



THE
PERSHORE PLANT EMPORIUM
LIMITED

The Moist Border

There's a wide choice of plants for a border whose soil is well-drained, but which never dries out. Here are some of our favourites.

Evergreen Trees

Cryptomeria japonica – the Japanese Cedar – with its unusual foliage which turns brown over winter likes moist soil

Sciadopitys verticillata – the Japanese Umbrella Pine is a slow-growing and botanically unique conifer – its whorls of 'leaves' are in fact made of stem tissue. It needs rich, moist, acid to neutral to soil. We're very enthusiastic about it and offer both large and small specimens.

Deciduous Trees

The Paperbark Maple, *Acer griseum* and the Japanese Maple, *Acer palmatum* varieties and *Acer palmatum dissectum* varieties all enjoy moisture and do well in a sheltered, place in the moist border, though they require good drainage and must not sit in water. We particularly like the green, weeping *Acer palmatum dissectum* 'Viridis'.

Amelanchier lamarkii does well in the moist border

The Birches, such as *Betula pendula*, the Silver Birch and the weeping *Betula pendula* 'Youngii', enjoy moist, well-drained soils.

Davidia involucrata, the Pocket Handkerchief Tree, requires a sheltered position in moist, well-drained soil.

Liquidambar styraciflua and *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Worplesden' require moist, well-drained soils.

Malus florentina – the Hawthorn-leaved Crab Apple – is a small, neat tree with white flowers, small red fruits and red autumn colour. Like other *Malus* it grows well in moist, but not waterlogged, soil.

The Flowering Cherries, including *Prunus* 'Amanogawa', *Prunus* 'Kanzan' and *Prunus serrula* are happy in moist, well-drained soil.

Rhus typhina and varieties – the Stag's Horn Sumach – offers excellent autumn colour, is unfussy as to soil as long as it is moist but well-drained.

Salix caprea 'Pendula', the Kilmarnock Willow, like all willows, needs moist soil.

Ulmus glabra 'Pendula' – the Weeping Wych Elm is happy in any moist soil, has a pleasing rounded shape and golden autumn colour.

Evergreen Shrubs

Both *Camellia japonica* and the autumn-flowering *Camellia sasquana* require moist, well-drained acidic soil and shelter.

Nandina domestica – the Sacred Bamboo is attractive throughout the year. Young foliage is pink, turning to green as the leaf matures and to oranges, reds and purples over winter. White flowers in summer are followed by bright red fruit in winter.

Deciduous Shrubs

Cornus florida – when this group of shrubs flowers in spring, it produces spectacular bracts in whites, creams, lime greens, pinks and crimsons, Interesting, sometimes variegated, foliage comes next, then great autumn colour and even the bare stems over-winter are an attractive dark steel-grey in colour. We love them.

Cotinus coggyria ‘Royal Purple’ – the Smoke Bush requires moist, but well-drained soil until it is established when it becomes drought-tolerant.

Edgeworthia chrysantha which bears intensely fragrant yellow flowers in early spring requires humus-rich, moist, well-drained soil

Hydrangea macrophylla varieties require fertile, moist soil in full shade. So does *Hydrangea quercifolia* (the Oak-leaved Hydrangea) and its varieties such as *H. quercifolia* ‘Harmony’; all have excellent, long-lasting, autumn colour. Once mature, the partial shade-loving *H. paniculata* ‘Kyushu’ holds its abundant white flowers far longer than other Hydrangeas.

Viburnum x bodnantense ‘Dawn’ – bears fragrant, pink flowers on bare stems from November to February and gives good autumn colour. Requires a light, moist well-drained soil.

Viburnum plicatum ‘Mariesii’ – the Japanese Snowball Bush bears its white flowers on the upper side of its tiered branches in spring and early summer. Good autumn colour. Enjoys any moist, well-drained soil, but detests waterlogging.

Finally, an Evergreen Perennial

Phormium tenax – the New Zealand Flax – with its long, lance-like leaves is a good architectural plant for the moist border. We offer a range of cultivars of various sizes, colours and variegation.