

Spring plants of interest



Furzey Gardens

Explore. Discover. Relax.



Visit us again in the summer to discover a new set of plants of interest.

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25 Camellia saluenensis
This lovely camellia is an original specimen, believed to date back to the 1920s. Delicate 6cm wide soft pink flowers smother the dark green foliage when it flowers in late winter to early spring, the plant itself growing up to 3m in height. This lovely medium sized shrub is very important in camellia breeding.

26 Magnolia kobus
Originally recorded as having being introduced to Furzey Gardens in 1933, Magnolia kobus is a deciduous small tree originating from Japan. Its fragrant white flowers are one of the first colours to emerge in April, sometimes March. The flowers are large, pure white blooms measuring up to 10 cm wide. Each bloom is individually comprised of six distinct snow white petals.

27 Osmanthus delavayi
Recorded as first being introduced in to Furzey Gardens in 1933, Osmanthus delavayi is an evergreen shrub native to southern China. Scented white jasmine like flowers appear on arching branches in April and May among glossy dark grey green leaves with finely serrated edges. This specimen is one of the original garden shrubs, planted in the 1930s, hence its large size.

28 Primula pulverulenta Bartley
This lovely candelabra primula thrives in moist shady areas, so is ideal to naturalise in our damp areas. In 1924, several varieties of the "Bartley" strain of Primula pulverulenta were available from the nearby Bartley Nurseries, including a soft pink and crimson variety called "Hew Dalrymple", named after the brother of Bay Dalrymple, who originally created Furzey Gardens. Now there is only one Bartley variety commonly available, with tiered whorls of large, yelloweyed sugar pink flowers. However, if you look closely at the Primula pulverulenta growing at Furzey Gardens, you may spot different colour combinations, which may be some of the original 1920s varieties.

29 Primula bulleyana
Introduced in to the UK in 1906, it is more commonly known as the Candelabra Primrose, or Bulley's Primrose. This beautiful candelabra primula was brought back by George Forrest and displays large leaves, and colourful whorls of soft orange flowers on tall stems in June and July.

30 Primula florida
This deliciously scented primula has lemon yellow waxy bell like flowers, suspended on tall white powdered stems, flowering from June to August. Introduced to the UK by plant hunter Frank Kingdon Ward in 1924, it is named after his first wife, Florinda. It is nicknamed the Tibetan cowslip as it originates from SE Tibet, and is also the largest of the cowslips. It thrives in damp soils which do not dry out, such as bog gardens and stream edges, so is ideal growing in the damp conditions near the pond area at Furzey.

32 Primula Harlow Carr
This mixture of candelabra hybrids originates from the RHS garden of Harlow Carr in North Yorkshire, where they grow down the streamside. They come in acid bright colours of orange, yellow, pink and mauve and were cross bred from their original plantings of P. pulverulenta, P. beesiana, P. japonica and P. bulleyana.

33 Primula bulleesiana
A highlight of the late spring bog garden, Primula x bulleesiana is a hybrid cross between P. bulleyana and P. beesiana, with both parents being native to the Himalayas and China. The delicate flowers range from salmon to terracotta and include cream, rose, red, lavender and purple.

34 Rhododendron macabeaunum

Native to Northeast India, this is a magnificent plant with enormous glossy dark green leaves up to 30cm in length, with whitish down beneath. The large flowers, in dense rounded trusses, are bell shaped, pale to deep yellow with a purple blotch in the throat. Planted around 1929, this is one of the largest specimens of Rhododendron macabeaunum in the UK.

35 Rhododendron falconeri ssp eximium

This is a wonderful large shrub with deep red flaking bark and wonderful broad leaves up to 45cm long with a cinnamon coloured felt beneath. It produces large clusters of bell-shaped, cream to pale pink flowers with purple markings at the base in spring. New leaves and shoots are coated in fine, brown hairs.

