



Oxenhope

Gardening Club News

November 2024

Welcome to November's newsletter.



New quince in Yorkshire Garden

I'm often asked if I miss the garden I had in France, and my answer is that I treasure the memories I have of the 22 years I spent gardening there, but life moves on; I now have my gardening fix in my son's garden.

However, there are some plants that I had in France that I have planted in his garden and one of them that I didn't want to be without, is a quince tree, *Cydonia oblonga* 'Vranja'. This year, 3 years after planting, I picked my first 4 fruits!

There are many stories, myths and history attached to the quince. One of these is that the 'apple' that tempted Adam in the Garden of Eden may have been the quince. Likewise, the 'golden apples' offered to Aphrodite, the goddess of love, could also have been quinces. Although native to Asia, the quince takes its Latin name (*Cydonia oblonga*) from Cydon in Crete, one of the

many Mediterranean locations where it was grown. In the 13th century, Edward I had four quinces planted in the grounds of the Tower of London!

It's a tree not often seen in gardens here, which is a pity because it has many attractive features. Vranja, is a single variety quince that produces beautiful dog-rose-like saucers of sweet-smelling flowers and large fragrant fruit, golden-yellow when ripe, in late October and November.

These aren't edible raw, but when cooked they soften to a beautiful rose-



Fruit from tree in France

pink, with which can be made aromatic quince jelly and a quince paste, membrillo. It is also very good when cooked with apples, adding a lovely flavour.

These unusual fruits are rarely available in shops (in France they are) so the best way to enjoy their deliciously aromatic flavour is to grow your own! Given sun, shelter and a non-alkaline, reasonable soil and you'll be in fruit every autumn. The tree is self-fertile. **Sandra.**

Behind the Scenes as an RHS judge: The speaker for November is Martin Fish



As a senior RHS judge, Martin can be found at most RHS shows, including Chelsea, Malvern, Hampton Court and Tatton: Martin chairs the RHS Tender Ornamental Plant Committee who oversee trials, Awards of Garden Merit (AGM's) Martin is also on the RHS Gardens Committee which advises and oversees the development of the society's five gardens. As part of that committee Martin takes on the role as one of the garden advisors at RHS Garden, Harlow Carr in Harrogate.

Martin studied horticulture at Brackenhurst College, Southwell and Merrist Wood College in Surrey. At 21 Martin went on to become Head Gardener at Rufford Abbey, at the time the youngest head gardener in the country. Martin has written regularly for Garden News

and gardening projects and features were also created for The Garden, Gardener's World Magazine, Kitchen Garden and Garden Answers. In 2009 Martin and his wife Jill moved to North Yorkshire where for five years he ran the award-winning Harrogate Flower Shows.

Plant of the month: Mukdenia rossii 'Karasuba' or Mukdenia rossii 'Crimson Fans':



Mukdenia rossii 'Karasuba' or Mukdenia rossii 'Crimson Fans' is a selected cultivar of Mukdenia rossii which is one of just two species in this genus of herbaceous perennials native to China, Manchuria and Korea where it grows in cool deciduous forest and on rocky slopes and subalpine ravines.

The name Mukdenia comes from the Chinese province of Shenyang, then called Mukden, and commemorates the ancient city of Mukden, the Chinese capital city of the Manchu dynasty. The specific name, rossii, is after a Scottish missionary John Ross* (1842-1915) who established one of the first Christian churches in the region.

This is a beautiful perennial for dappled shade providing valuable groundcover in shadier positions. Spreading slowly by underground rhizomes, tight clusters of pink buds start to emerge from the soil in spring followed by clumps of rich green dissected



palmate foliage, which remain attractive throughout the season. By mid-spring the developing buds have a soft pink calyx and when opened the white bell-shaped creamy-white flowers have greenish-white filaments and dark wine-red anthers. Towards the end of summer, the foliage takes on rich claret tones, which by autumn often turn a fiery red, which sometimes can be quite dazzling. It prefers a moisture-retentive soil but will cope with drier conditions. In its native Korea, it often grows

alongside streams, making good swathes of groundcover

Next year's programme will start in February 2025.

We will be taking subscriptions from January, and we now can take subscriptions via bank transfer. Membership for 2025 will be increased to £30 to cover the rising costs of speakers, public liability insurance and hire of venue. Still a bargain at just over £4.28 per meeting! Details of how you can subscribe online will be sent out to all members via email in January. Of course, you can still subscribe by cheque, or cash at our first meeting in February. The full programme for 2025 will be published on our website from January. Our spring programme will be:

February: Peter Savage: Bowden's Nursery, hosts to the National collection of Hostas and Agapanthus.

March: Razvan Chisu: The Transylvanian gardener

April: Colin Hickman Hoyland Plants. National Collection Holders for Agapanthus, Nerines, Clivias and Tulbaghia

May: Jacqueline Iddon: Hardy Plants

Gardening news and events.

RHS Harlow Carr Winter Glow: November 21-28 December

Tea and coffee rota

A big thank you to the great team who volunteer to help with the rota. If you can help, please sign the rota sheet on the refreshment counter.



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