

Joan Sargent's Carpeting Plants

April 1995 by Joan Sargent

George Lee who created our garden didn't just love azaleas, although in May they are what people flock to see at Lee Garden. Carpeting plants were just as important to George and he would offer 'complimentary starts' to visitors.

Two of his favorites have become ours as well: *Primula sieboldii*, Japanese name- Sakura Soh. This primrose with lettuce-green leaves (which go dormant in the summer) has spread throughout the garden, long-stemmed and excellent for cutting-- we have it in shades of pink, and white.

Epimedium, Bishop's Hat, is another specialty. Its leaves are heart-shaped, tinted and remain green most of the winter.

Both of these plants are shade lovers and we will share them with you.

Drop in on us at Lee Garden: bring a trowel on any Monday morning in April or May for your 'complimentary start'.



Primula Sieboldii

Joan Sargent's Shade Tolerant Annuals

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You may be surprised to learn that *Impatiens* isn't the only plant for spots in light shade. There are easy annuals to try, some can be started by scattering seed where you want them to grow, some will be more perennial than perennials, showing up for years to come. *Nigella* is one of these, pretty foliage, excellent for cutting with balloon-like pods. *Miss Jekyll* is the blue variety, about 18" tall. *Alyssum* does well and if sheared back after the first bloom will repeat until frost. *Torenia* looks a bit like a miniature snapdragon, in blue and white or pink and white, it blooms for months. All the *Nicotiana* do well in light shade. *Langsdorfii* is a favorite of mine, 2 feet tall with lime green bells, and *Silvestris* is high with paddle-like leaves and intensely fragrant white flowers. Both will seed about, coming back every year. The seedlings are easy to move if they show up in the wrong place. Sam Bridge in Greenwich will have all the annuals or you can start them from seed.



Epimedium roseum



Epimedium rubrum, aka Barrenwort

Left, clockwise from top L.: *Nigella* 'Miss Jekyll' aka Love-in-a-mist. *Alyssum*, aka 'Carpet of Snow' also comes in white and yellow. *Nicotiana langsdorfii*, also comes in white, yellow and red. *Torenia* magenta, also in other color combos.