36 Narcissus Old Pheasants Eye

Narcissus poeticus var. recurvus, Old Pheasants Eye, grows to 35cm tall, with narrow, channelled leaves. Flowers are single and fragrant, 4cm wide, with pure white petals and small, red-rimmed yellow cups, opening in late spring. This variety is over 100 years old and is recorded as having been first planted in the gardens in 1923.

Rhododendron macabeaunum





1 Enkianthus perulatus

An easy to grow, trouble free shrub for acidic soil, Enkianthus perulatus is grown for its masses of delicate white bell-shaped flowers that appear in spring and the beautiful fiery red colour of its leaves in autumn. The Royal Horticultural Society has given it the Award of Garden Merit (AGM).

2 Paulownia tomentosa

Commonly known as the Empress or Foxglove tree, Paulownia tomentosa is a fast growing tree native to China, grown primarily for its giant leaves and panicles of stunning purple foxglove shaped blooms produced in early spring before its leaves. Left to grow, it will form a tree of 12 metres.

3 Davidii involucrata

This interesting ornamental tree will grow to a height 6 metres in 20 years. Tolerant of pollution and growing in most positions as long as it has moist, well drained soil, it is grown primarily for its astonishingly large white bracts that hang like handkerchiefs from its branches in May, hence the common name of handkerchief tree.

4 Wisteria sinensis

A beautiful wisteria, dating back to 1935, covers our long wisteria arch, with some parts over eight feet across. It is pruned twice a year by a volunteer gardener to keep it in good order. It has wonderful pea like mauve flowers, which appear in late spring before the leaves. The flowers are followed by brown velvety bean like pods which persist well into autumn.

5 Chionanthus virginicus

Commonly known as the White Fringe Tree because of its delicate white flower panicles, Chionanthus virginicus is a member of the Olive family. It is native to the Eastern United States and prefers a moist fertile soil. Spectacular when in full bloom, the flowers appear in late spring with a delicate scent.



6 Cercis siliquastrum

Cercis siliquastrum, commonly known as the Judas tree, is a small deciduous tree grown for its prolific display of deep pink pea like flowers in spring. Flowers are followed by purple tinted seed pods in July and the leaves are green and heart shaped, emerging after the flowers and turning to yellow in the autumn. Bark is a rich, dark brown.

7 Rhododendron "Tally Ho"

A specimen of "Tally Ho" was given to Bay Dalrymple, the original owner of Furzey Gardens, by someone at Embley Park in Romsey. This hybrid has gorgeous flowers of bright orange-scarlet in early summer, well after most other species and hybrids have finished flowering. A light brown felt covers the new growth. Best in light shade to protect the summer blossoms.

8 Cornus contraversa variegata

Known as the Wedding Cake Tree because of its distinctive, horizontal, tiered habit, this tree makes a lovely focal point. It has bright green leaves with bold creamy white margins, which turn red purple in autumn and produces clusters of white flowers in June, followed by small black berries.

9 Styx japonicus

Known as the Japanese snowbell tree, Styx japonicus is native to Japan, China and Korea and is a popular tree for small gardens. Its wide, spreading branches are covered with cascades of bell-shaped, white scented flowers in late spring and summer and the pale green leaves turn a fantastic shade of yellow before falling in autumn.

10 Cherry Tree Grove

25 prunus/cherry trees planted in 2024, funded by generous supporters of Furzey Gardens. The 25 trees all have very different characteristics, offering a prolonged flowering period which usually begins late March and runs through to late April. In particular, look out for

Prunus cerasifera 'Nigra' – which has pale pink flowers set against deep purple foliage, or Prunus yedoensis 'Pendula' with clusters of white, almond-scented flowers smothering pendulous branches.

11 Aesculus turbinata

Known as the Japanese Horse Chestnut, this large tree grows up to 30 metres in height. It is similar to our native horse chestnut but its leaves are considerably larger, on young trees, as much as 40cm long and 15cm wide. It bears panicles of creamy white flowers in June, followed by smooth cased good sized conkers in September.

