

# GRACEFUL GRASSES



In the garden with Wendy Matheson

A recent visit to the splendid walled garden at Cambo House in Fife reinforced my belief in the value of growing a variety of grasses in your garden.

They provide graceful movement and variations of height throughout borders and in pots.

Varieties that are particularly easy to keep and grow from seed are *Stipa tenuissima*, *Carex elata Aurea*, *Miscanthus sinensis*, *Calamagrostis acutiflora*, *Cortaderia fulvida*, *Panicum virgatum* and *Molinia caerulea*.

Depending on the species, they can provide interest for around 10 months of the year, needing only to be cut back or thinned out in March in preparation for new growth in the spring.



They provide particular interest in the herbaceous border in winter, offering structure and elegance and particularly beautiful in the frost.

Try to resist cutting back any plants which will provide winter attraction – especially dried seed heads and umbel flowers such as poppies and hydrangeas.

Nurseries producing particularly interesting grasses:

Knoll Garden Nurseries – 01202 873931 – [www.knollgardens.co.uk](http://www.knollgardens.co.uk)

Local nurseries selling grasses:

Ardfearn Nursery – Bunchrew, Inverness

Abriachan – Lochnessside – [www.lochnessgarden.com](http://www.lochnessgarden.com)

Highland Lilliums – Kiltarlity, Beaulie – [www.highlandlilliums.co.uk](http://www.highlandlilliums.co.uk)

Greens Nurseries – New Fleenas Farm, Nairn – 01667 452760

Broadley Garden Centre – Nairn – 01667 452955

On the subject of attractive plants for winter interest, combinations of the following can be stunning in the correct planting design:



Great shrubs for winter colour and structure are hebe, cornus, rubus and skimmia and can look stunning planted with masses of galanthus (snowdrop), Erica (winter flowering heather), cyclamen and winter aconites.



## This month's must-have book

*Tall Perennials* by Roger Turner – ISBN 978-0881928891

Larger than life plants for gardens of all sizes – good winter reading for planning your imaginative borders next spring.

### CONTACT WENDY

If you have any gardening queries, please contact Wendy at: [info@wmgarden.com](mailto:info@wmgarden.com)