

RABBITS IN THE GARDEN

Some years ago Seamus was asked to design a Garden on a very exposed site ravaged by salt-laden gales. On his first visit he was greeted by the sight of a dozen or so bouncing bunnies disappearing into the long grass. Impossible to establish a garden with these inhabitants, you'd think, but having done his research he was aware of quite a selection of rabbit-resistant plants that might survive this particular situation. It wasn't practical to erect a rabbit-proof fence so the ground was prepared and the following is a list of the plants that now thrive.

Trees and shrubs that rabbits will avoid . . .

Alnus (Alder), Araucaria araucana (monkey puzzle), Berberis, Betula (Birch), Buddleja (Butterfly bush), Cistus, Cordyline, Cytisus (Broom), Elaeagnus, Escalonia, Euonymus, Fuchsii, Genista hispanica (Spanish gorse) Whipcord Hebes, Hippophae rhamnoides (Sea buckthorn), Hydrangea, Labnummum, Lavatera, Leptospernum, Ligustrum ovalifolium, Olearia, Pinus nigra, Potentilla tangerine, Ribes (Flowering currant), Rosa rugosa, Rosmarinus officinalis (Rosemary), Sambucus (Elder), Santolina (Lavender cotton), Senecio greyii, Spiraea bumalda Anthony Waterer, Weigela. Tree guards were used around suitable individual trees.

Non - woody rabbit resistant plants . . .

Acanthus (Bears breeches), Aconitum (Monkshood), Agapanthus, Ajuga sp. Allium, Alstroemaria , Anaphalis, Anemone (Japanese Anemone), Aquilegia, Armeris maritima (Thrift), Aster, Astilbe, Cerastium Tomentosum (Snow - in - Summer), Crocosmia, Cynaria (Cardoon), Dicentra, Digitalis (Foxglove), Dierama (Angels' fishing rod), Echinops, Erigeron Seabreeze (Fleabane), Eryngium, Euphorbia, Galanthus (Snowdrop), Geranium, Hemerocallis (Day-Lily), Heuchra, Hyacinthoides non-script (Bluebells), Iris, Kniphofia (Red Hot Poker), Lamium, Libertia Formosa, Lysimachia (Loosetrife), Malva Moschata (Mallow), Mentha (Mint), Narcissus (Daffodils), Nepeta (Catmint), Penstemon, Persicaria, Phormium (New Zealand Flax), Primula (Primrose), Saxifraga, Schizostylis coccinae, Sedum Autumn Joy, Silene Maritima (Sea champion), Stachys Byzantia (Lambs' Ears), Teucrium Chamaedrys (Germander), Zantedeschia (Calla Lily).

Successful Ornamental Grasses

include Heliotrichon Sempervirens, Chionochloa Flavescens, Chionochloa Rubra, Stipa Gigantea, Stipa Tenuissima and Cortaderia Richardii.

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