12 Rhododendron "Cynthia"

Rhododendron "Cynthia" is a lovely old hybrid with strong rosy crimson flowers with extensive darker markings, growing in large conical trusses on a dome shaped bush. Flowering in May-June, it is an original specimen of Furzey and nearly 100 years old.

13 Rhododendron sappho

Rhododendron "Sappho", known as Hachmanns Sappho, is an upright, open rhododendron with elliptic, glossy, dark green leaves and rounded clusters of mauve buds opening to stunning white flowers with beautiful maroon markings in early summer. Hans Hachmann was a famous German hybridizer of rhododendrons in Hamburg.

14 Rhododendron viscosum

This azalea is unusual because it is deciduous, i.e. loses its leaves in the autumn. Deciduous azaleas have a stronger root system tolerating poorer conditions and slightly less acidic soils than their evergreen counterparts. Widely known as the Swamp Azalea or Swamp Honeysuckle, Rhododendron viscosum has beautifully scented white honeysuckle type flowers in June to July.

15 Rhododendron stenopetalum

Rhododendron stenopetalum is a very distinctive small azalea, with unusual long, narrow strap-like leaves and spidery rose lilac flowers with darker markings, hence its common name of Spider Azalea.

16 Prunus "Tai Haku"

Known as the Great White Cherry, Prunus Tai Haku is a medium sized vigorous spreading tree. It flowers profusely, with large pure white flowers held in bunches all over the tree, just as the coppery young leaves emerge in the middle of April.

17 Pieris formosa var forrestii

Pieris forrestii is the forerunner of Pieris Forest Flame which is commonly grown in many gardens. Pieris are dense evergreen shrubs thriving in similar conditions to rhododendrons, they are closely related cousins and have scarlet young foliage and white vanilla scented flowers in the spring. Pieris forrestii is named after the plant explorer, George Forrest, who introduced it to the UK in the 1920s. We have an original specimen from the 1920/30s here at Furzey.

18 Magnolia soulangeana alba

Commonly known as the Tulip magnolia, this is one of the most popular of the early flowering trees in the UK, grown for its huge pure white, goblet-shaped flowers, which are flushed purple-pink at the base and appear before the leaves. This tree is an original specimen planted at Furzey Gardens in 1939.

19 Rhododendron griersonianum

This beautiful rhododendron was found by famous plant hunter, George Forrest in June 1917 in W. Yunnan, near the Burma border. It is late flowering with bright rose to scarlet conical tapered flowers. It was originally planted in Furzey Gardens in the 1930s. It needs protection from early and late frosts, so the position in this sheltered part of Furzey Gardens is ideal.

20 Rhododendron thomsonii

This stunning plant has deep blood red bell-shaped flowers in April- May. As the plant matures, it develops into a superb large shrub with smooth peeling bark. Flowering will commence when the plant is growing well and aged about 6 years old. This particular specimen at Furzey Gardens dates back to the mid 1930s.

21 Rhododendron triflorum mahogany

This plant is an original 1930s introduction by the famous Victorian plant hunter Frank Kingdon-Ward and is one of the largest specimens in the country. We have the original lead label - with Kingdon Ward's catalogue number, KW5687. It is a superb large shrub with smooth peeling bark, dark green leaves and deep blood red flowers in April/May.

22 Rhododendron chryseum

We have an original specimen of this lovely rhododendron dating back to 1933 when the gardens were newly opened to the public. With scented foliage and pale yellow flowers in June, this smaller rhododendron originates from NW Yunnan and SE Tibet.

23 Rhododendron racemosum Rock Rose

This petite azalea grows to 60-80 cm (in 10 years) and has a dense upright habit with small leathery, oval leaves. Our plant is an original specimen so is considerably larger! This compact evergreen shrub tolerates drier conditions and produces lovely medium pink flowers opening along the branches in April.

24 Camellia Cuspidata

An evergreen shrub native to southern China. The leaves are glossy dark green and its flowers are pure white. It flowers from late winter to early spring. Cuspidata means 'with a point' like a canine tooth.

