

*a Jenny*  
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OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. This short list marks the beginning of what we think is one of the most exciting projects ever to be laid before the specialist gardener. From September, 1983, we shall spend most of our time travelling to bring you seeds from the vast and varied country between the Atlantic coasts of Morocco, Portugal and Spain up through the great mountain ranges of Central Europe and the Balkans and on through Turkey to its eastern borders with Iran and Iraq. It is an opportune moment to commence this work. The completion of the 'Flora Europaea' and the publication of the final volume of the 'Flora of Turkey' in 1984 will give us a basis to offer you material named according to these standard, modern floras. We also believe that the situation in the gardening world has reached a stage when all the concepts of the availability and distribution of material from new or more demanding plants - as well as the keen gardeners attitudes to the wild plants, the source material of his interest - need reviewing drastically.

OUR NEXT LIST, which will be sent out to everyone at the end of January, 1984, will set the pattern for the future. We intend to issue two lists each year - one in summer and one in winter to offer you seed as soon as we can after collection. We shall be systematically listing and code-numbering all the species with which we may be concerned on a regular basis, so that we shall have permanent field reference numbers. Using a six-digit system to allow us ample latitude, every plant of possible garden-value from our area - one of the richest habitats for bulbous and alpine-plants in the world - will be included. Each list will offer between one and two hundred items in a continually varying range of material. We shall have no difficulty in maintaining this infinite variety - how often have you been able to obtain seed of even such common and accessible species as *Eritrichium nanum* or *Androsace helvetica*, of *Narcissus watieri* or *Fritillaria drenovskyi*, far less considering species such as *Viola kosaninii*, *Daphne malyana* and *Helleborus vesicarius*? Every item we list will be annotated with full field data and any brief information which we feel may be of relevance or interest. We shall also tell you exactly what we are offering - not only by listing correctly named material but by telling you the minimum number of seeds in each packet. In general, we should aim to send enough seed for sowing in a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (9 cm.) pot - a sensible size for any serious grower and one likely to produce enough plants to give reasonable latitude for losses. With, let us say, 25 seeds of a *Fritillaria*, most gardeners should stand a reasonable chance of ending up with 10 mature bulbs; you will need a very much greater number of *Ranonda* seeds to produce 10 plants unless you are a very skilled grower indeed. We have our experience of growing a very wide range of plants over the past twenty years to guide us in such matters and we intend through the newsletters, which will accompany our seed-lists, to offer you information based on this experience. We hope to be able to offer some advice about growing particular species and to explain why you may have had disappointments in the past. In the long term, we see no reason to restrict ourselves to even as wide a field as we have outlined and we should hope to cast our net even more widely from time to time to bring you material from other more distant mountain areas and also to offer you exclusive seed from some of the fine genera we have been involved with over the past twenty years, such as *Helleborus*, *Agapanthus*, *Alstroemeria* and *Iris*. First of all, however, we must prove that putting our plans into operation does indeed constitute an economically viable project. We obviously believe it does and, having survived in business for the past twenty years we are not completely naive in reaching such a conclusion. We are viewing our plans over an initial three-year period, which should give us ample time to assess the demand for the service we plan to offer.

THE FOUNDATION of the whole proposition must be in supplying material which is needed by specialist gardeners throughout the world and in ensuring that this material is of the quality which will give the greatest chance of success. In building on this, we must have the support of skilled gardeners from the very start - gardeners who are going to grow good material from our seeds, show others what can be achieved and tell their friends about us. We have long appreciated that the best advertising is recommendation by word of mouth and we know that our reputation will be built on the reactions of our first customers. We believe that we shall have many customers who will treat us very fairly. The many letters we have received already indicate that not only are our own feelings about seed confirmed but that there are a great many fine gardeners around the world eager to give us a fair trial! If we can convince you, our first potential customers, over the next twelve months, we must go on to widen, refine and consolidate our mailing-list until it includes every gardener, in every part of the world, who has the interest and enthusiasm to benefit from our work. The diversity of the terrain over which we shall be working will mean that many species may be much better suited to the climate of Southern Germany or Montana or New South Wales for example than the moist, maritime climate of Britain.

FREING OURSELVES FROM OUR CHAINS is not only going to mean leaving the nursery business with which we have been associated for almost twenty years but also detaching ourselves from the introverted and parochial gardening atmosphere of Britain! Winding up the nursery, however, has been a more immediate problem and the enormous task in arranging this has meant that this communication has appeared rather later than intended. We could complain about the weather this year and say that much seed was about a month late in maturing (if it matured at all) but it is really other work which has been the problem. This difficulty will not occur from now on, as we shall no longer have a permanent base in Britain after September - a very necessary step towards the viability of our project as far as we are concerned. We shall let you know our plans as they mature.

