



Floral Fantasia Update 2025





YEAR OF THE *Sunflower*





RHS Garden Hyde Hall's Post



RHS Garden Hyde Hall

August 15, 2024 · 🌐

Sunflowers are blooming brightly in the Floral Fantasia garden! 🌻 Show your love for your favourite by casting your vote in the People's Choice Awards. Your choice counts!



👍❤️ 50

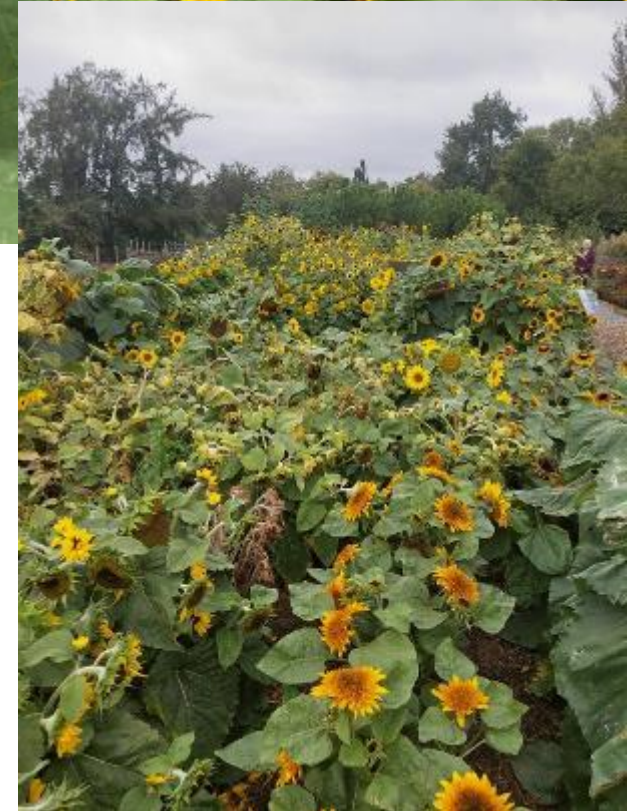
2 comments 3 shares

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💬 Comment

📧 Send

🔗 Share





Floral Fantasia Press Day

Wednesday 14 August 2024

- 10.15am Arrival at W D Smith & Sons*
- 10.30 - midday Automated ornamental plant production – a behind the scenes tour
- Onward travel (approx. 10 minutes) to RHS Garden Hyde Hall***
- 12.30pm - 1.15pm Garden tour of Hyde Hall
- 1.15pm - 1.45pm Sandwich lunch in the Hilltop Lodge
- 1.45pm - 2.15pm Floral Fantasia tour and sunflower trial update
- 2.30pm Departure

*W D Smith & Sons, Grange Nurseries, Woodham Road, Wickford, SS11 7Q.
**RHS Garden Hyde Hall, Creephege Lane, Rettendon, Chelmsford, CM3 8PT



Open Day 2025 – September 8th



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The pioneers behind Floral Fantasia

August 21 2024 by George Mulvaney

Floral Fantasia's pioneers gathered at Floral Fantasia, the only independent UK trial grounds for bedding plants and perennials, originally championed by the late Peter Seabrook.

