

# The second season

## Charlie Pridham of Roseland House Nursery in search of the Holy Grail

It is I suppose the holy grail of planting schemes that you get more than a few weeks interest from the plants you chose, especially those plants that are in someway structural or permanent. So although I am happy to grow climbers that have 6 weeks of flower or interest in summer, I always consider it a bonus when later in the year the fruit or leaves give me more. Here are a few that have caught my eye whilst writing this during the colder part of the year.

*Cestrum newelii*, with the mild winter last year this is coming up to 12 solid months of being continuously in flower, the flowers are very showy but the stems leaves and fruits are quite attractive as well. Not 100% hardy its long flowering season definitely makes it worth the effort as a wall shrub.

*Bomarea*, in particular *Bomarea edulis* is a long flowering and free seeding climber which succeeds in looking as good in autumn fruit as it does in summer flower. Perfectly hardy anywhere the ground doesn't freeze to depth, grow it like potatoes

*Akebia*, all the *Akebia* will produce these edible fruits in the Autumn, you do tend to get a better crop if you grow two unrelated plants close together. *Holboellia* do much the same and are more evergreen than the former.

*Lonicera* or Honeysuckles often have bright orange or red fruit depending on species, our native *L. periclymenum* has some of the best and the more unusual *Lonicera subaquelis* has a darker red fruit that the birds tend to ignore.

Lastly *Vitis 'Purpurea'* grown of course for its leaf colours all summer long, but being a grape vine is perfectly capable of producing heavy crops of dark red grapes along with the intensifying leaf colours of autumn



*Cestrum newelii*



*Bomarea edulis*



*Akebia quinata*



*Lonicera periclymenum*



*L. subaquelis*



*Lonicera subaquelis*

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*Vitis purpurea*



*Holboellia coriacea*

