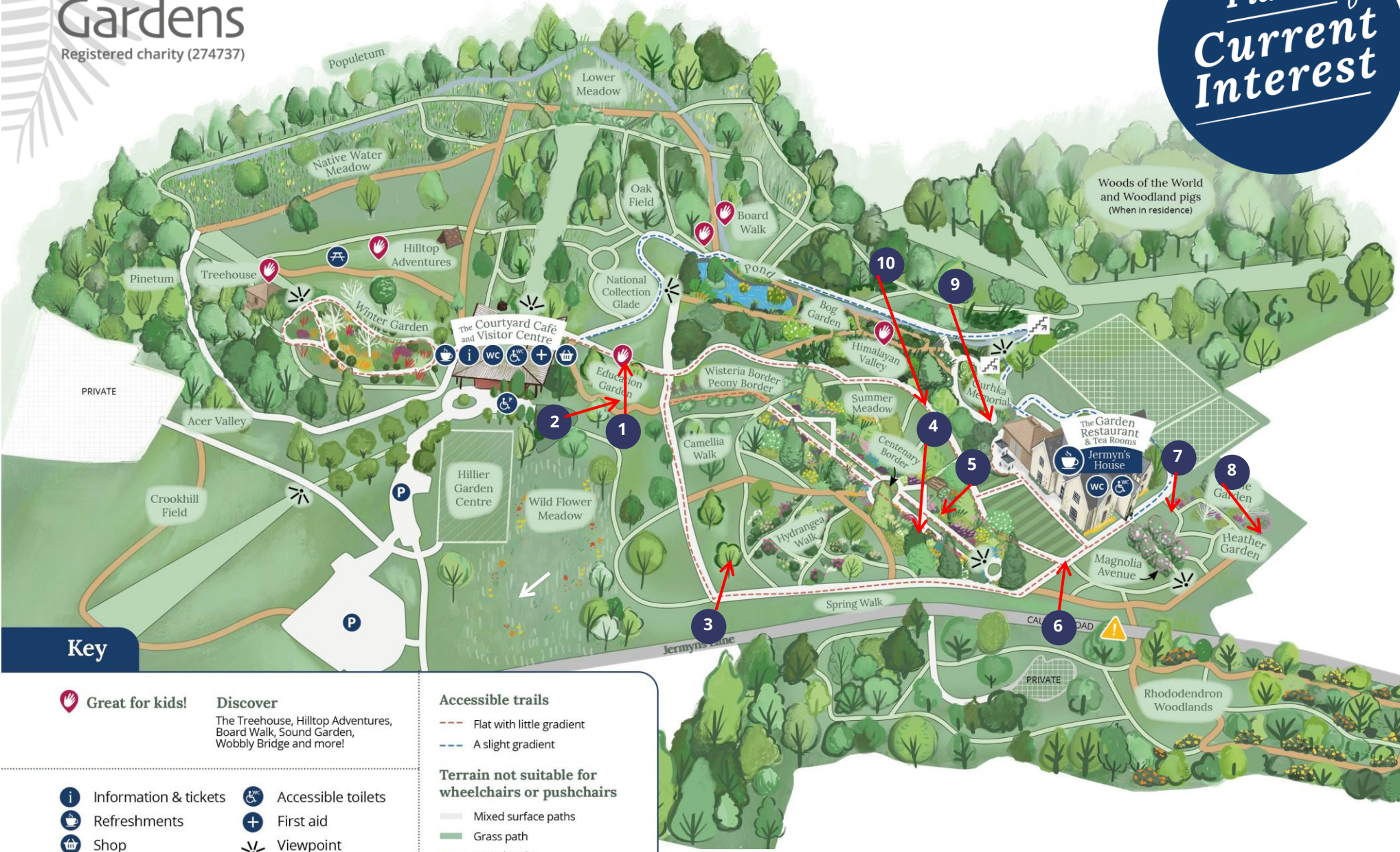


Plants of Current Interest




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** *Akebia quinata* Cream Flowered (ak-EE-bee-ah)  
This is a great, fast growing climber and perhaps one of the easiest to grow for quick covered of walls, fences, tree stumps, arborees etc. The unusual flowers hang pendulous in the spring and would normally be a deep purple colour. This is a beautiful cream flowering form. Edible fruits are produced in summer and look a little like sausages. They have a sweet taste.

**8** *Sinojackia xylocarpa* (SIGH-no-jak-ee-ah)  
This glorious large shrub or small tree is native to China and is sometimes known as the 'Chinese Snowdrop Tree'. This can be a challenging species to grow and requires a sheltered spot. The North American *Halesia diptera*, the American Snowdrop tree is easier to grow and will flower shortly in our winter garden.

**1** *Betula insignis* (BET-yoo-lah)  
This is a species of 'Silver Birch' native to China. During spring it bears the most amazing Catkins, one of the longest of any species. This tree is diecious, which means that it bears both male and female flowers. These come in the form of Catkins. The male are pendulous, long and full of pollen. The females are upright, green and slightly cone-like

**5** *Genista 'Porlock'* (JEN-iss-tah)  
This fabulous shrub has the flower power and appeal of the spring flowering 'Gorse', but without the horrific thorns. Flowering over several months in mid spring to early summer. Named after a small seaside town in Devon where it was raised. Bred by the famous plantsman, Norman Hadden. A cross between *G. monspessulana* and *G. x spachiana*.

**9** *Clematis montana 'Van Gogh'* (klem-MAY-tus)  
This is the 'Mile-a-minute' clematis. A spring flowering species that makes a superb, flowering wall cover at this time of year. Clematis are tendrill climbers, which means that they need a structure of somekind to wrap their tendrils around to help them climb. This dark flowering form is a much smaller variety than most, not getting much bigger than it is now.

**2** *Exochorda x macrantha 'The Bride'* (eks-oh-KOR-dah)  
This is a wonderful, spring flowering shrub that's easy to grow in most soils. A member of the rose family, but in some ways resembling a Philadelphus, the Mock Orange. The branches of this variety are pendulous and weep heavily when laden with flowers.

**6** *Rhododendron 'Hatsugiri'* (roh-doh-DEN-dron)  
These small flowering Rhodos are sometimes known as 'Azaleas'. This is a name that is often used to refer to deciduous Rhododendrons too. However, technically They are all Rhododendron, even though there are obvious differences, genetically they are all the same. We are not quite in the Rhodo season yet, but in a few weeks the Gardens will be brimming with their flowers.

**10** *Magnolia 'Fairy Cream'* (mag-NO-lee-ah)  
This is an evergreen magnolia that flowers just after the early flowering mass. Being small and evergreen means that it is suitable as a hedging plant too, all be a rather exotic one. This hybrid magnolia comes in cream, white and pink. The magnolia season is long here in the Gardens. Although Magnolia avenue has nearly finished flowering, they are many more still to come.

**3** *Magnolia 'Lois'* (mag-NO-lee-ah)  
This is one of my favourite magnolias. Flowering just after the majority of the early spring flowering magnolias and bearing flowers of a soft lemon yellow. Yellow magnolias are generally hybrids between the north American species *M. acuminata* and large flowered Asian species. Lois is one of the best to grow for flower and overall shape.

**7** *Grevillea 'Pink Lady'* (gre-VIL-ee-ah)  
The Grevillea is native to Australia, where around 360 species grow. Unfortunately, very few are tough enough to survive our winters here in the UK. However, several are pretty strong growing. This variety has lived here in the Gardens for many years and never suffered winter damage. Beautiful plants sometimes known as 'Spider Flowers'

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