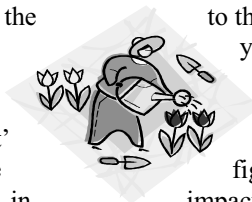


## Cotswold Cottage Gardening

### Mellow Yellow

There seems to be a certain irrational prejudice against yellow in the garden, especially against yellow flowers. Yet no colour is more uplifting to the spirits, or forms a better contrast and compliment to every other shade of flower or leaf.

No one would deny the essential contribution of daffodils, from the big brassy trumpets of 'King Alfred' to the more elegant dwarfs such as 'Tete a Tete', the lemon-yellow 'Pipit' and creamy 'Minnow'. But the contribution of yellow flowers, in every shade from pale cream, lemon, egg-yolk and orange-gold, is valuable throughout the year.



habit of growth less elegant, it has a particularly long flowering season and is one of the toughest roses around. I am particularly fond of a perennial hollyhock with pale yellow flowers, 'Althaea rugosa'. This is much more robust than hybrid hollyhocks and is not susceptible to the ghastly disfiguring rust. Last year I was given seed of 'A.

'A. rugosa', but has large fig-shaped leaves for extra impact; it germinated and grew on well, and I hope to see it flower this year.

#### Cotswold Stone and Yellow Roses

In early summer, the tall (and very variable) biennial foxglove 'Primrose Carousel' looks fantastic in the shade of our golden elder, laden with creamy white blossom; well worth renewing every year from saved seed. The perennial 'Digitalis grandiflora', shorter and less flamboyant, likes a little more sun to bring out the soft yellow flowers. Cotswold stone is the perfect background for yellow roses, which look insipid against whitewashed walls, and shriek on red brick.

Yellow roses have an elegance, which escapes the brash pinks and oranges that modern breeders seem to aspire to. 'Alister Stella Gray' (also known as 'Golden Rambler') flaunts old-fashioned double flowers with a delicious musky scent, and will reach 15 feet on a wall or through a (sturdy) tree. 'Golden Showers' is shorter at about ten feet, but although the flowers are smaller and the

#### Some Favourite Yellows

Some of my favourite yellows come at the end of the year. 'Heliopsis helianthoides scabra' is not well known, but you can buy seed, which gives good results. Sown under cover (no need for added heat) about now, pricked out into 3 inch pots at the four leaf stage, and transplanted into flowering positions in May, they will grow at an amazing rate and flower in late summer for two months or more. They make manageable plants about three feet high, studded with 2.5 inch bright yellow daisies.

What classic cottage border could do without 'Alchemilla mollis'? The misty clouds of tiny flowers above round furry leaves comprise what many people consider the archetypal edging plant for stone or gravel paths. The only care this plant needs is to be cut back hard after flowering. As long as it gets a good drink (from you or the sky), the foliage will regenerate with fresh new leaves at an astonishing rate.

**Elaine Hunt**