THE ENCLOSED SEED LIST is more to justify the mailing of this newsletter than to indicate the pattern of future lists, which will start seriously in January, 1984. These will be of quite a different format. Where there will be a similarity is in the general concept. In future as well as in this list, we shall try to provide something of interest for everyone. Before writing a little about a few of the items on this present list, let us emphasise that we are not too worried if you decide not to order anything from it. It is more to whet your appetite than to base our business on. If you do want anything, however, please write immediately. If you do, we should receive your order before we leave in about one month. We shall send it from Britain if we can but late orders will be handled on our journey - we shall have all seed with us. Orders arriving after we have left should catch us up in Greece when we reach there in mid-November and your seeds will be sent from there. We shall be back in Britain between January and March, during which time you will receive a list of seeds from our autumn collections of high altitude material and any seeds you may wish to order from this. If you do not want to run the risk of your order being delayed till November, we should really prefer you did not order than condemn us at the outset for failing to send you seed as freshly as you might wish. The system will all fall into place over the next twelve months and we do not want to lose potential support before this has happened!

WE CANNOT PLEASE EVERYONE ALL OF THE TIME but we can try! Even with a little rag-bag of a list like this, we do feel there should be something to interest most keen gardeners in most temperate areas of the world. As we have neither the space nor the time to use the space if we had it, to tell you as much as we should like about all the species on the list, we are merely mentioning a few items for different sorts of places and different sorts of people. There is obviously not a lot for the alpine purist ready early in the season but some of the Cruciferae ripen their seed quickly and we include two of the best cushion Drabas - for the alpine-house in Britain - and those two extraordinary relict white *Ptilotrichums* from their remote and isolated stations in the Pyrenees and Sierra de Cazorla. These usually germinate quickly and I prefer to sow in spring so this should suit Southern Hemisphere customers. The two yellow *Corydalis*, *C. wilsonii* and *C. thalictrifolia* are also small, saxatile plants, easily grown from seed under glass in Britain but perhaps none too hardy in severe climates. The larger tuberous *C. nobilis* is extremely hardy and prefers colder climates but is a slow plant to mature and we include *C. lutea*, naturalised in the walls of the nursery here, as a piece of nostalgia and to emphasise that our lists will not only be for gardening snobs. There are, in fact, several genuine British natives here: *Helleborus foetidus* and the lovely Water Avens, *Geum rivale*; the yellow Horned Poppy, *Glaucium flavum*, and the blue-leaved Sea Kale, *Crambe maritima*, both plants of British shores. We meant to collect seed from our Dorset Bluebells as well but we did not find the time! There is seed, however, of what Paul Furse called the Caspian Bluebell, *Scilla hohennackeri*, from one of his own collections. This is an easy, pleasant bulb and should be better known after almost twenty years in cultivation. Among the many bulbs, enthusiasts will know what they want from such genera as *Cyclamen* and *Fritillaria*; general gardeners can note that the most reliable species in the open garden in Britain are the forms of *C. hederifolium* and *C. coum*, from both of which we have ample seed. In *Fritillaria*, *F. acmopetala*, *F. pontica*, *F. pyrenaica* and of course another superlative British native, *F. meleagris*, are the most reliable in the open garden, here. Of course, many bulbs listed will not be fully hardy in Britain but we hope they will be good garden plants with many customers where winters are milder. We are rather thin on the winter-growing South Africans but little yellow *Romulea hirta* is almost hardy here, as is the interesting *X Homoglad* distributed by Norman Hadden. It comes very evenly from seed and looks like a muted version of *Gladiolus cardinalis*, of which it is almost certainly a hybrid; what the *Homoglossum* half is we shall never know. On the other hand, there are many, summer-growing bulbs, especially among the Central and South American *Amaryllidaceae*. Most will not stand prolonged freezing when dormant in our winters but we have found *Hippeastrum bagnoldii*, with its yellow, red-flushed flowers, perfectly temperature-hardy if kept dry. The blue Irid, *Gelasine azurea*, and *Alophia lakue*, like a miniature, violet *Tigridia*, would seem to be also. Before moving north again, a comment regarding the use of the name *Hippeastrum* must be interpolated, if only to illustrate our problems in naming plants. I do know that Traub and Moldenke's perfectly cogent argument that this genus should be called *Amaryllis* is accepted in most parts of the world - except it would seem Britain! For the moment, as I am still resident in Britain, I shall adhere to our distinctive brand of insularity which I have already mentioned. There will always be problems - the high-altitude Moroccan *Fritillaria*, which we have listed as *F. "oranensis"* should be called *F. messanensis atlantica* according to Martyn Rix and *F. messanensis macrocarpa* according to Maire but I doubt if either has ever seen a seed capsule, which in our material has no resemblance to *F. messanensis*, as we know it - we shall await further pronouncements! We should have liked to tell you more about the herbaceous plants in the list, especially the hybrid *Hellebores*, which will be a mystery to most of you. These have always been a speciality of the nursery and our speckled ones like 'Cosmos' and 'Leo', 'Galaxy and Zodiac Strains' are unrivalled - they will not, of course, come true in any case. Nor will seed from those other highly bred plants, the *Auriculas*. Neither of these groups will be available next season, unfortunately: the basic collection of *Hellebores* will be leading a rather itinerant life over the next few years and Jenny's collection of old *Auriculas* will all be sold. We can assure you of many compensations, however. We have just left enough space to thank our friends for giving us some additional seeds to make this list more diverse and interesting; for these, our thanks to Dinah Batterham, John Blanchard, Ivor Barton, Dave Hoskins, Melvin Jope, Irene Mitchell and Mike Tucker. We are especially indebted to our good friend, Michael Salmon, for allowing us to include a few of the seeds we have gleaned, by way of a peppercorn rent, for the space occupied by his extensive collection of bulbs, which have been with us for a season, while he was arranging to move them to fresh pastures.

