

# Phlox for Foliage

## Martin Blow of SpecialPerennials on how phlox offer more than fragrant flowers

We make no excuses: we're phlox fanatics and we can't get enough of these beautiful old fashioned border favourites—and it is the border varieties that I go for. Janet and I started growing phlox about 10 years ago and now we have over 70 varieties in our garden in south Cheshire.

What's not to love about them? - they have elegant, long lasting flowers,, coupled with a garden-filling fragrance especially on warm evenings.

They are easy to grow, tough and long-lived but one thing that often gets overlooked is that many have very attractive foliage from the moment they poke through the soil in early February until at least mid-summer and in some cases beyond.

Those with red or bronze foliage have their best colour from the first until just before flowering these include Sandringham, Kirchenfürst, Tenor, Newbird and in my opinion the best, Blue Paradise.

Phlox Anne has almost beige leaves in spring and Miss Pepper dark purple.

Some like Starfire and Logan Black keep their foliage colour right through the flowering season.

There are also variegated phlox with more new varieties coming every year. Norah Leigh is an old favourite and Becky Towe.

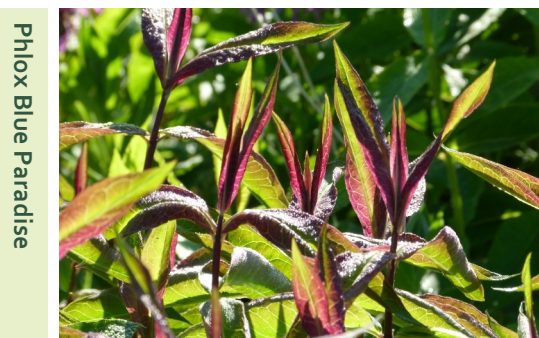
Some say that the variegated leaves clash with the flower colour but I love the combinations available as they go with both pastel and bold colour schemes.

We will have a great range of phlox especially at the early season plant fairs—they sell out by summer! We specialise in border phlox and have over 40 varieties for sale this year.

You can meet us at most Plant Hunters' Fairs this year or buy by mail order from our website [specialperennials.com](http://specialperennials.com)



Phlox Sandringham



Phlox Blue Paradise



Phlox Starfire



Phlox Norah Leigh



Phlox Becky Towe