



Gardener's Cuttings

Sophie Tatzkow, Deputy Head Gardener

Alliums

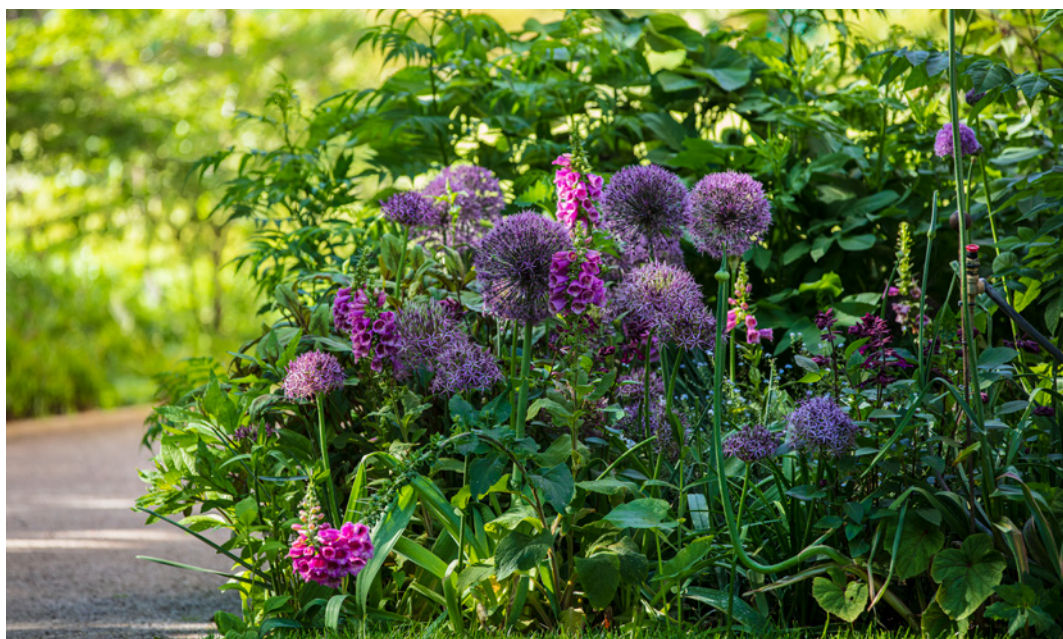
Each year, I excitedly await the blooming purple 'fireworks' of Alliums. I feel that they create the first dramatic explosion of colour and texture, with a noticeable change to the height of the borders.

Alliums have long been a decorative feature at The Inner Temple Garden, adding a fun element with their drumsticks of various sizes, shapes and tones, as well as providing early season food sources for pollinators. I love alliums for their ability to take centre stage effortlessly in the borders, while at the same time interconnecting a border, weaving between the emerging herbaceous plants.

Allium 'Purple Rain' in the Highborder



Alliums in the Longborder





Allium 'Purple Rain', one of the first to flower



Allium siculum, Bell-shaped flowers

Using Alliums in the Garden

Most Allium species are found in the summer baked plains of Turkey, the Middle East, and Central Asia, which helps explain their preference for a sunny site and well-drained soil.

Hardy and reliable, the majority of the alliums will thrive year after year. When clumps become too congested, they can simply be dug up, separated and replanted. Our favourites for repeating without lifting include: 'Purple Rain', 'Summer Drummer' and 'Universe'. The showy decorative flowers heads, which are clusters of individual florets, are followed by long-lasting attractive seedheads, that can also be used in dried flower arrangements. My favourite type for drying is *Allium christophii*.

Allium 'Summer Drummer', one of the tallest alliums



With our ethos of working towards sustainable principles, alliums are appreciated for reliably repeating with low water requirements and little green waste output at the end of their growing season; in addition to their stunning flowers providing nectar for a host of pollinators.

Open Days

Our upcoming weekend garden open days on 25 May and 9 June provide the perfect occasions to see the alliums in the garden. Come and find out more about all the different varieties we grow at The Inner Temple.

Allium sphaerocephalon, Excellent for naturalising