YOU TAKE YOUR CHOICE AND YOU PAY YOUR MONEY - if we may transpose an old English cliché. From the customers viewpoint we offer a simple business deal. The prices opposite are quoted in US \$, French Francs, DM and £ sterling; we shall accept your personal cheque in any of these currencies. We shall accept bank notes in any currency at the current exchange rate against any of the four currencies quoted (but please send registered mail). If neither method suits you, a bank draft or International Money Order (in sterling for the moment) can be sent to us at Sherborne. Please give some substitutes. No extra charge for airmail.

ALBUCA HUMILIS	B	FRITILLARIA ACMOPETALA	B
ALLIUM TRIQUETRUM (JCA coll., Corsica)	A	CRASSIFOLIA KURDICA (BSBE 1282, Iran)	D
UNIFOLIUM	A	CRASSIFOLIA KURDICA (CMW 2556, Turkey)	D
ALOPHIA LAHUE (BCW 4407, Chile)	B	GRABEA	C
ALSTROEMERIA HOOKERIANA	C	INVOLUCRATA	C
LIGTU HYBRIDS (mixed colours)	A	LILLIACEA	C
LIGTU HYBRIDS - SELECTED PINKS	C	LUSITANICA	C
LIGTU HYBRIDS - SELECTED WHITE	C	MELEAGRIS	A
PULCHRA	C	MESSANENSIS	C
AMARYLLIS - see Hippeastrum		MESSANENSIS GRACILIS	C
ANDROSACE X HYBRIDA (helvetica x pubescens)	E	MICHAILOVSKYI (MT 4209, Turkey)	C
ANEMONE RIVULARIS	A	OLIVIERI (PF 2057, Iran)	D
ARUNDINARIA ANCEPS	B	"ORANENSIS" (ABS 4622, Morocco)	E
ASPHODELUS FISTULOSUS	A	PALLIDIFLORA	C
ASTRANTIA MAJOR (from both pink and white)	A	PONTICA	B
BABIANA RUBRO-CYANEA	B	PYRENAICA	B
BRODIAEA BRIDGESII	B	TUNTASIA	D
CALOCHORTUS ALBUS	B	GELASINE AZUREA	B
ALBUS RUBELLUS	B	GEUM RIVALE	A
SUPERBUS	B	GLADIOLUS NATALENSIS	B
VENUSTUS	B	GLAUCIUM FLAVUM	A
CALOSCORDUM NERINIFLORUM	B	HABRANTHUS ANDERSONII (texensis)	A
BERGENIA - NEW GERMAN HYBRIDS	B	ROBUSTUS	B
BUFLEURUM ANGULOSUM	C	HELLEBORUS CORSICUS	B
CLEMATIS ALPINA	B	FOETIDUS	B
ALPINA 'FRANCES RIVIS'	C	NIGER	B
MACROPETALA	A	X HYBRIDUS (H. orientalis hybrids) mixed	B
MACROPETALA 'MARKHAMS PINK'	B	'BLACK STRAIN'	C
X COOPERANTHES 'MARY'	C	'COSMOS'	D
COOPERIA HERBERTIANA	C	'GALAXY STRAIN'	C
LANCASTERAE	C	"GUTTATUS" (of gardens)	C
CORYDALIS LUTEA	A	'LEO'	D
NOBILIS	C	'MERCURY'	D
THALICTRIFOLIA	C	'MIRANDA'	E
WILSONII	C	'PURPLE STRAIN'	C
CRAMBE MARITIMA	B	'ZODIAC STRAIN'	C
CROCUS CASPIUS (JCA 2309, Iran)	D	HIPPEASTRUM BAGNOLDII (BCW 4999, Chile)	C
TOURNEFORTII	C	AULICUM (H. Blossfeld coll., Brazil)	D
