

episode 95 show notes and advice

Episode description

This week, Sarah and Arthur talk about their favourite perennials for a beautiful, productive, and self-reliant garden. Very easy to care for, and a great way to introduce garden glamour, these perennials are total must-haves for anyone looking to breathe life and colour into their borders.

In this episode, discover:

- ❖ The stylish perennials at the top of Sarah's list
- ❖ Arthur's shopping list for an exciting garden project
- ❖ Evocative perennials from Sarah's parent's garden

episode 95 advice sheet

Sarah's memories of a self-seeding garden (1:23)

Sarah recalls her parent's self-seeding garden, laden with short-lived perennials that reappear up to three or four metres away the following year.

- ❖ Honesty
- ❖ Sweet Rocket
- ❖ Wallflowers
- ❖ Foxgloves
- ❖ *Linaria purpurea* 'Cannon Went'

Arthur shares some of his short-lived favourites (2:36)

- ❖ *Aquilegia* – great plants for self-sowing, comes in a watercolour hues.
- ❖ Perennial sweet pea – loads of colours to choose from. Arthur loves how pink perennial sweet peas can snake through grass like magenta ribbons.
- ❖ Buy Border Perennial Plants - For Spring & Autumn Planting | Sarah Raven
- ❖ Buy Border Perennial Plants - For Spring & Autumn Planting
- ❖ Our perennial plants are chosen for their performance and reliability. These perennials are strong growers and deserve a space in your garden. Shop today.
- ❖ *Salvia x Jamensis* – flowers much earlier than lavender.
- ❖ Lavender 'Hidcote' - great in a sunny garden with free draining soil.

Garden grasses (5:21)

- ❖ *Stipa gigantea* 'Golden Oats' cutting grass – great for impact. Fabulous, tall, and elegant.
- ❖ *Chasmanthium latifolium* – a modern favourite and can be grown from seed. Takes a while to germinate but is an excellent value for money perennial. Sarah loves the Ironed-flat corn sheaves and elegant diorama curved stems. Also, a cracker for Christmas wreathes and the Christmas table, with or without paint or spray, it dries beautifully.
- ❖ *Briza media* – not to be confused with *Briza Maxima*. It's perennial, delicate, and every panicle looks like a teardrop hanging on a stem. In any breeze, you see the whole plant quaking.

Self-reliant roses (7:44)

- ❖ *Rosa x odorata* 'Mutabilis' – Always in flower at Perch Hill. Almost as if it's fashioned from silk, looks simply stunning even if it's a bit raggedy.
- ❖ *Rosa glauca* – another excellent border perennial.
- ❖ *Rosa* 'De Resht' – An old China rose. Unbelievably healthy, flowers lightly. Very long performing and never has black spot or mildew.
- ❖ *Rose* 'Calendar Girl' – mix of reds and pinks. Very fairy tale.
- ❖ *Rosa* 'Champagne Moment' – new but with an antique look, a prolific flowerer.

Ground cover (11:37)

- ❖ *Erigeron karvinskianus* 'Profusion' – romps through the paths and the little crevices that nothing else wants to grow into.
- ❖ Ivy-leaved toadflax – one of Sarah's favourites. Almost like a miniature snapdragon.

Plants to complement shrubs and trees (12:43)

- ❖ *Cyclamen* – whatever tree you plant them under, they seem to thrive. 'hederifolium' for the autumn and 'coum' for the spring. The leaves alternate with the flowers, so you never have a blank space.

Other great self-reliant plants

- ❖ Persicaria – a lovely candy pink.
- ❖ Japanese anemone – thrives on neglect, good in shady places, and a great alternative to cosmos. Although, be careful, they do tend to take over.
- ❖ Oriental poppies – stake if you can, but don't worry too much.
- ❖ Salvia greggii 'Amethyst Lips' – handsome in purple and white, and reliable.