



THE
PERSHORE PLANT EMPORIUM
LIMITED

Our Favourite Evergreens

Evergreens are vital in giving a garden all-year structure and interest and for forming a backdrop for deciduous plants. Camellias for example, produce magnificent flowers in spring, but are no less wonderful as a dark, glossy background to the autumn pyrotechnics of the Japanese Acers. Evergreen shrubs and trees offer a surprising range of leaf colours and shapes, some of them flower in winter while some are botanically fascinating. We can't imagine gardening without them or without the evergreen perennials – in particular Epimediums and Heucheras which bring interest to ground level in the winter.

Conifers

Abies concolor 'Candicans' – the White Fir – for its beautiful, blue-grey up-curving needles. Prefers neutral to acid soils

Cedars, including *Cedrus libani* (the Cedar of Lebanon), *Cedrus atlantica* (the Atlas Cedar) and *Cedrus deodara* (the Deodar Cedar) are unfussy about soils and are happy on chalky-alkaline soils.

Cupressus sempervirens 'Stricta' and *C. sempervirens* 'Totem' - the pencil-shaped Italian cypress.

Libocedrus decurrens (synonym *Calocedrus decurrens*) – the Incense Cedar from which many of the world's pencils are made is attractive with its mixture of green and yellow foliage.

Picea pungens glauca 'Globosa' is a beautiful, blue-green-grey needled, rounded specimen growing to 0.5m by 0.9m after 10 years, which is equally good in large containers. Prefers neutral to acid soils

Pinus sylvestris 'Globosa' – a naturally mop-headed variety of the native Scots Pine. We offer it grafted as quarter and half standards, making it perfect for the smaller garden and for the Japanese-style garden. Prefers neutral to acid soils

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.

Taxus baccata – the native Yew – tolerant of a range of soils and thrives on chalk. We offer it as columns, spirals, cones and pyramids.

Non-Coniferous Evergreen Trees

Acacia dealbata – the Mimosa which must be grown in a sheltered spot, ideally south-facing.

Eriobotrya japonica – the Loquat with its large, strongly-veined leaves and creamy flowers in autumn and winter which needs a sheltered location. Can also be grown as a shrub.

Ilex aquifolium – the Holly – we offer a range of hollies in a range of sizes. Our favourite are half-standard *Ilex aquifolium* 'Argentea Marginata' whose silver-edged leaves combine brightness and formality.

Olea europea – the Olive is surprisingly tough and grows happily with us in Worcestershire. The winter of 2009-10 tried our trees severely, but we expect them to bounce back and we are in a very exposed location. For best results plant them in a courtyard or sheltered garden. Ours do produce oily fruits, but we haven't had extracted oil yet.

Quercus ilex – the Holm Oak – tolerant of a range of soils, but thrives on shallow chalk and great for exposed, seaside spots

Evergreen Shrubs

Aucuba japonica – the Spotted Laurel is an unfussy shrub – slow-growing, tolerant of a wide range of soils, happy in the sun where its yellow spots give the best colour, and contented in dry shade where it cheers up dark corners and hedge-bottoms. It can be grown as a hedge itself and either clipped to shape or left to grow more loosely.

Buxus sempervirens – the Box – tolerates a wide range of soil pH, including very alkaline soils

Camellia japonica has glossy, dark leaves which make an excellent evergreen background to other plants all year once its glorious spring flowers are over. Its ideal pH is between 5.5 and 6.5.

Camellia sasquana – the autumn-flowering Camellia may produce a smaller, less showy flower than the spring-flowering variety, but it makes up for this in the abundance and length of its flowering at a time of year (mid-autumn to mid-winter) when flowering shrubs are in short supply. Its flowers are also less likely to be damaged by frost than those of the spring-flowering *C. japonica*.

Laurus nobilis – the Bay Laurel, which needs shelter from strong winds.

Leucothoe 'Scarlatta' – is a favourite of ours and is ideal for containers or the border, growing to 45cm by 45cm and showing off glossy red and green leaves all year.

Magnolia grandiflora, a truly magnificent plant, tolerates alkaline soils, though like all Magnolias is happiest on neutral to acid soils. It has large, dark green leaves with suede-like, foxy-red undersides and bears large, creamy flowers in late summer and autumn. We offer both bushes which will eventually grow into trees and standards.

Pachysandra terminalis is our favourite ground cover. It's a very dwarf evergreen shrub, which spreads to make dense ground cover beneath larger shrubs and trees and is happiest in full or partial shade. Ideally grown in acid soil.

Pieris japonica – amongst the large Pieris we like *P. 'Mountain Fire'*, with its brilliant red young foliage, but our real favourite is *P. 'Debutante'*, which makes a compact bush growing to 1m plus, producing its white flowers over a long period

Skimmia japonica – a valuable plant because its red berries last all autumn winter, often until the flowers appear the following spring. Prefers neutral to acid soil, and is happy on heavy clay. Plant both male and female plants for the best display of berries.

Viburnum davidii – is happy on a wide range of soil acidities and particularly well-suited to chalk, though it hates very wet soils. Large, deeply-veined, mid-green leaves. Male and female flowers are on separate plants and female plants bear metallic-blue berries when grown near a male plant

Climbers

Clematis armandii – the evergreen Clematis produces 2-3cm long white, fragrant flowers against a backdrop of long, dark-green leaves in March or April

Clematis armandii 'Apple Blossom' – this evergreen Clematis produces abundant, fragrant, pink-tinted white flowers against a backdrop of long, dark-green leaves in March or April

Trachelospermum jasminoides – the Star Jasmine is another superb, fragrant evergreen climber bearing pure-white, fragrant flowers from mid to late summer. The dark-green leaves turn bronze in winter. Needs a protected site.

Evergreen Perennials

The Bergenias – Elephants' Ears – as the name suggests, a plant with large leaves, which are also glossy and often turn beautiful colours in winter – the deep-red of *Bergenia 'Wintermachen'* is a particular favourite. In early spring the white or pink flowers are an added bonus.

The Epimediums with their beautiful heart-shaped, red-blotched leaves and delicate flower spikes prefer partial shade and many are evergreen. We particularly like the yellow flowering *Epimedium x perralchicum* and the pink-flowering *E. x versicolor*.

The Hellebores – our favourite here is *Helleborus foetidus* whose acid green flowers look great in late winter and early spring and make a wonderful contrast with darker-leaved evergreens and the red stems of *Cornus alba 'Red Selection'*.

The Heucheras – we love them all, from the almost black leaves of *H. 'Obsidian'*, through the pewter-coloured leaves of *H. 'Rave On'* to the pink-backed, bronze-green leaves of *H. Peach Flambé*. Excellent in containers and especially welcome in winter.

Lamium maculatum – an idea ground cover plant for deep shade – a dead nettle with silvery-white zones on its matt green leaves which is fantastic for lightening up dark, shady areas.

Liriope muscari and *L. muscari 'Variegata'* – with their grass-like evergreen leaves and spikes of pale lilac-coloured flowers in late summer. They prefer light, acid soil in a sheltered, shady spot.

Ophiopogon planislapus 'Nigrescens' – almost black grass-like foliage and bears creamy-purple flower spikes in summer. Prefers full sun or partial shade in a neutral to acid soil.

Phormiums – the New Zealand flax is large and architectural – we offer a wide range of cultivars, many variegated – and particularly like the small *Phormium 'Bronze Baby'*.