

Did you know? Thompson & Morgan has been supplying seeds for more than 160 years

Mr William Thompson, who was by trade a pastrycook, and 'by inclination a botanist and gardener', started a tiny seed business in a small room attached to his shop in Tavern Street, Ipswich. Over the following years, he collected the seeds of rare plants 'from all available sources' and this led him into correspondence with Charles Darwin and scientists such as Sir Joseph Hooker and Sir Michael Forster.



William Thompson



1855

1855 - William Thompson's first seed catalogue was produced and this was to be the first of an unbroken line stretching through to the present day. William Thompson originally introduced *Cosmos atrosanguineus* to the home gardening market, and to this day, T&M continues to carry out breeding work on this species.

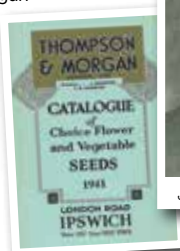
1899 - Mr Thompson entered into partnership with Mr John Morgan, who invested capital into the business.



John Morgan

1903 - Mr Thompson died at the age of 80 having lived to see Thompson & Morgan become famous for innovation and the supply of 'uncommon seeds'.

1913 - Joseph Sangster joined forces with John Morgan. An exceptional horticulturalist, he added a further 4,000 varieties to the seed range.



Joseph Sangster

1914 - 1945 - Thompson & Morgan continued to produce seed catalogues through the war years.

1973 - The company was expanded to include the site at Poplar Lane in Ipswich, Suffolk where the main offices of Thompson & Morgan are situated today.

1982 - Bruce Sangster, grandson of Joseph Sangster headed the company's expansion in the USA.

The late 1990s saw Thompson & Morgan develop a range of young plants that were supplied via mail order and delivered across the UK.

TODAY

Thompson & Morgan's innovative legacy continues today. The firm has launched a number of award-winning garden favourites such as *Begonia* 'Fragrant Falls', *Digitalis* ILLUMINATION SERIES and the newest breeding sensation, *Helianthus annuus* SUNBELIEVABLE BROWN EYED GIRL which was placed 3rd in RHS Chelsea Plant of the Year 2018.



SPARSHOLT

COLLEGE HAMPSHIRE

Sparsholt College is set in 182 hectares (450 acres) of Hampshire countryside and is one of the UK's leading land-based colleges with a national and international reputation.

An associate college of the University of Portsmouth, University Centre Sparsholt offers degree courses at all levels from Foundation to Master's and holds a TEF Gold award for teaching excellence.

Commercially, the department produces cut flowers, plants for sale, fruit, vegetables, and the apple orchard houses beehives for honey production.

Students across all abilities work with the grounds team to maintain the department, the College grounds and six hectares of sports pitches.

For more information please call or visit:

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We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their generous support:

Hazel, Keith and George Smith
Margaret Chin-Wolf
Thomas Wolf
Andrew Collins



Thompson & Morgan
Experts in the garden since 1855
www.thompson-morgan.com

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Behind the Genes

Design Concept
Chris Bird,
Lecturer in Horticulture

Design and Construction
Level 3 Students
in Horticulture

RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2019
Stand GPA154

Sponsored by



Thompson & Morgan
Experts in the garden since 1855

The three steps of development...

...for *Digitalis x valinii* ILLUMINATION PINK which won RHS Chelsea Plant of the Year in 2012.



1 *Digitalis purpurea*
The common foxglove which is native to the UK is propagated from seed and naturally pollinated.



2 *Digitalis purpurea* 'Primrose Carousel'
Bred for its dwarf habit, colour and densely-packed flowers all around the stem, this was the first primrose-yellow foxglove coming true from seed with large, creamy yellow, claret-speckled flowers, introduced in 1999.

