

# Planting Selection Report

For client  
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## 1. Introduction

This report contains an analysis of two distinct areas of the garden.

These include Aspect, Soil, Wind, Frost, Rainfall and Microclimate.

It contains a selection of plants to suit the environmental conditions of these areas.

This is important to ensure the garden will thrive and be long lived without the constant need for replacement plants.

## 2. Environmental factors

### South west facing garden

#### **Aspect**

This garden has an open south- westerly aspect and receives good amounts of sunlight for most of the day.

The site is positioned on a gentle slope, which is terraced into different levels, made of paths and planting beds, helping to provide good drainage for the site.

The combination of higher grounds and retention walls help create protected and warm banks for planting.

Denser trees are located in the area immediately around the site to the northeast of the garden so they provide some shelter from cold winds without casting too much shade on the borders.

These aspects together contribute to creating a suitable environment for the native Mediterranean plants, which are adapted to survive hot and dry summers and cool, moist winters.

#### **Soil**

The plants growing in the south west facing garden indicate a light, sandy, free-draining, not too rich soil. Drought-tolerant plants are also a good choice for these types of gardens.

#### **Wind**

The garden is open to south and west and receives the prevailing winds from these directions, which bring warm, moist air from the Atlantic Ocean.

Higher grounds, retention walls, terraced banks and trees on the north- eastern edge help create shelter from cold, north- easterly winds coming from the Artic.

#### **Frost**

The terraced slopes of the south west facing garden with sheltered, warmer banks for planting and trees filtering cold artic winds is convenient for plants that are tender as it can protect them from frost. Plants also tend to be hardier on lighter, sandier soils.

## **Rainfall**

Mediterranean plants dislike winter wet so the sloping site, allowing for good drainage is ideal for this purpose.

## **Microclimate**

Domestic garden environments with sunny, warm, south and west facing areas and urban courtyards, particularly in London, generally provide opportunities for Mediterranean plants.

## **North east facing garden**

### **Aspect**

The north east facing garden is an area more densely dominated by tall trees, creating greater shade and enclosure and consequently less extreme variations of temperature in summer and winter, meaning milder winters and cooler summers.

It provides an adequate environment for native and non-native woodland plants that like cool, sheltered situations and different degrees of shade.

The areas under dense evergreen trees are in shade for most of the day so plants need to tolerate full, deep shade.

The shade cast by deciduous trees, on the other hand, is much less dense in autumn and winter, when the leaves drop, providing the chance to grow a much wider range of plants that like partial and dappled shade.

Spring flowering plants are adapted to these seasonal variations and complete their flowering season before the canopy closes and reduces light.

The light shaded areas on the margin of tree canopies and at woodland, path edges provide the best spots for planting as they get filtered sunlight for most of the time and direct sunlight during part of the day.

Overall, the shaded and sheltered environment under trees provides conditions in which a wide range of shrubs, perennials and bulbs will thrive.

The juxtaposition of different species creates the opportunity for different textural and colour combinations.

## **Soil**

The north east facing garden has a neutral to acid, moisture retentive soil that is fertile and rich in organic matter, thanks to the annual leaf fall, which also makes it well aerated and with good structure.

Areas under tree roots of well established or closely planted trees tend to be drier as moisture is removed from the soil by the roots. A few plants can thrive in dry shade. These are needed for these areas.

## **Wind**

The trees provide shelter and enclosure for the plants, filtering excessive winds.

## **Frost**

Canopy of trees in close proximity to one another help reduce the risk of frost damage to plants.

## **Rainfall**

Rainfall is the main source moisture to the soil. In this garden trees help filter rain creating a humid environment, particularly in autumn and winter, and preserving moisture levels in the soil in early spring.

## **Microclimate**

The canopy of trees protects the plants layered beneath it from the worst of the weather. The microclimate it creates reduces the risk of frost damage, cuts water loss and gives shelter from the wind.

Dry shade can occur beneath trees as their roots remove moisture. Chose dry shade tolerant plants for these spots.

## 3. Selecting Plants

Plants share some key characteristics or adaptations that help them survive the environment in which they grow.

### Dry & sunny garden

#### **Silver foliage**

Plants with silver leaves are able to reflect sunlight, shimmer in strong light and cope with hot sites.

#### **Small leaves**

Foliage with a small surface area helps to reduce moisture-loss during transpiration. Plants with no leaves are also an adaptation for hot and dry environments.

#### **Furry, velvety foliage**

Hairy leaves trap moisture, helping to sustain plants during drought.

#### **Fleshy stems, leaves**

These help plants trap moisture in their leaves and stems and cope with drought.

#### **Thick leathery leaves**

Also help plants trap moisture in their leaves and cope with both summer drought and cold winters.

### Shady garden

#### **Large, thin leaves**

Plants adapted to shady, woodland environments have large and thin leaves so that they can maximize light absorption.

#### **Glossy foliage**

Shiny leaves reflect the reduced available light onto adjacent leaves and add sparkle.

#### **Waxy surface**

An outer surface on shiny leaves help conserve moisture on soil under trees that maybe quite dry.

#### **Winter flowers**

Many woodland plants flower in winter when deciduous trees have bare branches allowing more increased light through.

#### **Pastel colours**

Many shade-loving plants bear pale flowers that stand out in the gloom, catching the attention of pollinating insects.

#### **Evergreen foliage**

Permanent leaf cover help plants in shady, woodland environments to grow all year.