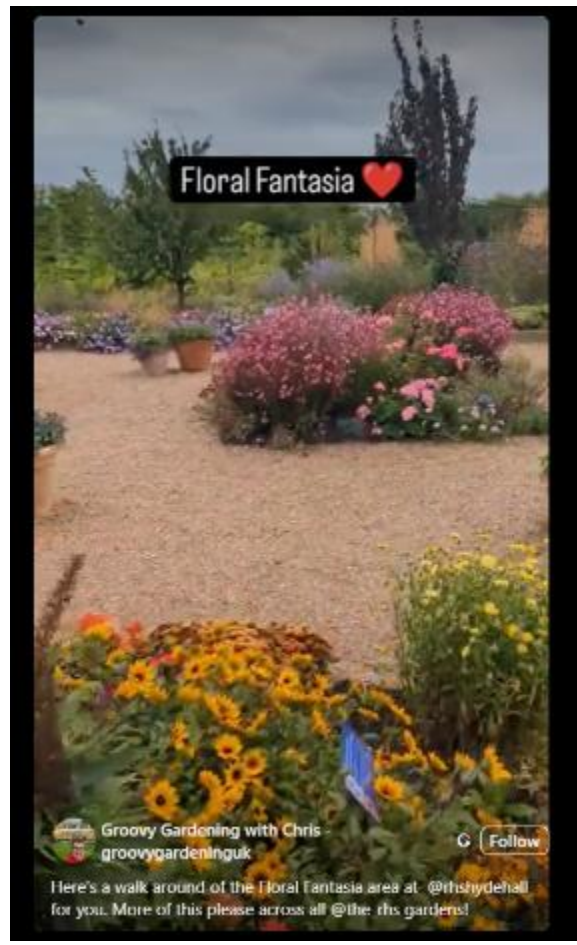
Floral Fantasia has become one of the most visited nurseries in the UK. It's a place where visitors are attracted by the colour and the opportunity to see the latest UK plant introductions.

Bringing new plants to market involves a hierarchy of breeders, propagators and wholesale nurseries before a plant gets to the point of sale at a garden centre.

Companies representing each stage of the intricate development process are funding this unique trial ground. They came together last week with the press at RHS Hyde Hall to highlight this public display of new plants.



The Pioneers behind Floral Fantasia. See text for names.

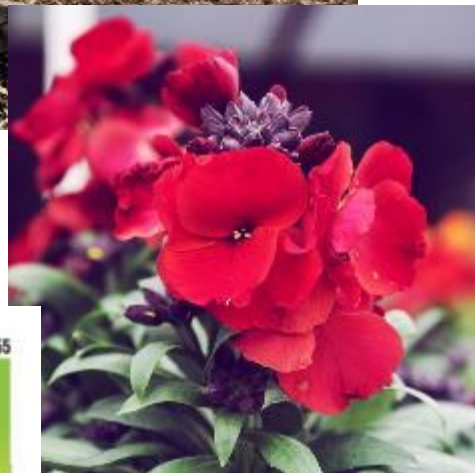




Molli's replacement



Erysimum Trial





New design by James Alexander-Sinclair
Garden designer and RHS judge.



Sweet Pea Peter Seabrook



LATHYRUS 'PETER SEABROOK'

THE CLAIMS

A highly accepted, lavender-blue sweet pea with long stems reaching up to 40cm. This stunning Spencer variety is an ideal cut flower.

OUR VERDICT

Garden writer Peter Seabrook, who sadly died in 2023, was a big fan of sweet peas and presented a bouquet of them to the late Queen Elizabeth II every year at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. This variety had everything you'd want from a sweet pea. It grew well, remained healthy for a long time and flowered consistently for months. The blooms were a pretty colour with a good scent, they were carried on long stems that made it ideal for cutting and the flowers lasted well in a vase.

Height x spread 180 x 30cm

Peak flowering Jun-Aug

Position Full sun

Soil Any moist but well-drained soil

Price £3 for 10 seeds

Where to buy Sustainable Plant Store

Rating ★★★★★

PHYSOCARPUS 'MAGIC BALL'



Petunia Surfinia® Heartbeat

Surfinia® is one of the leading trailing Petunia on the market. We are excited to be able to offer our customers exclusive access to the Petunia Surfinia® Heartbeat, a new introduction for spring 2025.

Surfinia® Heartbeat has the most beautiful white flowers and delicate soft pink hearts with a compact, mounding and trailing habit.



It was launched at the Floral Fantasia Garden press day in August 2024, which is located at the RHS Hyde Hall Garden in Essex, attracting nearly 300,000 visitors a year. The Floral Fantasia Garden is open to all visitors to Hyde Hall.

Floral Fantasia's aim is to bring the public together with plants, plant breeding and commercial growers and is funded by sponsors and the sales of new and exciting plant varieties.

The funds allow for the continued success of the garden and is also used to employ an apprentice Horticulturalist to take care of the gardens and to learn all about commercial horticulture.



To continue our support with this initiative we are adding an amount of 10p per plant, onto the royalty, which will be used to enable Floral Fantasia to continue to bring this garden to life.

