

Plants of
Current
Interest



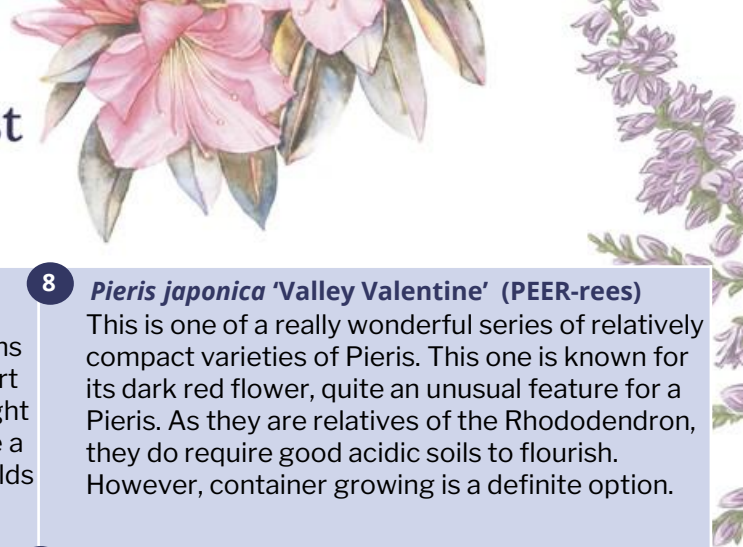
Key

- Great for kids!
- Discover**
The Treehouse, Hilltop Adventures, Board Walk, Sound Garden, Wobbly Bridge and more!


- Information & tickets
- Refreshments
- Shop
- Toilets
- Picnic Area
- Accessible toilets
- First aid
- Viewpoint
- Parking
- Accessible parking

- Accessible trails**
- Flat with little gradient
- A slight gradient

- Terrain not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs**
- Mixed surface paths
- Grass path
- Gravel paths
- Steps
- Main road



Welcome to Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, one of the largest collections of hardy trees and shrubs in the world. Also listed as having the biggest collection of Champion Trees in the whole of Britain and Ireland - with 611 Champions! Use the map to guide yourself around the Gardens. The ten plants highlighted here are just a taster of what can be seen on your walk. We hope you enjoy your visit.

 = RHS Award of Garden Merit

4 *Corylopsis spicata* (kor-ree-LOP-sis)

This is another species of 'Winter Hazel'. Much larger than *C. pauciflora* and best in large gardens and parks. Fabulous when in full flower. The short pendulous racemes of yellow flowers have a slight sweet scent. Native to southern Japan. We have a collection of different species growing in the fields known as Ten Acres East.

8 *Pieris japonica* 'Valley Valentine' (PEER-rees)

This is one of a really wonderful series of relatively compact varieties of Pieris. This one is known for its dark red flower, quite an unusual feature for a Pieris. As they are relatives of the Rhododendron, they do require good acidic soils to flourish. However, container growing is a definite option.

5 *Narcissus* 'Little Witch' (nah-SISS-us)

This is one of the many varieties of Daffodil that grow here in the Gardens. This is one of the dwarf varieties that has come from a breeding programme using the dwarf Portuguese daffodil (the Seahorse daffodil) *Narcissus cyclamineus*. Known for its attractive swayback/reflexed petals.

9 *Daphne odorata* 'Rubra' (DAF-nee)

This is a smaller variety of daphne, perfect for pots and small gardens. The fragrance is superb and the flowering period is almost as long as the Himalayan daphne in the winter garden. Shelter from strong winds in a partial shade position and this variety will not let you down.

1 *Corylopsis pauciflora* (kor-ree-LOP-sis)

This stunning, early spring flowering shrub, sometimes known as the 'Buttercup Winter Hazel', is the perfect size for containers or smaller gardens. Like their cousins the 'Witch Hazels', they require a neutral to acidic soil to flourish. The small, pale yellow, bell-like flowers have a delicate primrose scent. Easy and undemanding. Does not need pruning.

6 *Stachyurus praecox* (STAK-ee-yoo-russ)

This is a glorious small to medium sized shrub native to Japan. Not only does it display these very attractive racemes of lemon yellow flowers on chocolate coloured stems, but it also has the most stunning display of autumn colour. The glossy green leaves that follow the flowers turn many shades of red and purple in autumn.

10 *Camellia transnokoensis* (kah-MEE-lee-ah)

This is a dwarf species of Camellia native to the Asian Island nation of Taiwan. Although quite a subtropical to Tropical Island, this plant has adapted well to our climate and has proven really hardy. The flowers may be small, but the performance is impressive, flowering over several months in late winter and early spring.

3 *Mahonia aquifolium* (mah-HOO-nee-ah)

Known as the 'Oregon Grape', this North American, ground cover shrub has sometimes been grown for more than just its beautiful yellow flowers in early spring. In some parts of the States, the edible fruits are harvested and made into jams and jellies. They are also used to flavour alcoholic drinks. Easy to grow, creeping shrub.

7 *Illicium simonsii* (ill-LISS-ee-um)

Native to the lower Himalayas, China and Myanmar. This evergreen shrub or small tree is a relative of the 'Star Anise'. The oriental spice used in many Asian dishes. Sadly, this hardy species does not produce edible fruits and in fact all but *Illicium verum*, the 'Star Anise', are poisonous. However, the flowers are quite beautiful on most species.

Membership starts from £44.50
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