

**Lupinus species.** Popular cottage garden perennial with tall flower spikes in a wide variety of colours, pea-like flowers.

**Nepeta species, 'Cat Mint'.** Grey-silver leaved aromatic perennial with pale mauve flowers in June and July.

**Perovskia atriplicifolia.** A small lavender like shrub with long narrow white stems and pale mauve flowers in late summer.

**Phlomis species.** Low growing shrubs with densely hairy leaves and unusual yellow flowers in whorls on tall spires.

**Physocarpus opulifolius.** Medium sized deciduous shrubs with 3-lobed leaves and pink-tinged white flowers. 'Dart's Gold' is compact with yellow leaves and 'Diabolo' has bronze-green leaves that turn purple as they mature.

**Potentilla fruticosa.** Dwarf to medium sized shrubs with flowers like small single roses from May to Autumn. Many colours available

**Romneya coulteri, 'Tree poppy'.** Medium sized perennial with large fragrant flowers.

**Rosmarinus, 'Rosemary'.** Aromatic grey-green leaved shrub used in cooking. Small blue or white flowers in May.

**Salvia species.** Medium sized perennials, includes the herb sage used in cooking. Many ornamental varieties are available with bright jewel coloured lipped flowers.

**Sambucus nigra, 'Elder'.** Large shrub or small tree with finely divided leaves and flattened heads of creamy white flowers in June, followed by shiny black fruit. 'Black Lace' has dark purple leaves.

**Senecio greyi, 'Sunshine'.** Medium sized evergreen shrub with silver-grey leaves and yellow daisy like flowers in June and July. Also known as *Brachyglottis*.

**Spirea species.** Hardy medium sized shrubs with a graceful flowering habit. Late spring or summer flowering in pinks and white.

**Tamarix tetrandra.** An unusual large shrub with long slender branches in a loose open shape with light pink flowers in May – June.

 Chessington

## Plants suitable for Sandy Soils



Care & Advice Sheet

**No. 5**

### Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm  
Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

### Chessington Garden Centre

Leatherhead Road, Chessington, Surrey, KT9 2NG

**Tel:** 01372 725 638  
**Email:** [info@chessingtongardencentre.co.uk](mailto:info@chessingtongardencentre.co.uk)  
**Web:** [www.chessingtongardencentre.co.uk](http://www.chessingtongardencentre.co.uk)



Please recycle me once you've finished reading.

Inspiration for your Home & Garden

Sandy soils, also known as light soils are easy to work and warm up quickly in spring. They drain quickly after rain and tend to lose plant nutrients as the water washes through. Sandy soils can be acidic with a pH of less than 6. Soil pH is an index that describes how acid or alkaline your soil is.

A neutral soil has a pH of 7.0, an acidic soil has a pH of between 5 and 6. If you are unsure of the pH of your soil then it is best to test it with an easy to use soil testing kit available from our shop.

These characteristics can be problematic for lots of plants but there are plenty more that have evolved to cope with these conditions. Many of the following plants require acidic conditions that sandy soils create but not all. Some of the plants in this list will grow in any free-draining soil regardless of the pH.

## Improving your Soil

Sandy soil will greatly benefit from the addition of bulky organic matter such as composted manure, homemade composted garden waste or New Horizon peat free multipurpose compost. The organic content helps to retain moisture and nutrients. Use as a mulch in autumn and spring by spreading it over the surface of the soil and lightly fork-in.

## Planting

When planting we recommend that you add plenty of peat free compost into the planting hole.

## Care

Spread a balanced slow release fertiliser over the soil in spring and feed with a liquid feed such as **Miracle-Gro**

throughout the summer. This is taken up by the leaves as well as the roots so can be used to drench the leaves, use in the evening to prevent the leaves from being scorched in bright sunlight.

**Amelanchier lamarckii.** A small tree or large shrub with white flowers in spring to. 2-3m High in 10 years, with rich autumn colour

**Berberis species.** Deciduous or evergreen shrubs, with yellow or orange flowers and often with long thorns.

**Centranthus ruber.** Perennial with clusters of dark pink flowers from late summer to the first frosts. 'Alba' has white flowers.

**Ceratostigma plumbaginoides.** Spreading low growing perennial with bright blue flowers in late summer. Needs shelter.

**Cistus species.** Sun roses are small shrubs that flower freely with white, pink or yellow flowers in June and July. Best in full sun.

**Convolvulus cneorum.** A small shrub with silver foliage and pale pink and white trumpet shaped flowers in May. Best in dull sun.

**Coronilla valentina.** An unusual wall shrub, mass of pea-flowers yellow flowers in April.

**Cortaderia selloana, 'Pampas grass'.** Very tall and robust grass with large flowering plumes.

**Cotinus species, 'Smoke bush'.** Deciduous shrub growing to 3 - 4m, round leaves with delicate plume-like flower spikes that give this shrub its name. Red autumn colour.

**Cotoneaster species.** Evergreen shrubs ranging from low-growing spreading ground cover to tall small trees. Small shiny dark green leaves and red or yellow berries.

**Echinops.** Easy to grow perennials with blue flowers in July to August. **E. bannaticus, 'Taplow Blue'** has tall spherical flower heads good for the back of a border.

**E. Ritro, 'Veitch's Blue'** is smaller (to 1m) and has silver-grey leafy stems.

**Elaeagnus x ebbingei.** Large shrub, some with variegated leaves that are silvery when new. Very fragrant flowers in autumn.

**Eryngium bourgatii, 'Sea Holly'.** A perennial with striking purple and silvery spiky bracts surrounding tiny flowers in late summer.

**Helianthemum species, 'Rock roses'.** Dwarf evergreen shrubs that produce masses of small flowers in a multitude of colours.

**Hibiscus syriacus.** An upright deciduous shrub with large exotic trumpet shaped flowers in white, blue or pink in late summer to early autumn.

**Hypericum species.** Easy to grow small to medium sized shrubs with conspicuous bright yellow flowers in summer to autumn.

**Indigofera himalayensis, 'Silk Road'.** A delicate deciduous shrub with thin arching branches and pink flowers in early summer.

**Kerria japonica.** A graceful shrub with thin arching stems that grow to 1.8m. Bright yellow flowers in early April to May.

**Lavandula species.** Fragrant French or English lavender with white or purple flowers in early summer and grey-silver foliage.

**Lavatera species.** Shrubby mallow. Easy to grow, palmate grey-downy leaves and white, pink or purple flowers over a long period.