

## Hebes



### Care & Advice Sheet

## No. 9

If you require any further information, please ask our outdoor plant advisors who will be very happy to help.

#### Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

#### Chessington Garden Centre

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Please recycle me once you've finished reading.

Hebes are a very large group of shrubs with a range of attributes which make them very garden worthy. Evergreen foliage, a long flowering period and a neat bushy habit along with a wide variety of foliage colours and shapes. These give an unlimited number of combinations for the gardener to choose from.

The flowering can begin in spring with some of the smaller headed varieties such as **"Baby Marie"** which has neat foliage and pale lilac flowers. The larger flowered varieties take over in late spring and summer, many continuing into autumn and winter. Varieties such as **"Great Orme"**, **"Nicola's Blush"** and **"Autumn Glory"** continue flowering particularly well.

Many Hebes double their value in the garden by combining long flowering with striking foliage colours. **"Heartbreaker"** is a new variety with incredible pink and cream foliage which is also more robust and hardy than many variegated Hebes. Hebe **"Franciscana Variegata"** is a well known variety with large round variegated leaves and very wide rounded purple flower heads **"Pascal"** and **"Lady Ardilawn"** have very dark purple foliage in cooler months which becomes lighter in the summer.

Of all the foliage colour varieties, three stand out:

**"Silver Dollar"** which is very compact with silver green foliage with a burgundy hint in winter. **"Caledonia"** with deep red new growth and stems followed by masses of violet flowers in summer, and **"Purple Shamrock"** with narrow lime green leaves turning purple in winter and early spring and blue flowers.

## Cultivation

Hebes come from scrubland and rocky areas of New Zealand. This means they are well adapted to our own climate but require plenty of sun and free draining soil. If planted in more shady areas, the plants tend to become leggy more quickly. Hebes are short lived shrubs which can become leggy in time but this can be put off by regular and light pruning. Timing of this will be governed by the flowering time of the particular variety, after flowering being ideal, but any time during the growing season is fine.

Some people regard Hebes as tender but this is not the case. All the varieties we sell have been extensively trialed to test their hardiness. The results of these trials have proved that the smaller the leaves, the hardier the Hebe, as a general rule.

Also, variegated varieties will suffer more so care should be taken when siting these.

Plenty of compost should be added and if soil is poorly drained some grit or gravel will help. More Hebes are killed by over wet soil in winter than by cold.

