

Merlin Trust Report

Discovering Tresco Abbey Garden, Isles of Scilly: *'The People, the Place, and the Flowers'*

By Moo Smith



Introduction:

I first encountered the Isles of Scilly at six years old, through the pages of Michael Morpurgo's *Listen to the Moon*. The book seized my young imagination with its descriptions of moonlight glittering across wild oceans, waves and old ships crashing against the land. A place so close to the English mainland yet so impossibly distant in culture, history and climate. As I grew, so did my fascination with this place, a longing I could never quite articulate. Of all the wondrous places I encountered in books, why did these islands hold such power over me? I carried the question for years, unable to answer it. Only later, after coming to understand myself and the career path I wanted to follow; horticulture, nature, the living world, did the answer begin to reveal itself.

After finishing my Plant Science studies at Bristol University, I was shoved into the daunting world beyond a classroom, armed with passion and a desire to get my hands dirty in soil, but no clear path into professional gardening. I had always engaged with nature in a playful way, volunteering in allotments and gardens, but the professional realm felt impossibly distant. During my final year, I volunteered at the University of Bristol Botanic Garden, where the Glasshouse Co-ordinator, Penny Harms, introduced me to the possibility of volunteering at Tresco Abbey Garden. Yet deep in debt from university, how could I afford such an opportunity? How could I travel to different landscapes, study their adaptive flora, and build the botanical knowledge required to transform what I loved most into a sustainable career? This is where the Merlin Trust gave me both opportunity and motivation, the chance to begin my experimental journey and take the first real steps in my career. This funding allowed me to cover the expensive passage to and from Penzance to the Isles of Scilly. I would like to emphasize, underline even, that every myth about the Scillonian ferry crossing is entirely true, and dare I say, understated. Scillonian? More like Sickallonian. I remember passing St Michael's Mount, gasping at the beauty and light of the Cornish coast, giddy with my "beginning of adventure" excitement. Moments later, I retreated below deck and did not re-emerge until we reached St Mary's Quay. However, not even the Scillonian's best efforts could diminish my determination to reach the garden.

The first couple of days remain hazy in my memory, I was still recovering from seasickness, but fortunately I'd arrived on a Saturday, which gave me the weekend to find my feet before starting work on Monday. Andrew Lawson, Tresco Abbey Garden's Head Gardener, welcomed the three of us volunteers, myself, Brad, and George, and led us to our accommodation before taking us on an introductory walk through the garden. I must mention our collective gasps when seeing the towering Norfolk Island pines and Monterey Cypress for the first time, along with the *Cyathea* and *Dicksonia* tree ferns in the lower, shaded sections, the bold *Protea* soaking up sun on the upper terrace, the *Ericas* dancing in the wind, flowers blooming everywhere. I had escaped winter entirely. What heaven was this? I wanted to start gardening immediately. I arrived with countless questions about the island's history, the garden's story, the people who called this place home. Slowly, over the month, answers began to reveal themselves. I fell in love with the place and its plants.

Each week we had one or two plant identification sessions which, though nerve-wracking at first, I quickly came to treasure as moments of collaborative discovery and light-hearted botanical discussion. Amongst enthusiastic shouting and wild guesses, we worked together to identify each plant's genus, species, family, and place of origin. These sessions usually happened on rainy days. You can see all my plant identification notes at the bottom of this document. I learned a total of 160 plants, plus countless more from simply working in the

garden, it was incredible. This didn't feel like the learning I'd experienced my whole life in classrooms. I was absorbing, listening, engaging, simply soaking it all up like a sponge. This experience confirmed that practical work suits me far better than academia. While I'm grateful for my educational background, understanding the science behind plant functions is invaluable, I now know that this is how I want to connect with the natural world: through hands-on work. During my month-long placement I was lucky enough to work in most sections of the garden: the Pebbled Garden, Fern Tree section, Mediterranean Garden, on the Aeonium Wall, along the Long Walk, in the Old Abbey section, Fruit and Vegetable Garden, in the glasshouses and potting shed. This gave me a real feel for the garden. But I still left the island feeling I had so much more to learn and discover from the garden. It was only beginning to reveal itself when the end of my volunteering month was near.

