in a few years you will notice that most of the plants have 'moved house' and invaded each others territory, but you will still see a pleasing 'group' of plants.
4. If your wild flower garden is large enough, mow a curved path to walk through, and maybe put a bench in a shady area to relax and to view the flowers.
5. Find a corner to leave for the Stinging Nettles to encourage butterflies and other forms of insects.
6. Cut out or remove rampant weeds like docks before they can re-seed them selves.
7. Look up the Native Herb Plants that you can include in your wild flower area, there are lots listed in our herb section that will look right at home.

8. For those of you who want a Wild flower & Prairie Flower style of Meadow Planting, there are a host of flowers available. Lots of Verbascum, Echinacea, Orientale Poppies, especially 'Peter Pan' & 'May Flower', which are the smaller double variety type, Lupins & try the Tree lupin, grasses including the tall growing Miscanthus, Lavandula especially if its a dry site and you could also add thyme in lots of varieties & fragrances, the bees & butterflies love them.