

Winter



Witch Hazel

Hamamelis x intermedia

Flowering in the middle of winter it's startling yellow spider-like flowers stand out against the bare stems. They have the added bonus of being deeply scented.



Silver Birch and Dogwood

Betula pendula and *Cornus alba* 'Sibirica'

These deciduous trees and shrubs stand out in winter for their brightly coloured bark, white on the silver birch and bright red on the dogwood. The dogwood's bark is red on its young stems so is regenerated by cutting the previous year's stems down each spring. The bark on the two large ornamental cherry trees by the community buildings also comes to the fore in the winter.



Hellebore/Lenten Rose

Helleborus

Large clumps of glossy leaves and elegant drooping flower heads brighten up shady corners through the winter. The beautiful flowers are best appreciated by lifting the flower heads to see the brighter coloured, speckled insides of the petals.



Crab apple berries and other seed heads

Malus x robusta 'Red Sentinel'

In the front garden, and throughout the farm, we leave the old flower and seed-heads on the plants through the winter to provide habitat for beneficial insects and food for the birds. They can also look spectacular on a frosty morning. The bright red crab apples on the 'Red Sentinel' really stand out in the grey of winter.

A New Garden

We haven't always had a beautiful front garden at the Farm - it used to be a carpark!

In 2015, staff and volunteers undertook the massive project of transforming the space. The new garden creates a welcoming green space as the main entrance to the City Farm that better fits the ethos of the organisation and is accessible for all local community members.



The Front Garden



Windmill Hill City Farm

Spring



Juneberry or Snowy Mespilus

Amelanchier lemarkii

In the central circular bed this shrub is a delight in spring when covered in creamy white blossom, followed in summer by bright red/purple berries that birds love, and red/ golden leaves in autumn.



Primroses and Sweet Violets

Primula vulgaris and *Viola odorata*

We have carpets of yellow primrose and sweetly scented purple violets with their heart-shaped leaves. The primrose can open very early in spring and its name comes from the latin "prima rosa" meaning first rose or flower.



Lungwort

Pulmonaria officinalis

Shade tolerant plant with speckled leaves and pink/mauve flowers. Both botanical and common name come from the leaves' resemblance to lungs, and the old idea "The Doctrine of Signatures" that plants could heal the body parts they resembled.



Armand Clematis

Clematis armandii

Climbing over one of the archways this vigorous evergreen species of clematis has strongly scented white flowers in spring. The leathery, glossy green leaves provide colour all year round.



Pasque Flower or Easter Flower

Pulsatilla vulgaris

With purple flowers and golden stamens above furry leaves, this lovely plant supposedly always flowers at Easter. Flowers are followed by many-stranded spheres of silky seed-heads.

Summer



Passion Flower

Passiflora caerulea

This tendril-climbing plant is best known for its stunning and complex flowers with a circle of blue filaments creating a halo around the central prominent stigma and stamen.



Globe Artichoke

Cynara cardunculus

This statuesque silver-leaved plant gives structure to the garden all year. In summer it produces numerous large purple thistle-like flowers loved by bees. The young tender stems are edible as are the flower buds before they open.



Field Scabious

Knautia arvensis

Nodding on long slender stems the pink and mauve pin-cushion like flowers of the field scabious are another good attractor of bees & other pollinators.



Perennial or Mountain Cornflower

Centaurea montana

The striking fringed blue flowers of the perennial cornflower are also very sweetly scented. The plant is native to the mountains of southern Europe and does well in dry soil. It will flower again later in summer if cut back hard after the first blooms finish.



Lambs Ears

Stachys byzantina

A favourite with children due to its soft, felty silver leaves. Soft spikes of woolly, purple flowers from June to Sept. Excellent groundcover plant for sites in full sun, it is drought tolerant and provides a weed-suppressing carpet for much of the year.

Autumn



Rudbeckia/Black eyed Susan

Rudbeckia fulgida

Providing some autumn sunshine are the warm golden-yellow rays of the Rudbeckia flower petals surrounding their deep-brown cone-shaped centres. This is a great plant for pollinators.



Echinacea/Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

Stunning pinky-purple flowers with long drooping petals. Native to the north American prairies, it is well known for its medicinal properties, stimulating the body's immune system.



Sedum/Iceplant

Hylotelephium spectabile

Formerly *Sedum spectabile*, the name change is based on research into a plant's genetic make-up. A wonderful feature of the autumn border with frosted green-grey leaves and stems, topped with pink flowers loved by butterflies.



Italian Asters/Michaelmas Daisy

Aster amellus

Lavender blue starry flowers. The common name is linked to the feast of Michaelmas in late Sept, close to the equinox, indicating the start of autumn. Michaelmas Daisy symbolizes a farewell.



Golden Hop

Humulus lupulus 'Aurea'

With its golden-yellow leaves and rough, twining stems this vigorous climber will soon form the cone-like, flower clusters or "hops" used as a flavouring in beer and as a calming tonic, amongst other uses, in herbal medicine.