



## RHS Plant of the Year 2021

Proposed cultivars to be exhibited

1. *Ficus carica* LITTLE MISS FIGGY ('LMF01') EU 20192170
2. *Lathyrus x hammettii* THREE TIMES AS SWEET
3. *Hylotelephium* SUNSPARKLER® SERIES ('Dream Dazzler') EU 20203379 (syn. *Sedum*)
4. *Camellia* 1001 SUMMER NIGHTS JASMINE ('Yulan01') EU 20201032

## New Plants for 2021

Proposed cultivars to be exhibited

5. *Limonium gmelinii* DAZZLE ROCKS ('STE 10')<sup>PBR</sup> EU 20201049
6. Kale, *Brassica oleracea* Acephala Group 'Rainbow Candy Crush'
7. *Salvia nemorosa* CARADONNA PINK INSPIRATION ('Tuitsalv')<sup>PBR</sup>

# SPARSHOLT

COLLEGE HAMPSHIRE

Sparsholt College was established at the beginning of the 20th century and is set in 450 acres of beautiful Hampshire countryside. It is recognised as one of the UK's leading land-based colleges with a national and international reputation.

Students on full-time courses across all abilities work with the grounds team to maintain the Horticulture department, college grounds and six hectares of sports pitches.

Sparsholt College delivers the Horticulture, Greenkeeper & Landscape Operative Apprenticeship Standards and trains up to 120 apprentices a year. A team of five sector specialists supports employers in the horticulture and landscaping sectors to develop the gardening talent of the future.

For more information please call or visit:

📞 01962 776441 🌐 [sparsholt.ac.uk](http://sparsholt.ac.uk)

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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



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# SPARSHOLT

COLLEGE HAMPSHIRE



Design Concept  
**Chris Bird, Lecturer in Horticulture**

Design and Construction  
**Level 3 Students in Horticulture**

RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2021  
**Stand GPA160**

**#RHSCheelsea**

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**Thompson & Morgan**  
Experts in the garden since 1855

## Celebrating GW301

The garden celebrates the tercentenary-plus-one of Gilbert White's birth. We explore the accomplishments of this true hero of Hampshire and one of the first to introduce the idea of phenology - the study of nature's lifecycles and seasonal variations in climate.

Quotes from White's 18th century manuscripts show how his key observations, which enlightened people to the changing patterns of seasons and species activity, are strikingly relevant to discussions around climate change today.

## Phenology

### The study of seasonal variations in climate and their influence on nature's lifecycles

Selborne, Hampshire and its surrounding landscape initially inspired Gilbert White to investigate the natural world, culminating in his famous book *The Natural History of Selborne*, first published in 1789 and never since out of print. In both this, and his gardening record and weather diary the *Garden Calendar*, White meticulously records weather events and his garden planting and its progress.

White's work resonates through the centuries and is still a reference point for naturalists, ecologists and ornithologists today. Charles Darwin reported that he 'stood on the shoulders' of White, and came on 'a pilgrimage to Selborne' in June 1857.

*"The Year 1751 was one of the wettest Years in the memory of Man. There were constant storms and glits of rain from the 20th of February to the 20th of May. Part of May, and all June were very dry, and burning. But all July, and great part of August were as wet as ever, so that nothing in gardens in a clayey soil grew to any size and nothing came to bear until five or six weeks later than usual."*  
Gilbert White, the *Garden Calendar*, December 1751

## Ground-breaking Methods

White's method of study, considered unusual for the time, was to observe animals and plants closely in their natural habitat. He was the first to distinguish the chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus collybita*, willow warbler, *P. trochilus* and wood warbler, *P. sibilatrix*, as three separate species, as well as recording the dates of the first appearances of 20 species of migratory birds.

Our quotes from White's manuscripts featured in the garden still speak to gardeners today. We can learn much about the cyclical nature of changing weather, its impact on the natural world and the potential impact on future plant species survival.



We have recreated extraordinary architectural features from Gilbert White's garden in Selborne and used plantings familiar to him, alongside cutting edge cultivars, to create a walk through time.



### Wine Pipe Seat

Designed by Gilbert White himself and made from an old port barrel, this unique seat turns a full 360 degrees, protecting its occupier from wind, rain, or sunshine, providing a sheltered, comfortable place to observe nature and the garden from a raised, all-round vantage point.



### The Alcove

This small timber structure, constructed in 1760, was used by the White family and friends for entertaining and enjoying the garden views. The stage-set version of a temple was used as a focal point in the landscape garden.

### The Six Quarters

In White's time these beds were full of a wide range of plants and the term 'quarter' meant an area of land rather than one fourth. Our 'kitchen garden' planting contains flowers, herbs and vegetables to reflect the progression to a more modern style of working, with all the plants next to the Fruit Wall currently grown at Gilbert White's garden.

### RHS Plant of the Year 2021

This section of quarter beds reflects Gilbert White's investigative spirit and showcases plants that he might have selected for modern conditions, including entries for the RHS Plant of the Year 2021.

### The Fruit Wall

The wall was placed to maximise and store heat, increasing the temperature by more than 10°C in order to ripen fruit such as peaches, *Prunus persica*, apricots, *Prunus armeniaca*, and vines, *Vitis vinifera* (grapes).

### Melon Frame

White grew various early melon cultivars in hotbed frames that used heat generated by decomposing horse manure to hasten and prolong the growing season.



### The Wildflower Meadow

This area contains many wildflowers familiar to Gilbert White, and is currently also a habitat for various forms of wildlife. A full plant list can be found on the RHS Chelsea 2021 section of [sparsholt.ac.uk](https://sparsholt.ac.uk)



### The Haha

Originally built in 1761 by local stonemasons, this hidden wall was described by White as containing "double the quantity of stone usual in such walls".