I became utterly engulfed in understanding how the gardeners had cultivated a living geography of cool-temperate flora that defied conventional formality. The team's devotion extended far beyond the garden itself, exemplifying a holistic approach to horticulture I had never encountered before, understanding the garden within the island's circular ecology, where waste becomes compost sustaining all life. The garden served ecological, aesthetic, and community purposes simultaneously. It existed for everyone, essentially, and witnessing this interconnected approach transformed how I understood gardening itself. After seeing some exotic plants at Bristol, often unsuited to their conditions, I was captivated by Tresco's 'right plant, right place' philosophy in action. What surprised me most was that Tresco offered not the isolation I'd anticipated, but an inspiring community that balanced social connection with solitary exploration. I felt a passion and pride in my work there that I had never experienced before, every task, no matter how small, felt significant and deserving of my best effort. What might seem routine elsewhere became captivating at Tresco; the diverse, unfamiliar species made every plant I weeded a learning opportunity, each one botanically interesting.

Outside the garden, I immersed myself in island life, spending time with the Tresco scholarship students and other volunteers. We went on walks around the island, watched seals basking on rocks, swam in the clear waters, and took trips to St Mary's. Each person had incredible stories and different horticulture career paths of their own, and it was deeply inspiring to listen and absorb what it meant to be a gardener in the botanical world. At times it disheartened me, hearing how much everyone knew about plants and how little I did in comparison, but then I realized this actually gave me immense motivation to learn, to one day remember all these species and understand not just the plants themselves but the practical side of gardening: using tools properly, reading climate and soils. A trip down to the *New Inn* became an almost daily ritual, where I'd play chess and pool with most of the garden team. It was a real community hub, a meeting point that allowed me to connect with the workers and other islanders far more deeply than would have been possible in a city or town on the mainland.

What I really learned from observing and listening to the Tresco garden team is that true understanding of a garden comes from dedicating one's life to it, being there season in, season out, and witnessing how it changes in response to a changing world. This is what drew me to horticulture: the commitment to something tangible and rooted in place, rather than the ephemeral world of screens and digital spaces. It's through sticking by a cultivated plot of land and connecting with it fully that genuine knowledge emerges.

I would like to share my learning journey and the botanical knowledge I gained at Tresco through my daily notes and photographs. Each image captures most moments when John Taylor, the Assistant Head Gardener, would pause our work to help us truly understand what

we were looking at why we were performing a particular task, the names of different plants, when they were planted, where they come from and for what purpose they were placed there. Even identifying weeds became a source of wonder. Plants we were tasked with removing would have been treasured specimens anywhere else, so incredible that pulling them out felt almost wrong. My selection of photographs included are quite random but reflect all types of plants I worked with daily. There are many more plants in my notes and camera roll but if I include them all this report would be the length of the Bible.

Monday 03/11:



Me gazing admirably at a *Sphaeropteris medullaris* (Cyathaceae) from New Zealand, in the Tree Ferns area in the humid lower section of the garden.



Banksia sessilis (Proteaceae) from Australia.



Colletia paradoxa (Rhamnaceae) from Brasil, Uruguay, in full bloom in the Top Terrace.



Brad, another fellow volunteer, smiling at a *Protea* on the Top Terrace.

Tuesday 04/11:



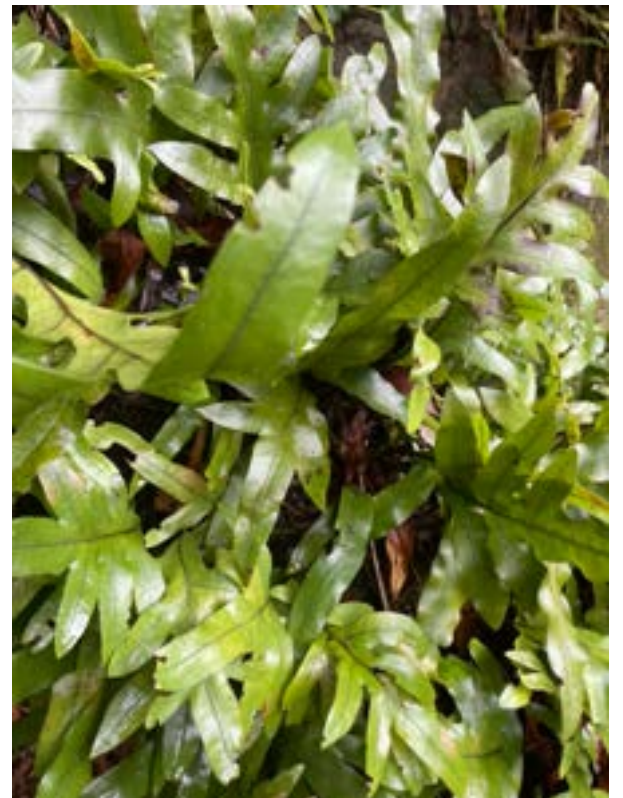
Me (up a ladder) and Jacob (one of the Elizabeth Hess Scholarship students) pruning a *Trachycarpus* pine on a rainy day.



