

Finding the New & Obscure



by Paul Green,
Green's Leaves

We all love finding a 'new' obscure plant, but within genera that are common (in both senses of the word!) there are some real gems. I've listed a few that are worth considering – come on, don't be prejudiced!

Buddleja x weyeriana 'Sungold' – so we all love butterflies, but the “butterfly bush” isn't loved by all! This is a fantastic clone from Holland. A hybrid of B. davidii & B. globosa (beautiful, but rather too full-on for most). It has yellow flowers (rather than gold – orange of B. globosa). You can hack it if you need to – it does make a decent shape.

Phormium 'Surfer' – the cynics will be muttering “suburban” and “brash” but wait... this is a really dwarf one (about 18” / 45cm) with bronze edges as it ages and strange and beautiful wave-like twists develop too, hence the name. Fabulous in pots or gravel beds.

Bergenia 'Diamond Drops' – those of you who have been to my talks will know I upset the masses by praising “elephant ears”. But note it's only SOME varieties. This variety has more upright habit and smaller leaves whilst boasting impressive white flowers. Fabulous for sun or shade and very tolerant of clay soils. When customers say “I hate bergenias, but I'll have one of those” a big smile is ensured!

Ophiopogon 'Little Tabby' – so the “black grass” 'Nigrescens' is the one everyone knows about – and has an opinion about – talk about Marmite! Well this is a gem with green and white variegated leaves plus white flowers. It's neat, tight and just perfect for a moist, shady corner in a trough or the border as under-planting.

Ribes odoratum (Buffalo Currant) is a clove scented yellow flowering currant – so no jokes about tom cats allowed



Buddleja x weyeriana 'Sungold'



Phormium 'Surfer'

Green's leaves are at lots of our fairs this year