



A FEW SPECIAL PLANTS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN BURNCOOSE GARDEN

1. *Magnolia campbellii* 'Alba' – this is usually the first tree magnolia to flower in the garden in February or early March. Greenish white in bud it opens a pure white. This is however a New Zealand form and the flowers are smaller and more rounded than the original Chinese plants at Caerhays Castle Gardens.

2. *Camellia* x *williamsii* 'J.C. Williams' and 'St Ewe' – these two large groups touching the drive are the first two crosses in the now famous line of *williamsii* camellias bred at Caerhays by J.C. Williams in 1923. The first flowers appear in November or December and continue until late April.

3. *Hydrangea* 'Joseph Banks' – an article and photograph in 'The Garden' magazine of 1896 record this clump of hydrangeas as having 725 flower heads and being 35 years old. The clump still survives today proving the longevity of hydrangeas.

4. *Wollemi nobilis* 'Wollemi Pine' – this conifer, which is a relative of the Monkey Puzzle, was considered extinct until rediscovered in a secluded valley in New South Wales, Australia. It is clearly tender but has so far survived minus 5° here.

5. *Eucryphia nymansensis* 'Nymansay' – visitors often forget what a spring woodland garden can offer in summer. This multi-stemmed small evergreen tree is a blaze of colour in August with a mass of small round white flowers.



6. *Rhododendron williamsianum* – this species was discovered by Ernest Wilson in China in 1908 and named after J.C. Williams of Caerhays. This may well be the largest surviving plant in the UK and its massed ranks of twin pink flowers are a spectacle in early May.

7. *Schima khasiana* – tucked away in its own small microclimate is this unusual evergreen with large white camellia like flowers in September and October.

8. *Magnolia* 'Joe McDaniel' – this is an unusual Gresham hybrid from the USA with bowl shaped purple flowers with a white picotee edge.

9. *Rhododendron genestierianum* - this is probably the most unusual and certainly the rarest rhododendron species in the garden. It has striking peeling red bark and small trusses of flowers which are almost black in bud opening dark mauve. Some flowers appear at almost any time of the year but mainly in March and April.

Continued overleaf



10. *Michelia doltsopa* – there are two 25 year old plants set just back from the drive which produce a profusion of sweetly scented creamy flowers in April and May. On a still day the scent can carry right up to the nursery entrance.

11. *Magnolia sargentiana var robusta* – this is by far the tallest magnolia in the garden at around 80 feet. In March every twig seems to have a drooping pink flower and the petals fall to coat the path with a sweet magnolia scent.

12. *Dicksonia antarctica* – this Australian tree fern had visited many Chelsea Flower Shows before it became too large to manhandle and was eventually planted out. Tree ferns originally arrived at Falmouth Docks where they were used as ballast to prevent cargoes moving about but the trunks were soon seen to re-shoot.



13. *Rhododendron macabeaum* – this is a graft from the original and striking yellow form at Trewithen Gardens. The brown indumentum on the underside of its huge leaves distinguishes it from the equally large leaved *Rhododendron sinogrande* which has white leaf undersides and is growing nearby.

14. *Araucaria araucana* – ‘Monkey Puzzle’ – this tree was recorded by Thurston as being over 100 feet tall in 1930. It is probably much the same height today although it has now developed a side shoot.

15. *Rehderodendron macrocarpum* – this unusual rare tree flowers in late May and has numerous trusses of pendulous white flowers followed by large dark pink fruits which take 2 years to germinate.

16. *Kalmia latifolia* – ‘Calico Bush’ – this huge clump contains several different plants with trusses of white and pink flowers in June or early July. At that time it is far and away the best plant in the garden again disabusing the notion that Burncoose is simply a spring garden.

17. *Magnolia ‘Daphne’* – this small magnolia grows on the very edge of the pond and flowers in May. It is the best yellow yet of the many supposedly yellow flowered magnolias which have appeared in our gardens in the last 20 years.

18. *Sasa ramosa var ‘Nebulosa’* and *Sas veitchii* grow happily together. The taller growing *S. ramosa* has green leaves while *S. veitchii* has light brown edging to its leaves in winter. Until the 1960's these bamboos were sent from Burncoose to London Zoo to feed the pandas.

19. *Magnolia x brooklynensis ‘Woodsman’* - this unusual magnolia flowers in late May. The flowers are almost black in bud opening with yellow, pink and greenish stripes. An unusual colour combination which is not to everyone's taste.

20. *Davidia involocrata* - ‘The Pocket Handkerchief Tree’ - in April this tree produces the large pendulous white bracts which give it its common name.

21. *Magnolia ‘Kew’s Surprise’* – despite its name this plant was first bred and raised at Caerhays Castle. It has huge translucent pink flowers which are a wonderful spectacle even on an overcast day.

22. *Rhododendron ‘Red Admiral’* – this Caerhays bred plant is one of the forerunners of spring. Its huge red flowers appear in February or March. There are other clumps further up the drive alongside No. 8 above.

23. The bluebells underneath this large stand of beech trees are perhaps the best known feature of the garden at Burncoose. In late April and early May the light green of the new beech leaves contrasts admirably with a carpet of blue (see front cover).

24. *Magnolia sprengeri diva ‘Burncoose’* – this magnolia was bred by Arnold Dance, head gardener at Burncoose for 40 years. It was planted in 1965 and first flowered in 1972. It was awarded an Award of Merit by the RHS in 2000.

25. *Camellia x williamsii ‘Monica Dance’* – named after Arnold's wife this is an unusual semi-double camellia with irregular dark pink striping in its petals. The first flowers normally appear in January and continue until May.



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