Piper excelsum (Piperaceae) from New Zealand. It is commonly known as kawakawa and is primarily used as a substitute for black pepper by the Maori people of NZ.



Arthropodeum sirratum (Lilyaceae) from New Zealand.



Zealandia pustulata ("Kangaroo fern") (Polypodiaceae) from New Zealand. This fern has proliferated along the fern walk in the garden acting as the canopy layer below the *Dicksonias*.

Wednesday 05/11:



A climbing *Metrosideros carminea* growing on a *Dicksonia antarctica* trunk. An enchanting representation of the magical intertwined connections between plants.



A huge *Metrosideros excelsa* (Myrtiaceae) from New Zealand. Grows aerial roots that come down onto the ground and form new tree trunks or “replants”. This one is not doing its best as many *M. excelsa* have been attacked by scale insect in the garden... Also shows how warm it is on the island that scale insect is able to survive outdoors.



Chasmanthe bicolor (Iridaceae) from New Zealand are all across the garden. Radiant blades of green.

Thursday 06/11:



Frankoa resimosa (Francoaceae) from Chile. Instructed to leave these whilst doing wall maintenance in the Old Abbey garden section.



Erigeron karvinskianus (Asteraceae) from N. America.



Echium spp. (Boraginaceae) from the Mediterranean primarily.



Tecomantha speciosa (Bignoniaceae) from New Zealand. Flowers on stem not on new growth.



Iris confusa (Iridaceae) from China.



Phylica pubescens (Rhamnaceae) from South Africa.



Berzelia albiflora (Bruniaceae) from South Africa.

Friday 07/11:



This was an extremely wet day in the garden. On such days, head gardener Andrew Lawson would share slideshows from his botanical travels and expeditions around the world to the whole garden team, as well as archived photographs documenting the garden's evolution and flowering seasons.

Above we see images of *Aeonium*, *Echium*, and *Geranium maderense* in full bloom. Spectacular!

Monday 10/11:



Paraserianthes lapantha (Fabaceae) from Australia. My favourite tree of the whole garden.



Hedychium gardnerianum (Zingiberaceae) from the Himalayas.



Pteroma urvilleanum (Melastomataceae) from Brasil.



Aeonium tabuliforme (Crassulaceae) from the Canary Islands.



Frolicked through the Tresco *Nerine* fields.



Erica cerinthoides (Ericaceae) from South Africa.



Banksia spp. (Proteaceae) from Australia.

Tuesday 11/11:



A sawed *Agave american* var. *Variegata* (Agavaceae) from Mexico before being taken out. Weighs a lot! *Agaves* are monocarpic, meaning they flower once in their lifetimes and then die.



Sonchus palmensis (Asteraceae) from Canary Islands, growing out of a palm tree.



Fascicularia bicolor (Bromeliaceae) from Chile.



Leucadendron galpinii (Proteaceae) from South Africa.



Hakea elliptica (Proteaceae) from South Africa.

Wednesday 12/11:



Got taught to distinguish between *Elaeagnus x pungens* (Silver or white back leaf) and *E. x submacrophylla* (Golden or copper black leaf).
Originates from Japan.



Gardeners either termed it *Crocosmia* or *Mombretia* (Iridaceae) from South Africa.
Considered a weed in the garden at this time of year. Went around most of the garden removing it.



Young *Myrsine australis* (Primuliaceae) from New Zealand.



Abutilon megapotanicum
(Malvaceae) from Brasil.



Corynocarpus laevigatus 'Variegatus' (Corinocarpaceae) from New Zealand. Learnt that if ingested directly will make you convulse so aggressively you can break your back.

Thursday 13/11:



Melicytus ramiflorus (Violaceae) from New Zealand.



