

## **Baginton Gardener**

During our last meeting in July, Darren Rudge explained what to do, before buying plants, to end up with the “right plant in the right Place”

His main tip was - **Do your research.**

Plants need four basic things to grow well, the right temperature, the right amount of light and water plus the right amount of food, each plant is different, so research the plant you want to buy and your garden

- **Never try to change nature**, it will always get the better of you, so grow with the conditions you have.
  - Test your soil - acid, alkaline, sand, clay, silt, peat, chalk, loam
  - What aspect are you wanting to plant,
  - Sunny or shady, windy or wet
- **Think about the ultimate size and shape of the plant**, both roots and canopy, will it still fit the space when it reaches maturity?
- **What do you want the plant for**, flowers, scent, or structure?
- **Maintenance**, how much does it need, do you have the time to give?

Ask yourself one of two questions

1. Where will this plant grow best, do I have these conditions in my garden?
2. These are my garden conditions, what will grow best here?

Darren's other golden nuggets of knowledge were

- Plant in odd numbers, it's more pleasing to the eye.
- Most plants will eventually adapt to where you plant them, as long as it's not too extreme.
- Plant your borders with Canopy plants, trees or large shrubs at the back, herbaceous perennials or smaller shrubs in the middle and ground covering plants at the front. Or for a more modern arrangement, consider John Brookes approach of "**Specials**" or focal plants, "**Skeletons**" to give structural. "**Pretties**" herbaceous perennials then "**Infills**" with bulbs and tubers.
- Test soil PH using kitchen ingredients. Mix a little soil with vinegar in one container, and baking soda in another. If the mixture fizzes or bubbles when vinegar is added, the soil is alkaline. If the mixture fizzes when baking soda is added, the soil is acidic. If it reacts to neither its PH neutral.



Our next meeting is on **15 September at the British Legion Club, Kimberley Road, Baginton @ 7:30pm** when Geoff Hodge will be sharing his thoughts on the Winter Colour.

**Become a member £20** plus £3 per meeting attended and receive 10% off at Russell's & Avondale nursery, plus discounts on "Kings" seeds, when ordered through the club by 1 October. Everyone is welcome so just come along as a Guest for £7 per meeting.

**To confirm your membership** or if you have any questions, please email Sue Burgham [seburgham@gmail.com](mailto:seburgham@gmail.com)