## 4. Mediterranean Plants



### ***Olea europaea* (Olive)**

Origin: Mediterranean  
Height x Spread: 8 x 2.5m  
Evergreen Tree  
Interest: Leathery silvery leaves.  
Tiny, fragrant, white flowers and olives in summer.  
All season interest.



### ***Convolvulus cneorum* (Bindweed)**

Origin: C & W Mediterranean  
Height x Spread: 60cm x 1m  
Evergreen Shrub  
Interest: Metallic silver leaves. Funnel shaped white flowers.  
Season: Late spring, summer



### ***Ballota pseudodictamnus***

Origin: Greece, Crete, West Turkey  
Height x Spread 60 x 90cm  
Evergreen shrub  
Interest: Grey green foliage covered in white woolly hairs. White-pink flowers  
Season: Late spring, early summer



### ***Perovskia 'Blue Spire'* (Russian Sage)**

Origin: C Asia to Himalayas  
Height x Spread: 1.2 x 1m  
Deciduous shrub  
Interest: Aromatic, silver grey foliage on white stems, violet blue flowers.  
Season: Late summer, early autumn



### ***Echinops ritro 'Veitch's Blue'* (Globe thistle)**

Origin: C & SE Europe to Asia  
Height x Spread: 1.2m x 75cm  
Herbaceous perennial  
Interest: Prickly, divided leaves, blue spiky spheres.  
Season: Late summer



**Helictotrichon sempervirens (Blue Oat Grass)**

Origin: C & SW Europe  
 Height & Spread: 1.5 x 1m  
 Evergreen Perennial Grass  
 Silvery-blue linear leaves on arching stems, straw coloured seed heads.  
 Season: Early-mid summer



**Aubrieta deltoidea (Purple rock cress)**

Origin: Europe to C Asia  
 Height & Spread: 5 x 60cm  
 Evergreen Perennial - Ground Cover  
 Interest: Rounded grey green leaves, white, pink, red, purple flowers.  
 Season: Spring



**Cistus salviifolius 'Prostratus'**

Origin: S Europe  
 Height & Spread: 25 x 90 cm  
 Evergreen Shrub - Ground Cover  
 Interest: Wrinkled, veined leaves, white flowers with yellow stamens.  
 Season: Summer



**Scilla peruviana**

Origin: Portugal, Spain, Italy, N Africa  
 Height & Spread: 30 x 10cm  
 Evergreen Bulbous Perennial  
 Interest: Violet blue star shaped flowers. Lance shaped leaves.  
 Season: Early Summer



**Allium flavum (Onion)**

Origin: Europe, W Asia  
 Height & Spread: 35 x 5cm  
 Deciduous Bulbous Perennial  
 Interest: Narrow greyish leaves, fragrant yellow bell-shaped flowers.  
 Season: Summer

## 5. Woodland Plants



***Acer griseum* (Paper-bark maple)**

Origin: C China

Height & spread: 10 x 10m

Deciduous Tree

Interest: Bronze stem, flaking bark, orange-red autumn leaves.

All season interest



***Asplenium scolopendrium* (Hart's tongue fern)**

Origin: W Asia, N America

Height & spread: 70 x 60cm

Evergreen fern

Interest: Crimp-edged bright green foliage

All season interest



***Mahonia x media***

Origin: Garden

Height & spread: 5 x 4m

Evergreen Shrub

Interest: Long, dark, leaves divided into leaflets, scented yellow flower clusters.

Season: Winter



***Sarcococca confusa* (Sweet box)**

Origin: W China

Height & spread: 2 x 2m

Evergreen Shrub

Interest: Elliptic, tapered, glossy, dark fragrant, winter flowers & black fruit

Season: Winter



***Brunnera macrophylla* 'Dawson's White'**

Origin: Caucasus, garden

Height & spread: 45 x 60cm

Rhizomatous Herbaceous Perennial

Creamy white edged leaves, bright blue flowers

Season: Spring



***Aesculus parviflora* (Bottlebrush Buckeye)**

Origin: SE USA

Height & spread: 3 x 5m

Deciduous Shrub

Interest: Bronze leaves that darken with age & turn yellow in autumn; fluffy white flowers

Season: Summer, autumn



***Ajuga reptans* 'Atropurpurea' (Bugle)**

Origin: Europe, Caucasus, Iran, garden

Height & spread 15 x 90cm

Evergreen Rhizomatous Herbaceous

Perennial – Ground cover

Interest: Rosettes of glossy, bronze-tinted leaves; deep blue flower spikes.

Season: Late spring, early summer



***Pachysandra terminalis* 'Variegata'**

Origin: N China, Japan, garden

Height & spread: 25 x 60cm

Evergreen perennial - Ground Cover

Interest: Toothed leaves with white margins; white flower spikes.

Season: Early summer



***Anemone blanda* 'White Splendour' (Windflower)**

Origin: SE Europe, Turkey, garden

Height & spread 15 x 15cm

Tuberous Perennial Bulb

Interest: Dark green, divided leaves; daisy-like white flowers.

Season: Early Spring



***Anemone blanda* 'Violet Star' (Windflower)**

Origin: SE Europe, Turkey, garden

Height & spread 15 x 15cm

Tuberous Perennial Bulb

Interest: Dark green, divided leaves; amethyst-violet daisy-like flowers.

Season: Early Spring

