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## Foxglove Book 'A gardeners' guide'

This modern monograph is based on many years of research. The most detailed work on *Digitalis* yet produced, illustrated with photographs to aid the identification of the 24 species and numerous cultivars, all backed up with a comprehensive guide to cultivation. Available Now **£5.00**

### Enjoy your foxgloves, don't eat them

Some people get very worried by "poisonous plants". Vegetation has colonised the planet for millions of years and has evolved to defend itself from things that would eat it.

In the British countryside you will encounter many plants that should not be eaten, Daffodils, Buttercups, Honeysuckle, Ivy, Box, wild Spurge, Snowdrops, and more. Many garden plants should also not be consumed, Sweet Peas, Delphinium, Penstemon, Hyacinths, Narcissus, Wisteria, Hellebores, Daphne, Clematis and Lily of the Valley to name a few. The foliage of Rhubarb and Potato also. So enjoy your garden and your Foxgloves, respect the natural world, but don't eat it.

**Plants, plugs and seed for  
your garden**  
[www.botanicnursery.co.uk](http://www.botanicnursery.co.uk)

## Botanic Nursery Gardens Atworth, Wiltshire SN12 8NU

Tel: 07850 328756

[office@botanicnursery.co.uk](mailto:office@botanicnursery.co.uk)

Open: March to October

Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm

Foxgloves, Peonies, Hollyhocks,  
Salvia, Shrubs and more



Most foxgloves prefer a well-drained good garden soil in full sun or part shade. The species like a sunnier situation. They are trouble free under good cultivation. Our native foxglove, *Digitalis purpurea*, is the best known. There are 24 species and distinct geographic or varietal forms found throughout Central and Southern Europe and around 40 cultivars.

**Please see the web site for up to date  
information on the 2021**

**Free daily tour of the Foxgloves**



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## PERENNIALS

Few gardeners realise that most species of Foxglove are in fact perennial, re-flowering every year for 3-4 years and seeding true. Some last even longer. Most like an open sunny site.

## SPECIES

**Digitalis cariensis f. trojana** *North West Turkey* Elegant multi-stemmed perennial bearing many flowers of ochre brown, red veined with a white lower lip. 15" high for sun.

**Digitalis dubia** *Majorca 1950* Silvery foliage with sugar pink flowers, small perennial well drained sunny sites. Around 12" high.

**Digitalis ferruginea** *Southern Europe to the Balkans 1750* Tall stately stems, densely clustered with unusual, honey brown flowers. Self seeds easily, a change of form and height in mixed borders. Evergreen foliage. Like all foxgloves loved by the bees.

**Digitalis ferruginea 'Gelber Herold'** and **Digitalis ferruginea 'Gigantea'** are variations.

**Digitalis grandiflora** *Eastern Europe (first recorded in 1595)* Arching stems which show off the beautiful shapely soft yellow flowers on this hardy herbaceous perennial species. Excellent border plant for sun or light shade. 2'

**Digitalis grandiflora 'Carillon'** A dwarf variety of grandiflora. Attractive perennial around 12" high, soft yellow flowers.

**Digitalis heywoodii** *South West Europe 1959* Intensely silver hairy leaves show off well the ivory buds which open to white. A perennial well drained soil in full sun. Around 18" high.

**Digitalis laevigata** *Western, Central Balkan peninsular 1805.* A sun loving perennial with fascinating orange yellow flowers netted brown. Evergreen foliage. 3' to 4'

**Digitalis lanata** *Balkan peninsular, South Hungary South & Western Romania around 1753* Perennial for sun, architectural appearance, the overall effect is of white flowers, soft brown with a white lip. Hairy stemmed inflorescence 3' from this plant comes the heart drug Digoxin.

**Digitalis lutea** *Siberia and Europe* Willowy 4' high wands of soft yellow flowers, small but plentifully produced. Good for naturalising in light shade, or sun, in average soils.

**Digitalis micrantha** 1821 *Southern Italy* As easy as *D.lutea* with shorter branching inflorescence of yellow flowers.

**Digitalis parviflora** *Mountains of Northern Spain 1770* Reliable long lived perennial with densely packed flowers of caramel colour. Around 2' high with an interesting winter rosette of foliage.

**Digitalis obscura** *East, Central & Southern Spain 1763* A wiry shrub like perennial with lovely reddish brown flowers marked orange, very freely produced. 2' sunny well drained sites. Often mistaken for a Penstemon.

**Digitalis thapsi** *Eastern Portugal, Central and Western Spain 1763* The leaves are faintly hairy, elegant pendulous flowers rose pink with pale throat. Reaches 20" a well-drained site in full sun.

**Digitalis canariensis** 1754 Rare species of foxglove from the Canary Islands, evergreen and comes true from seed. Slender orange brown flowers on upright stems from the woody growth. Slender green foliage, light shade preferred, tender minimum +1c

**Digitalis sceptrum** 1753 Decorative orange brown flowers throughout summer, very large obovate evergreen foliage, light shade preferred, tender minimum +1c. *Both lovely in summer tubs, in winter keep in a sunny window or garden room.*

**Digitalis Illumination Series** Tender perennial hybrids with stunning flowers all summer long, best in tubs.

The Foxglove a much loved traditional garden plant lends itself to breeding and new introductions are being offered all the time. This leaflet details just a few., they are perennial lasting for 2-3 years and many flower first year from seed.