Asplenium nidus (Espliniaceae) from Asia. A lithophyte that grows on trees high up.



Asplenium bulbiferum (Espliniaceae) from New Zealand. Often called the 'Hen and Chicken' fern as it produces small bulbils on the tips of its divided, feathery fronds. I adore this fern.



Friday 14/11:



In the potting shed where Brad, Allison (Glasshouse gardener and propagator) and Hettie (another fellow volunteer) are potting up some lovely *Agaves*.

Monday 17/11:



A gorgeous, hidden *Astelia* flower.



Learning to distinguish between *Astelia* (left) and *Phormium* (right) leaf strands. *Astelia* folds into an M shape and *Phormium*s fold out more and are larger.



Blechnum nova-zelandie (Blechnaceae) from New Zealand. *B. nova-zelandie*, *B. cycadifolium* and *Lomariocycas palmiformis* covered most of the ground floor of the Tree Ferns section of the garden. All relishing under the shade of the *Dicksonias*, imitating a forest floor and ecosystem. On this day, we were removing their dead foliage and any that crept onto the paved pathways.

Tuesday 18/11:



Aristea clumps are scattered all around the garden which showcase lovely seed heads that per instruction were not removed. Added texture and a wintery feeling to the garden.



Leucadendron argenteum (Proteaceae) from New Zealand. There were many of these *Leucadendron* spread around the garden, but this specific one is located in the entrance. I would cycle past it every day to work. Its fallen lance-shaped leaves covered the grass floor with a carpet of silver.

Wednesday 19/11:



Clianthus puniceus (Fabaceae)
from New Zealand.



Agave salmiona var. *ferox*
(Asparagaceae) from Mexico.



Strelitzia nicolai (Strelitziaceae)
from South Africa.



Strelitzia reginae (Strelitziaceae)
from South Africa.



Aloe arborescens
(Asphodelaceae) just
commencing to flower. Native
from South Africa.



Dasylirion acrotrichum
(Asparagaceae) from Mexico.

Senecio glastifolius
(Asteraceae) from South
Africa.



Lotus maculatus or
Lotus berthelotti
(Fabaceae) from the
Canary Islands. This
plant was dripping out
of terracotta pots on
the stairs in the Med
Garden. Beautiful
feature.

A mother *Aeonium*
producing smaller,
cloned rosettes.



Thursday 20/11:



In the potting shed propagating different species of *Pelargoniums* from the whole garden with Allison. Walked around the whole garden taking cuttings.



Whilst taking Pelargonium cuttings, stopped to admire the beautiful *Passiflora manicata* that engulfed the stone fountain. Gathered seeds from the ripened, fallen *Passiflora* fruit to dry out later and propagate. Smelt and tasted heavenly.

Friday 21/11:



Crassula coccinea (Crassulaceae) from South Africa.



Kumara plicatilis (Asphodelaceae) from South Africa.



Pitersporum tobira (Pittosporaceae) from Japan.



Dasyrilion acrotricum (Asparagaceae) from Mexico.



Freesia refracta (Iridaceae) from South Africa.



Differentiating between different self-seeded plants whilst working in the Mediterranean Garden terraces:
Erica arborea (left),
Hesperocyparis macrocarpa (middle),
Chrysocoma coma-aurea (right)

Monday 24/11:



Agave salmionia var. *ferox* beginning to flower.



Auracaria heterophylla (Araucariaceae) from Norfolk Island.



Gaia statue in the Middle Terrace. A gorgeous multi-coloured marble sculpture of the Greek Earth Goddess by artists David Wynne. Complemented the colour diversity of the garden so well.



Agathis dammara 'Amboyna pine' (Araucariaceae) from Indonesia. Tresco had a lovely collection of young *Agathis* trees.



Carpodetrus serratus (Rouseeaceae) from New Zealand.



Zamia furfuracea (Zamiaceae) from Mexico.

