

# SUMMER SCENTS



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Our olfactory sense is fast becoming a highly recognized centre for memory generation as well as good scents giving a greater sense of well-being. When it comes to the gardens we have access to and spend our time in, the trend of planting for scent is fast climbing the list of must haves for home owners and designers alike.

Mown grass, summer rain and roses all conjure up memories of lazy summer days when work is far from your mind and the summer seems endless. So many heady scents in the garden can take us back to happy times but there is no reason to plant solely with the past in mind. With so many fragrant plants to choose from there are many more new memories to make; try these plants to add scent to your summer garden.

This is when scent is at its most romantic and powerful. There are of course masses of plants to choose from but these are absolute favourites:

Philadelphus 'Belle Etoile' is a rangy deciduous shrub that looks not overly interesting until it is smothered in white cup shaped flowers in summer. More commonly known as Mock Orange it has the same orange blossom scent that reminds you of holidays in warmer climates. Once flowered it can be pruned but essentially this Philadelphus is a low maintenance shrub which copes very well with a wide range of soils and conditions.

Rosa 'Falstaff' is an old fashioned shrub rose with wonderful double cupped flowers of the darkest wine red which persist throughout the summer. Its scent is classically 'old rose' and being only about 1.2m tall and wide at maturity it could find a home in all but the smallest of gardens.



Lonicera japonica 'Halliana' is a great plant for a sunny or part shaded location and will in milder areas retain most of its leaves during the winter. It is the flowers though that it is known for. Tubular white flowers age to cream and literally smother the plant, which can grow up to 10m in height for months on end in the summer. It is therefore best grown up a sturdy pergola or an old tree stump and will do best when mulched with well-rotted manure in the spring.

Paeonia lactiflora 'Festiva Maxima' AGM is heavily scented with a sweet and musky perfume and Paeonia lactiflora 'Duchess de Nemours' AGM is a sumptuous white with a pale cream ruffled centre with an intoxicating lemon scent.

Another great lemon-scented peony is Paeonia 'Bartzella' AGM which is an intersectional peony (a cross between a tree peony and an herbaceous peony) which offers huge bright yellow flowers to boot. Intersectional Peonies can be hard to track down sometimes but [www.primrosehall.co.uk](http://www.primrosehall.co.uk) have a good selection worth checking out.

If you only plant one plant this year make it a scented one. Flowers and scent combine to make a garden feel much more than just a collection of plants.