## HARDY CULTIVARS AND HYBRIDS

**Digitalis x mertonensis** A hybrid between *D. purpurea* and *D. grandiflora*, raised in the 1920's One of our favourites the sumptuous 'strawberry foxglove' has individually the largest flowers, the colour of strawberry puree. Robust, short-lived self-seeding perennial, sun good soil or part shade. 2' 6" **Comes true from seed**

**Digitalis x John Innes Tetra** raised in the 1920's Hybrid between *D. lanata* and *D. grandiflora*. Good perennial, rich ochre flowers with bronze colouring. Sun or light shade 3' average soil. **Comes true from seed**

**Digitalis 'Glory of Roundway'** Multiple stems of beautiful small pink flowers with a soft yellow throat. 3' 6" Long flowering season. A sterile perennial, best divided to increase

Whilst most of the following produce seed, it is variable and will not reproduce the parent. So enjoy a longer flowering season by cutting back the spent flowers to encourage even more.

## Digitalis Camelot Series

These flower in their first year from seed all just 3' and have a beautiful uniform habit as befits an F1 hybrid. The flowers are shapely, produced all around the stem with attractively marked throats loved by bees. Cutting back the spent flowers encourages even more thus prolonging the show.

**Camelot Cream** with maroon throat markings

**Camelot Lavender** with white and maroon throat markings.

**Camelot Rose** rich colour shows up the throat markings well

**Camelot White** Pure white flower, maroon spotted throat.

**Digitalis 'Candy Mountain'** Beautiful perennial, with unique upward facing florets, of a rich deep rose pink, produced all around the stem reaching around 3'

**Digitalis 'Dalmatian Peach'** Flowers all around the stem in its first year to 3' this is such a fabulous colour and a long flowering season due to the many side stems it produces

**Digitalis 'Lucus Pink'** A hybrid, rose pink flowers produced all around the stem, each with a pale pink interior 2'6" repeat flowering from the side branches. Elongated evergreen foliage. Sun

**Digitalis 'Lucus White'** very attractive flowers creamy yellow buds opening to pure white ,long flowering season cut back spent flowers. Elongated evergreen foliage. Sun

**Digitalis 'Silver Fox'** Beautiful selection always much admired, silver grey leaves, cream flowers opening white, sun, ideal in dry hot sites 2' 6". Stunning in pots as well.

**Digitalis 'Smoothie Cerise'** Grey foliage, flowers cherry pink outer tube and white throat. Hot sunny border 18"

**Digitalis 'Vesuvius group'** Perennial, with silvery foliage, soft pinks on branching flower stem, Sunny border. Highly fertile self-seeds easily (hybrid between *D. dubia* and *D. heywoodii*)

## HARDY BIENNIALS

**Digitalis purpurea** *Native to British Isles and northern Europe* 1753. For good soils in part shade, all are loved by long tongued bees. To maintain a stand of a single colour, plant over 2 seasons, rogue out those you do not want before the bees find them and harvest seed from your favourites, 80% will come true.

**f. albiflora** lovely white flowers pale throat markings, white form of the British Native Foxglove. 5'

**'Apricot Shades'** Apricot buds open then fade to a delicate apricot pink flower, this also seen under various other names 'Sutton Apricot' 'Apricot Beauty' Lovely with roses. 5'

**'Campanulata'** Terminal buds on all the flowering stems open reminding of a campanula, quite curious and noted in the herbals of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Found in a mix of colours 5'

**'Excelsior Hybrids'** Mixed colours flowers freely all around the stem with some throat markings, up to 7' high.

**'Foxy'** Flowers all around the stem, and in first year from seed, lovely throat markings, never fails to impress. 2' try in tubs on the patio, mixed colours.

**'Gloxinioides'** Large flowers usually down one side of the stem like the more traditional sorts. Mixed colours 5'

**'Lemoncello'** With clear yellow flowers all around the stem 3'6" and lots of side stems of flower to prolong the flower season comes readily from seed.

**'Pam's Choice'** white flowers with heavy mauve throat markings 5' A real gem, loved by the bees.

**'Pam's Split'** A real garden worthy novelty. Split corolla giving an orchid like effect, white flowers with purple throats branched flower stems readily sets seed. 3'

**'Giant Primrose'** Once thought lost to cultivation this beautiful primrose yellow traditional Foxglove flowers down one side of the stem. Around 5' sets seed

**purpurea** Our native foxglove, found in woodland clearings rich purple flowers all down one side of the inflorescence 6'

**'New Forest Purple'** A collected form of our native foxglove 5'

**'Oslo Fjord'** another collected form, from a stand in a friends garden near Oslo, purple pinks.

**'Snow Thimble'** Elegant clear white flowers generously produced with branching lower stems 4'

**'Sugar Plum'** Perfect name, violet pink flowers have dark maroon throats, loved by the bees and very free flowering. 5'

Plants of all the sorts are available all year, check the web site for details. Plugs are a great way to acquire plants. They are small young plants ready to be potted up and grown on outside or in a cold greenhouse, until large enough to be planted.