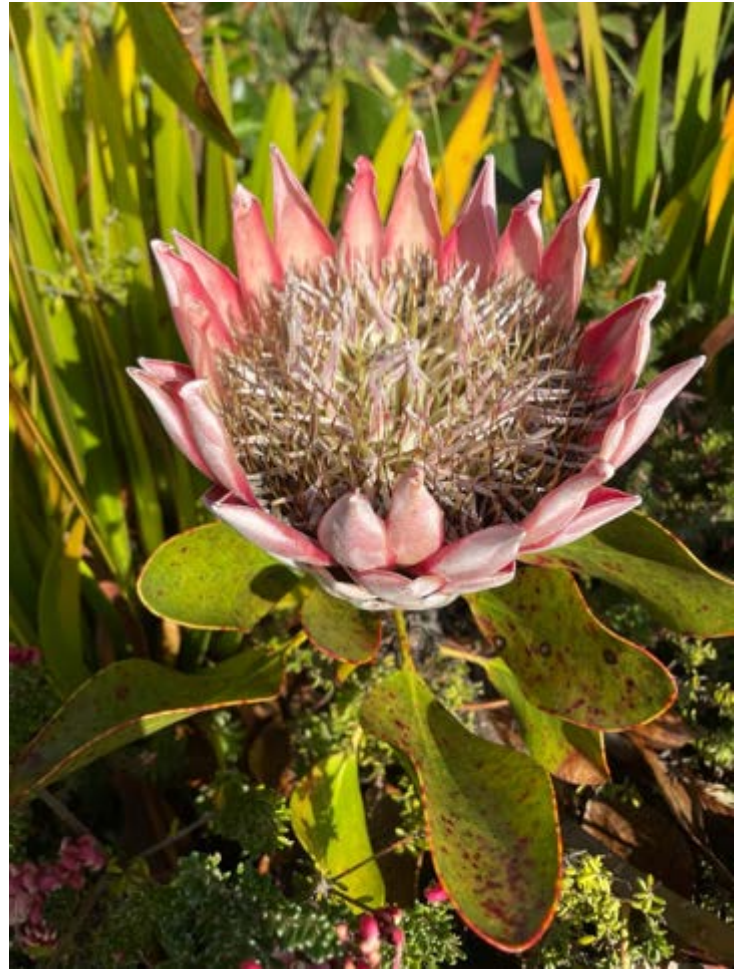


An absolutely stunning *Banksia* (Proteaceae). I left the island forgetting to ask what species it was.

Tuesday 25/11:



Agave americana var. *variegata* (Asparagaceae)
from Mexico.



Protea cynaroides (Proteaceae) from South
Africa.



A sunny day on the Top Terrace.



Quick photo break from putting in wooden
planks along the barriers of all the vegetable
plots. Such a fun time with such lovely plant
people!

Wednesday 26/11:



Dudleya farinosa
(Crassulaceae) from Northern
California. Such delightful
plant texture.



A bad picture
showcasing
some
amazing
aerial
Aeonium
roots
anchoring
into the soil.

Thursday 27/11:



Me looking and sieving through the extracted *Passiflora manicata* seeds from the fruit gathered a few days before. Weird yet appetising slime.



Potting up some cuttings of *Euryops pectinatus* (Asteraceae) native from South Africa.

Friday 28/11:

John Taylor taking us out on the helicopter landing pad to practice driving on the tractor. Was really fun!



Me and Jacob on the Aeonium Wall removing dead foliage, *Mombretia* and *Cistus*. Was quite a treacherous job as wall was quite vertical and had to make sure not to fall or crush any lovely Aeoniums. A lovely job though for my last day in the garden.

Plant-identification notes:

PLANT IDENT # 3

- 1- Protea 'Pink Ice' - PROTEACEAE (AVS)
- 2- Protea repens - PROTEACEAE (AVS)
- 3- Erica caucasiolata - ERICACEAE (SA)
- 4- Enicophthalis africana - ASTERACEAE (SA)
- 5- Gerania lanigera - GERANIACEAE (AVS)
- 6- Banksia spinulosa - PROTEACEAE (AVS)
- 7- Protea repens - PROTEACEAE (AVS)
- 8- Salvia 'Pinky Family' - LAMIACEAE (MEX)
- 9- Metrosideros excelsa - MYRTACEAE (NZ)
- 10- Banksia integrifolia - PROTEACEAE (AVS)
- 11- Metrosideros robusta - MYRTACEAE (NZ)
- 12- Metrosideros umbellata - MYRTACEAE (NZ)
- 13- Telantherophora grandifolia - ASTERACEAE (MEX)
- 14- Capriidoma repens - RUBIACEAE (NZ)
- 15- Hakea suaveolens - PROTEACEAE (AVS)
- 16- Tagetes Lemmonii - ASTERACEAE (MEX)
- 17- Erica arinthoides - ERICACEAE (SA)
- 18- Colletia paradoxa - RANUNCULACEAE (Brazil)
- 19- Pteronia urvilleana - MELASTOMATACEAE (Brazil)
- 20- Sparmannia africana - MALVACEAE (SA)
- 21- Acacia calanifolia - FABACEAE (SA)
- 22- Vitex lucens - LAMIACEAE (NZ)
- 23- Banksia sessilis - PROTEACEAE (AVS)
- 24- Salvia leucantha - LAMIACEAE (MEX)
- 25- Elegia capensis - RESTIACEAE (SA)
- 26- Fuchsia parmentaria - ASCARIDACEAE (MEX)

