

## Gardening - Plant Names

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Plant names can be a bit of a mouthful and difficult to remember.

People often ask me why we have such complicated names for our plants. The answer to this is so that we know exactly to what we are referring, wherever in the world we may be. People in a particular area may use a common name for a particular plant but it is given a completely different common name in another part of the country. Galium aparine, that stringy weed with sticky ball like seeds, which sticks to everything especially dogs, has several common names, including Cleavers, Clivers, Goosegrass, Stickywilly, Stickyweed, Catchweed, and Coachweed. It depends whereabouts in the country you are or come from as to what you call it.

To combat the confusion caused when everyone refers to a specimen by its various common plant name, the naturalist Carl Linnaeus developed the binomial system to name not only plants but all living creatures. The binomial classification is the "scientific" way of referring to a specimen, so everyone knows what you're talking about. The common plant names may seem easier but, in reality, present serious

confusion.

Linnaeus lived during a period of plant exploration, when new plants from South America, south-east Asia, Africa, and the Middle East were all coming to the attention of European scientists. Linnaeus standardized plant naming by means of a Latin binomial system, in which the first name represented genus, and the second, species. Latin was chosen because it can be used by every country, and while common to many, it is not specific to any. It is also a "dead" language, meaning it is no longer evolving and changing.



Knowing what the Latin (and sometimes Greek) words mean can help us with our planning and maintenance. For instance, if the available area is cramped, a plant with arboreum (tree-like) or altissimum (very tall) in its name, might not be the best choice.

Plants can be named in honour of someone. Linnaeus is said to have

named a useless weed "Siegesbeckia" after Johann Siegesbeck, a critic. Many names are descriptive, referring to colour, size, or shape. Albus is the Latin for white, Ruber (rubrum), sanguineus, roseus, and coccineus all denote red. Some names refer to special characteristics of the plants. Pubi, hirti, villi, and barbi suggest hairiness.

Time of bloom is often seen in species such as autumnalis (as in Helenium autumnalis or Helen's Flower).

The growth habit of a plant also appears in many species' names. The species alpina means just what it sounds like - alpine or dwarf or from alpine regions. The species horizontalis means growing horizontally, as in many junipers. If the plant is even more creeping, repens is often used as in Gypsophilia repens (Creeping Baby's Breath) seen in many rock gardens.



Names can also indicate where the plant

originated giving some clue to the conditions it will tolerate eg virginianum (Virginia), sibirica (Siberia) or japonica (Japan).



**Plants for Summer**  
*Lavandula angustifolia*

A chunky, deep purple English lavender with silver foliage, suitable for hedging. Trim hard in August after flowering. It likes full sun and good drainage growing to 60cm/2ft.

*Stipa gigantea*

This has to be my favourite grass. It creates a shimmering golden fountain in summer sun. It looks incredibly delicate but stands up well to the wind. Sun, good drainage (2m/6ft).  
*Campanula lactiflora*  
'Prichard's Variety'  
Purple-blue bells held on dark stems which will repeat if deadheaded. Ideal at the back of a border. It likes full sun or partial shade growing to 100cm+/40in.

Enjoy your Gardening

## Abbeytown Flower Club

Report by: Gladys Temple

26 members of Abbeytown Flower Club gathered on a lovely evening at Beech House, Woodrow.

Mr and Mrs McDonnell welcomed everyone and showed how they had spent the last ten years creating a beautiful oasis. They have approximately ¾ Acre of informal garden with lawns, mixed shrubs, herbaceous borders, streams and ponds. As we wandered around there were small water features and statuettes in hidden corners with lots of seats to relax and take in the scents. The garden was

featured in an edition of Cumbria Life Magazine and everyone enjoyed the evening.

Chairman Ruth Pinguet thanked Mr & Mrs McDonnell for allowing us to look around the garden.

A welcome supper at Wheyrigg Hall was waiting with a large selection of delicious sandwiches accompanied by chips and tea or coffee. Ruth thanked Lesley Evans and Phyllis Dockeray for organising a very enjoyable evening.

The next meeting is on Thursday 19th July 7:30pm in the Assembly Rooms with a flower demonstration by June Fearon entitled 'Summer Flowers' and the competition is three garden flowers.



60's Bee  
by  
Jenny Sim  
from  
Silloth Primary  
School

## Sudoku Prize Competition

Sponsored by Johns Plaice

Rules:  
Complete the grid so that every row, every column and every box contain all the digits from 1 to 9.

Nobody got the correct answer for the July competition, so this month here is an easier one...

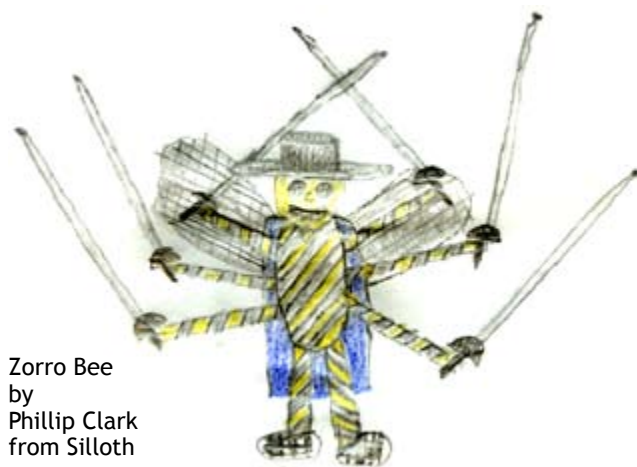
2			6		3
5			4	7	9
9	4			2	8
8					4
7			5		3
		4			5
		1	4		2
7		3	9		8
5			7		6

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The winner will receive free Fish & Chips for two from Johns Plaice, Silloth.

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Zorro Bee  
by  
Phillip Clark  
from Silloth

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