

Take it or leaf it!

With a nursery called Green's Leaves you will not be surprised that I'm well into foliage.

Now, before you start wondering ... I LOVE FLOWERS! It's just that the range of foliage colours, textures and sizes can add so much to a border or container.

Sedum rupestre 'Angelina' (1)

– treat it mean! A sunny, dry spot (even in pure gravel) gives you the best colour – red tinged, golden evergreen foliage. Fantastic mixed with houseleeks in low maintenance troughs, roof gardens or just on the edge of a path. Just trim back if it ever spreads too far. Yellow flowers are loved by the bees.



Pulmonaria 'Diana Clare' (2) – so how many lungwort varieties are out there?! However, not all are created equal. This is a brilliant foliage plant mixing all silver with spotting. Two-

tone flowers are nice, but the icing on the cake. The key bit – it doesn't seem to get the usual powdery mildew issues. A moist, slightly shady spot gives you best results.

Agave – they say the plants you like are a guide to character. All the spiky plants I adore – I'll let you decide! Anyway, there are so many wonderful agaves in both "plain" and variegated forms. Some are huge, others tiny. The hardiness

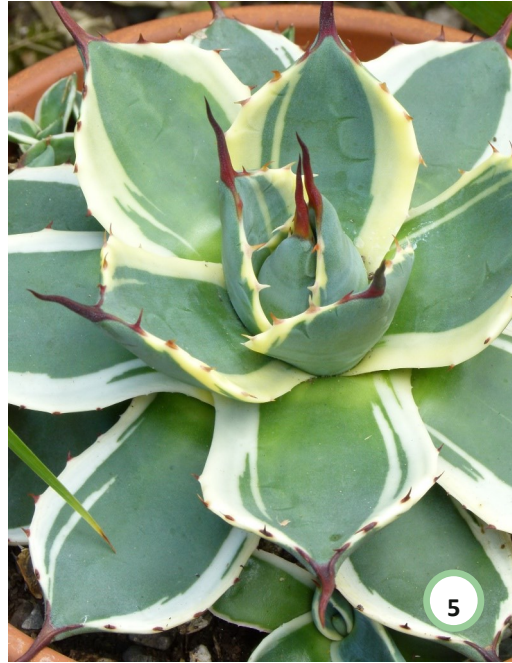


Paul Green

issue – NOT all plants in a genus are equal. There are some that grow in cold temperatures we won't see in a lifetime here in the UK.

The common (but still fab) variegated one is **A. americana 'Variegata' (3)** (takes about -5 °C).





Try the non variegated (**A. Americana (4)**)– it's hardier and a lovely blue – green. Or for hardy, very compact & variegated , **A. 'Cream Spike' (5)** is hardy to about -10° C. It gets better with age (like us, of course).

Green's Leaves will be offering a number of different agaves later this season.

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