As a new introduction, the availability is limited so **place your order today**, you will not be disappointed with this absolute stunner.



Eazy Grow Multipurpose Peat Free
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MABON
DESIGN AND PRINT



People's Choice

The Winner

Helianthus annuus 'Teddy Bear' AGM
submitted by Econ Seeds

An upright, easy to grow, hardy annual with a height of approximately 1m. It has broadly ovate leaves and rounded, fully-double, 'fluffy', bright yellow flowerheads to 12cm wide in summer. Suitable for borders and pots alike. This plant has held the RHS Award of Garden Merit since 2015.

Comments by voters:

'A lovely yellow, cheerful and fun.'

'Love the fluffiness!'

'Beautiful soft flower heads'



The Runner Up

Helianthus annuus 'Mezzulah'
submitted by Tall Europe

A semi-dwarf, hardy annual with a single stem and a height of approximately 1m. It has bright, yellow petals and brown discs in summer. This is a sturdy sunflower that does not need staking and its nectar is loved by bees.

Comments by voters:

'Amazing giant flower head.'

'Strong, traditional & the bees love it.'

'Such a big flower head, wow!'



Third Place

Helianthus annuus 'Desire Red'
submitted by Burpee Europe B.V.

A dwarf sunflower variety good for pots and borders alike. Its deep, rich red tones make it an ideal choice for late summer displays as it reliably produces new blooms on multiple branches well into autumn, complementing its dark green, purple-tinged foliage. Its blooms are also perfect for wildlife and pollinators.

Comments by voters:

'Fabulous foliage colour'

'Incredible plant and versatile'

'Bold and beautiful'



The Extended Trial Area Favourite

Helianthus annuus 'Ronnie Orange'
submitted by Kings Seeds

Early maturing annual variety with classic rich, yellow-orange petals and a dark centre. This is a traditional and very classic looking sunflower with a height of approximately 1.2m. 'Ronnie Orange' is ideal for attracting bees and for providing early and late season cut flower production.

Comments by voters:

'A perfect sunflower, as you imagine it.'

'Just spectacular & the bees love them too!'

'A proper traditional sunflower!'





2025 – the future

YEAR OF THE
begonia



Monty Don: 'I hate a plant because it is repulsively ugly and that's the begonia.'



Bedding plants to make way for more eco-friendly options in 2025, predicts RHS

Royal Horticultural Society anticipates low-maintenance edible perennials will become more popular in its new-year forecast



📷 Bedding plants such as petunias are grown in peat, and the excavation of peat is destroying some of our most effective carbon sinks. Photograph: Westend61/Getty Images

Petunias, begonias and other classic bedding plants like busy Lizzies will be out of fashion for 2025, the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has predicted, as gardeners turn to more eco-friendly options.

Bedding plants are usually grown in large greenhouses in peat. But peat excavation around the country is destroying some of our most effective carbon sinks. On top of that, bedding plants are usually bred to be sterile, which means they do not produce pollen so are of little use to butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

Guy Barter says we can 'wave goodbye to bedding Plants'

A screenshot of a website search results page. The top navigation bar is dark green with white text for categories: Bestsellers, Flowers, Fruits and Vegetables, Gardens, Artists, Asian And Oriental Art, and Photography. Below the navigation bar, the search results are displayed. The search query is "floral fantasia". There are seven search results, each with a thumbnail image, a title, and a price. The titles are "Floral Fantasia bedding display at RHS Garden Hyde Hall" and the price for each is "£12.50".

Bestsellers Flowers Fruits and Vegetables Gardens Artists Asian And Oriental Art Photography

Your search for "floral fantasia" revealed the following:

floral fantasia

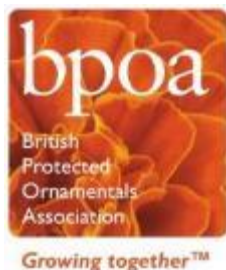
Image	Title	Price
	Floral Fantasia bedding display at RHS Garden Hyde Hall	£12.50
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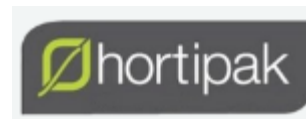
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