

Wild Gardening - the Practicalities

Sunday 24th September 2023 10.00 – 3.30pm

Led by Debbie Wilson and Sue Mabberley

at Nant-y-Bedd Garden, Fforest Coal Pit, Abergavenny, NP7 7LY



Wild gardening can be quite difficult to define, and for gardeners wanting to adapt their style to a more ecological approach the plethora of conflicting advice out there can be pretty confusing! Why can't I get wildflowers established in my grass? Should I be planting wildflowers in my borders? Should I be planting cultivars in my meadow? Can I grow flowers in with my veg? Should I just stop weeding? Perhaps if I just scatter some seeds about and stop mowing my grass? Or maybe go head-on for complete rewilding and just let everything do its own thing? Debbie has tried all these approaches over the past 12 years - with very varied results, some definitely more successful than others! So in this workshop she will share her own experience of 'going wild' and she and Sue are hoping to have lots of stimulating discussion with other gardeners who are interested in trying out a more ecological approach.

The workshop will cover:

- Understanding different types of plants, their growth, habitats and place in natural succession
- Growing plants from seed and managing self-seeders
- To weed or not to weed and the winter die-down
- Planting into an established base
- Creating legibility and developing your own style

Level of expertise required: some gardening experience an advantage but not absolutely necessary

Go away with: lots of ideas to try out and a pocketful of seeds collected from the garden.

Booking a place

Places are limited to 10 to ensure maximum opportunity for discussion and sufficient social distancing. Lunch included.

Cost £75 (plus booking fee)

The course will be led by Sue Mabberley and Debbie Wilson. Sue has a First Class Honours degree in Environmental Systems, has professionally devised and delivered practical environmental training courses and most importantly has gardened wildly and enthusiastically at Nant-y-Bedd Garden for nearly 43 years!

Debbie Wilson is not a professional gardener but she has spent the past 12 years enthusiastically trying out as many varieties of wild gardening as she could find.