

Photographic Portfolio:

Autumn Colours

By photographer Miriam Heppell

At this time of the year the changing trees tend to take centre stage. For this portfolio however, I decided to look for autumn colour on a smaller scale and particularly at harmonious planting, which can provide a wide palette of seasonal colour, late into the year. The photographs below were taken at the end of October in the South-East.



The bright fresh flowers of *Xerochrysum bracteatum* 'Sundance Bronze' against the deep, reddish-brown of *Pittosporum tenuifolium* 'Tom Thumb' creates a warm glow. *Xerochrysum bracteatum* is also known as 'everlasting flower' as it dries beautifully and whilst it is a native of Australia, this annual seems to do very well in our climate.

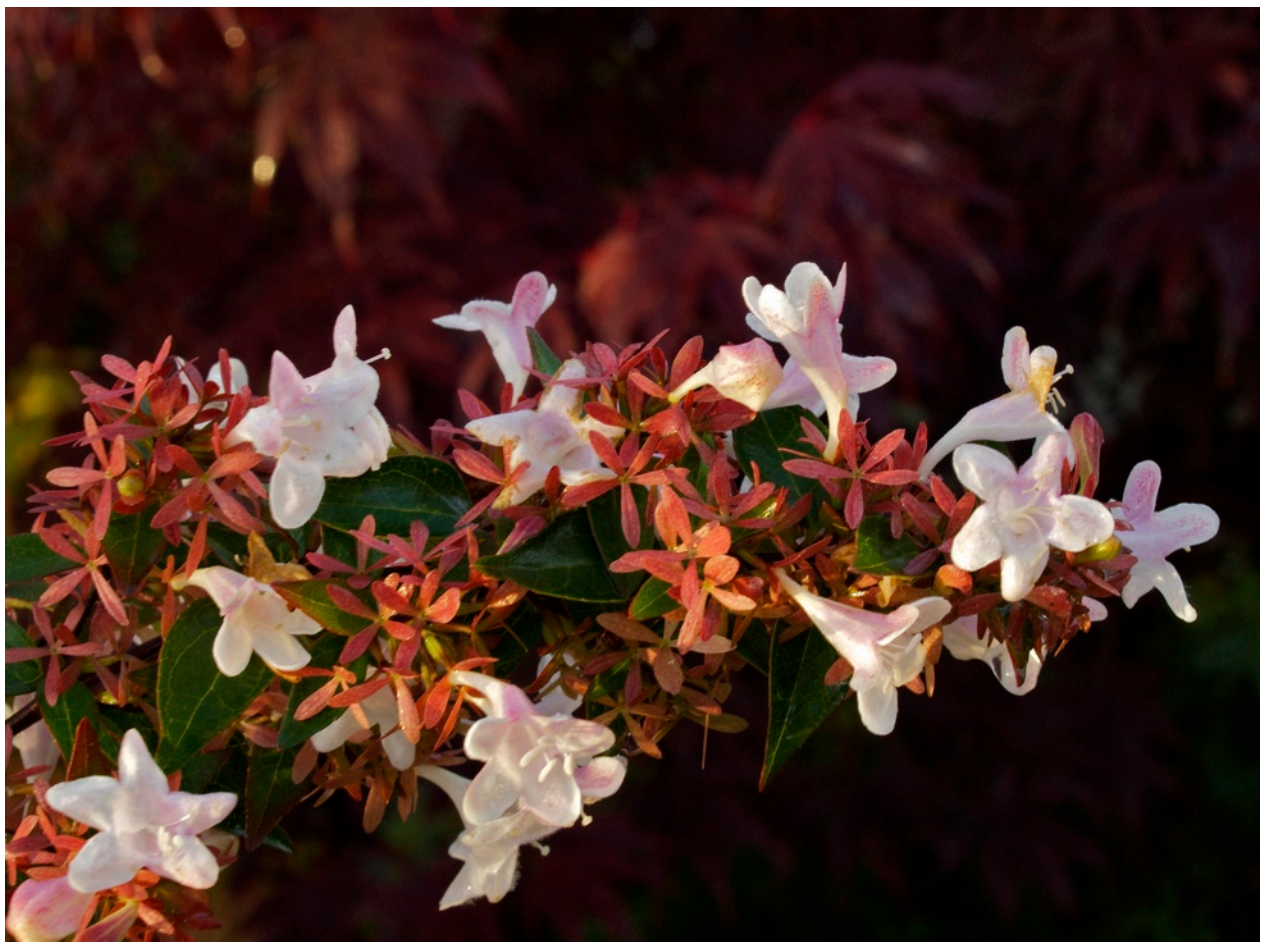


Left:

The dramatic, sweeping shape and stunning maroon colour of *Amaranthus* 'Foxytail' certainly makes it a plant of distinction. The shape and colour are accentuated by the backdrop of yellow leaves, particularly the tiny yellow flower centres.

Below:

Long flowering *Abelia x grandiflora* with its delicate pink bells and coppery bracts tones beautifully with *Acer palmatum* 'Atropurpureum'. The *Abelia* has been in flower since the end of August and was still flowering freely at the end of October when this photograph was taken.





Left:

Daisies are a favourite with many people and the profuse pink cloud of tiny flowers on this *Aster Lateriflorus* *Horizontalis* certainly made me smile. The dark red upright stems of *Cornus alba* 'Sibirica' are a clever addition as they highlight the colour of the flower centres and create height amongst the lax, low growing branches of the Aster.



Autumn colour doesn't have to be red, gold or brown. This is *Anaphalis triplinervis* otherwise known as 'Pearl everlasting' because the flower heads slowly dry but retain their colour. It is a shade lover and here grown under trees against a sea of purple *Liriope muscari* (maybe 'gold band') and *Michaelmas* daisies, it sparkles.



This fading *Agapanthus* seed head against golden *Molinia caerulea* subsp. *arundinacea* 'Skyracer' illuminated by autumn sunlight, was breath taking. Surely a lesson on not clearing the garden too quickly.