



*Lunaria rediviva*



*Geranium 'Brookside'*

instance when cast be a nearby building other bulbs should be tried such as bluebells, *Hyacinthoides hispanica* and *H. non-scripta*. Perennials to complement the scheme could include clumps of *Liriope muscari* that would reinforce the evergreen ground covering layer of euphorbia and go on to flower in autumn. The late season flowering *Geranium wallichianum* 'Buxton's Blue' would, likewise, complement the display of *Persicaria* and anemones.

If used on a large scale this bed would be improved by the addition of something taller for mid summer. A few plants of one of the taller *Thalictrum*s such as *Thalictrum delavayi*, *T. pubescens* or *T. rochebruneanum* would be ideal as they occupy relatively little ground space for such tall plants. Alternatively, a few of the tall annual tobacco plants such as *Nicotiana glauca* and *N. sylvestris* will be happy in partial shade filling the air with their white trumpet blooms and scent till late in the autumn.

***Euphorbia amygdaloides* var. *robbiae***

Each stem bears a rosette of rich green glossy leaves and in spring a long shoot rises from the centre bearing a wide spreading flower head. It is the bright yellow bracts rather than the flowers that are coloured bright yellow and it is these that prolong the display for weeks. The old flower stems should be removed to the base in summer to leave room for newly emerging



*Euphorbia amygdaloides* var. *robbiae* with epimediums behind.

shoots to grow.

Height 45cm Spread 40cm

***Lunaria rediviva***

The paper white seed heads are as much of the display of this plant as the soft lilac flowers in spring. Found growing in woods in central Europe through to Siberia this is the perfect plant for shaded situations.

Height 75cm Spread 45cm

***Geranium 'Brookside'***

Blue flowers over a long summer season above typical green divided foliage. It replaces 'Johnson Blue' in the assortment, but itself may about to be replaced by 'Nimbus' that has paler, more divided foliage and masses of flowers in a lilac shade of blue with darker veins.

Height 50cm Spread 50cm

***Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Summerdance'**

Clump forming, but eventually expanding to cover a square meter or more. This cultivar sits half way in colour terms between the better known *P. a.* 'Rosea' and dark red 'Firetail'. The finger thin flower spikes have a slight twist that imparts movement to their distinctive upright form.

Height 130cm Spread 80cm

***Anemone × hybrida* 'Honorine Jobert'**

Vigorous when established they should only ever be planted in spring; autumn plantings may fail or grow weakly. The course jagged edged foliage appears rather late in the spring and the first flush of flowers appear in mid summer, but the main display is in late summer and autumn.

Height 90cm Spread 60cm



*Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Summerdance' with des-champsia grass.



*Anemone × hybrida* 'Honorine Jobert'

## Milium - Polemonium - Dryopteris - Aruncus - Actea

The use of both grasses and ferns imparts an informal air to this scheme. By including two large growing specimen perennials the scheme needs to be used on a reasonably large scale to enable these plants to be repeated at regular intervals across the area. Not a scheme for a small border next to the front door therefore, but rather one for the garden's boundaries where the complementary plants, ferns and grasses create the setting for two bold stars: goat's beard flowers in early summer while the bugbane supplies dramatic foliage contrast and finally in late summer dramatic flower spikes.

- 3 × 1 *Milium effusum* 'Aureum'
- 2 × 1 *Polemonium foliosissimum*
- 2 × 1 *Dryopteris erythrosora*
- 1 × 2 *Aruncus* 'Horatio'
- 1 × 2 *Actea simplex* Atropurpurea Group  
'James Compton' (syn. *Cimicifuga*)

### Complementary plants

*Ajuga reptans* 'Catlin's Giant', *Pulmonaria*, *Astrantia major* 'Buckland'.