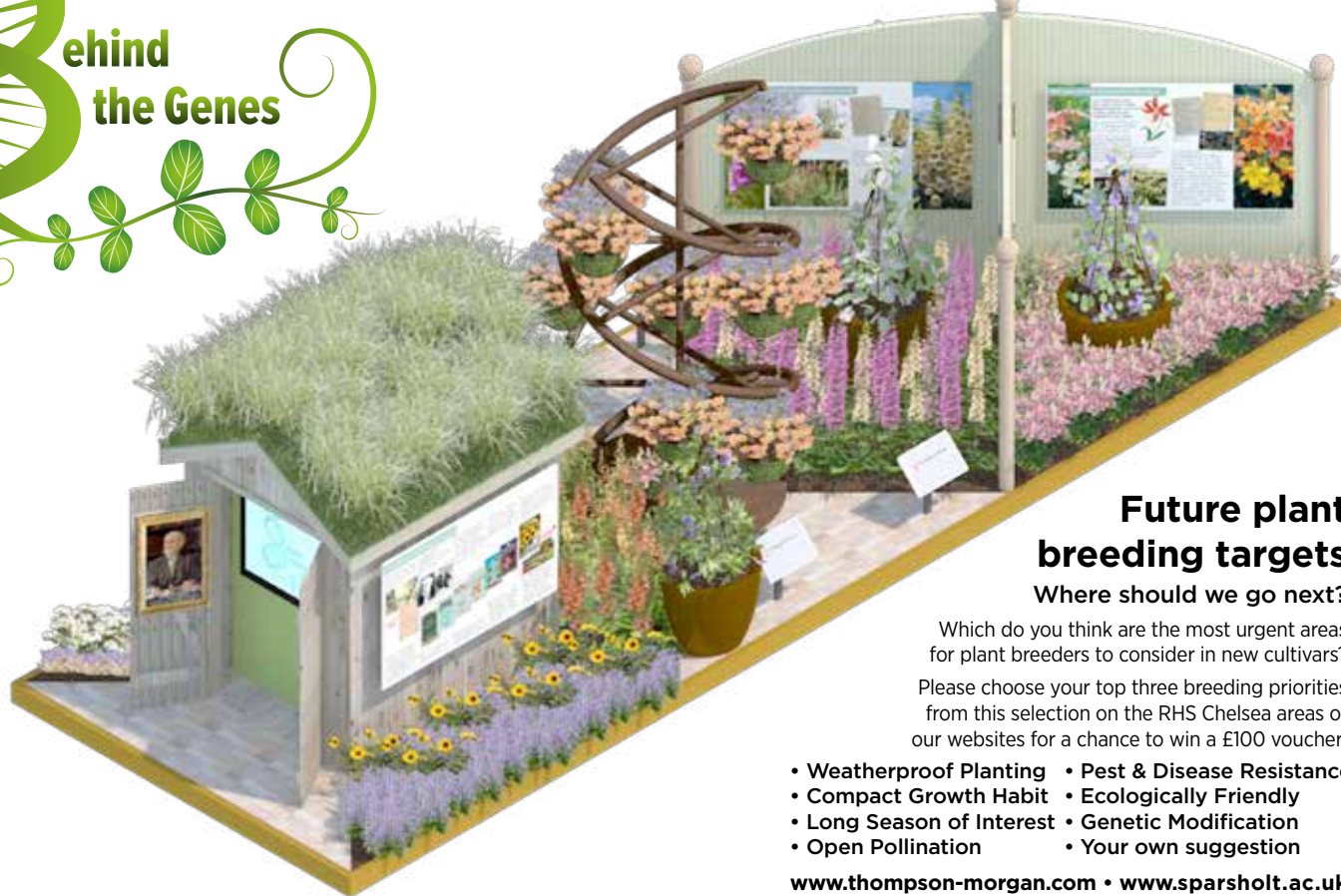
3 *Digitalis x valinii* ILLUMINATION PINK
A sterile, compact hybrid which is a cross between *D. purpurea* and *D. canariensis*. Bred for its beautiful flower shapes and distinctive colour shades, blooming on multiple flower spires.



Behind the Genes

The garden offers a visually inspiring insight into the processes of plant breeding, selection and development. Techniques used to bring about the improvement of plant species are explained to show the commitment and expertise involved in plant breeding.

Each section features milestones from extensive breeding programmes from across the years.



Future plant breeding targets

Where should we go next?

Which do you think are the most urgent areas for plant breeders to consider in new cultivars?

Please choose your top three breeding priorities from this selection on the RHS Chelsea areas of our websites for a chance to win a £100 voucher:

- Weatherproof Planting
- Compact Growth Habit
- Long Season of Interest
- Open Pollination
- Pest & Disease Resistance
- Ecologically Friendly
- Genetic Modification
- Your own suggestion

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Cultivars exhibited

1. *Digitalis x valinii* ILLUMINATION PINK ('Tmdgfp001'^{PBR})
2. *Agapanthus* FIREWORKS ('MDB001')
3. *Ajuga tenorii* PRINCESS NADIA ('Piotrek01'^{PBR})
4. *Begonia x tuberhybrida* FRAGRANT FALLS ORANGE 'Tmbg1307'
5. *Buddleja davidii* BUTTERFLY TOWER 'Tobud1305'
6. *Chlorophytum saundersiae* 'Starlight'^(PBR)
7. *Clematis* 'Kokonoe'^(PBR)
8. *Clematis* LITTLE LEMONS 'Zo14100' (Tangutica Group)
9. *Helianthus annuus* SUNBELIEVABLE™ BROWN EYED GIRL 'Sunbeliv01'
10. *Hydrangea hybrida* RUNAWAY BRIDE 'Snow White'
11. *Nepeta* NEPTUNE ('Bokratune')
12. *Impatiens hawkeri* WILD ROMANCE 'White'
13. *Osteospermum ecklonis* 'Purple Sun'