CYRTANTHUS BREVIFLORUS (H. Milford coll.)	C	CORREIENSE	D
CYCLAMEN BALEARICUM (D. Hoskins coll.)	C	SP. (R. Ferrera coll., N. Peru)	E
BALEARICUM X REPANDUM - SELECTED WHITE	D	STYLOSUM	D
CILICIMUM (PD 25789 - our F.C.C. strain)	B	HOMERIA BREYNIANA (= collina)	A
CILICIMUM INTAMINATUM - PLAIN LEAVES	B	X HOMOGLAD - RED (from Norman Hadden)	C
CILICIMUM INTAMINATUM EKB 628	C	IRIS AFGHANICA (PF 6582, Afghanistan)	F
CILICIMUM INTAMINATUM (T. Norman coll.)	C	MILESII	B
CILICIMUM INTAMINATUM - PINK FORMS	C	POLAKII (1970 seed from JCA 3209, Iran)	E
COUM - MARBLED LEAVES, PINK	B	REICHENBACHII (Z. Zvolanek coll., Bulgaria)	C
COUM - PLAIN LEAVES, RED	C	SINTENISII	B
COUM - PLAIN LEAVES, WHITE	C	SUBBIFLORA	B
CYPRIUM (M. Koenen coll., Cyprus)	C	LEUCOCYJUM NICAEENSE	B
GRAECUM	C	NARCISSUS BULBOCODIUM NIVALIS (ABS 4523, High Atlas, Morocco)	C
GRAECUM - SMALL-LEAVED RHODES FORM	D	PAPYRACEUS PANIZZIANUS (J. Blanchard and C. Stocken colls., S. Spain)	C
HEDERIFOLIUM (= neapolitanum)	A	PSEUDONARCISSUS NEVADENSIS	C
HEDERIFOLIUM ALBUM	B	RUPICOLA (J. Blanchard coll., Spain)	C
LIBANOTICUM	C	WILLKOMMII (J. Blanchard coll., Spain)	C
MIRABILE (PD 26004, S. Turkey)	C	ORNITHOGALUM REVERCHONII (I. Barton coll.)	B
PERSICUM (JCA 1050, Lebanon)	C	PARAHEBE PERFOLIATA	A
PSEUDIBERICUM (PD 26092, S. Turkey)	C	PAROCHETUS COMMUNIS (B. Blount coll., Nepal)	B
PSEUDIBERICUM - PINK (ACW 664)	D	PRIMULA AURICULA HYBRIDS (mixed colours)	B
PURPURASCENS (JCA 4157, Yugoslavia)	C	from ALPINE SHOW HYBRIDS	C
PURPURASCENS - SILVER LEAVES (N. Italy)	E	from BORDER HYBRIDS	C
REPANDUM (JCA 30, Corsica - F.C.C. strain)	C	from HURSTWOOD HYBRIDS	D
REPANDUM - PELOPONNESE RACE (Koenen coll.)	C	from P. MARGINATA HYBRIDS	B
ROHLFSIANUM (JCA 944, Libya)	E	PTILOTRICHUM PYRENAICUM	C
DAPHNE TANGUTICA	B	REVERCHONII	E
DICENTRA SPECTABILIS	B	ROMULEA HIRTA	B
SPECTABILIS 'ALBA'	D	SCILLA HOHENACKERI (PF 5028, N. Iran)	B
DRABA MOLLISSIMA	C	SPHACELE CHAMAEDRYOIDES	B
POLYTRICHA	C	TULIPA SPRENGERI	B
EUPHORBIA CHARACIAS	A	ZEPHYRANTHES SP. (Howard 62/1, Mexico)	C
MYRSINITES	B		
"PILOSA MAJOR" (of gardens)	B		

PRICE CODE A : \$1.00 ; £0.70 ; DM3,- ; FF 8. -  
 B : \$1.50 ; £1. - ; DM4,- ; FF12. -  
 C : \$2.00 ; £1.50 ; DM6,- ; FF18. -

PRICE CODE D : \$3.00 ; £2.00 ; DM8,- ; FF24.  
 E : \$3.50 ; £2.50 ; DM10,- ; FF30.  
 F : \$4.50 ; £3.00 ; DM12,- ; FF36.