- 27- Passerianthes leucantha - FABACEAE (AVS)
- 28- Grisebainia littoralis - GRISEBAINIACEAE (NZ)
- 29- Polygala myrtifolia - POLYGALACEAE (SA)
- 30- Banksia - PROTEACEAE (AVS)
- 31- Sphaerium bulbiforme - SALICACEAE (NZ)

PLANT IDENT # 2

- 1- Nicotiana glauca - SOLANACEAE (S. America)
- 2- Asphodelus microphyllus - FABACEAE (NZ)
- 3- Arbutus andrewsiana - ERICACEAE (S. Europe)
- 4- Metrosideros robusta - MYRTACEAE (NZ)
- 5- Pseudopanax laetum - ARALIACEAE (NZ)
- 6- Penstemon undulatum - & CORYMBACEAE (CAN)
- 7- Hakea suaveolens - PROTEACEAE (AVS)
- 8- Cystopteris compta - ASTERACEAE (SA)
- 9- Correa 'Pinky Bell' - RUTACEAE (AVS)
- 10- Euryops speciosissima - ASTERACEAE (SA)
- 11- Erica discolor - ERICACEAE (SA)
- 12- Grevia sulfolandii - MELIANTHACEAE (SA)
- 13- Crassula multicaulis - CRASSULACEAE (SA)
- 14- Cornelia valentina ssp. Blanca - FABACEAE (S. Africa)
- 15- Weinmannia trichosperma - CUNONIACEAE (Chile)
- 16- Cunonia capensis - CUNONIACEAE (SA)
- 17- Weinmannia racemosa - CUNONIACEAE (NZ)
- 18- Polygala frutescens 'africana' - POLYGALACEAE (SA)

- 21- Senecio patentes (Bolton) - ASTERACEAE (MEX)
- 22- Mollinia nobilis - AIRACARIACEAE (AVS)
- 23- Agathis australis - AIRACARIACEAE (NZ)
- 24- Carpodetus serratus - ROUSSACEAE (NZ)
- 25- Kunzia excelsa - PROTEACEAE (NZ)
- 26- Stigmaphyllon sanguinea - SALICACEAE (AVS)
- 27- Anisotaxis glandulosa - ESCALONIACEAE (Tasmania)
- 28- Ilex mitis - AQUIFOLIACEAE (SA)
- 29- Myrica Sinclairii - ARALIACEAE (NZ)
- 30- Cladonia arborescens - CLADONIACEAE (MEX)
- 31- Metrosideros excelsa - MYRTACEAE (NZ)

PLANT IDENT # 5

- 1- Scheuchzeria palustris - ARALIACEAE (Germany)
- 2- Pseudopanax laetum - ARALIACEAE (NZ)
- 3- Pseudopanax limifolia - ARALIACEAE (NZ)
- 4- Pseudopanax foelix - ARALIACEAE (NZ)
- 5- Scheuchzeria palustris - ARALIACEAE (NZ)
- 6- Tetraglenis papuensis - ARALIACEAE (S. China)
- 7- Pseudopanax arborescens - ARALIACEAE (NZ)
- 8- Fatsia japonica - ARALIACEAE (Japan)
- 9- Senecio andropogon - ASTERACEAE (Madagascar)

- 32- Trachycarpus fortunei - ARALIACEAE (China)

PLANT IDENT # 4

- 1- Fatsia japonica - ARALIACEAE (Japan)
- 2- Passerianthes leucantha - FABACEAE (AVS)
- 3- Pseudopanax laetum - ARALIACEAE (NZ)
- 4- Phytolacca australis - PRIMULIACEAE (NZ)
- 5- Acacia allata - FABACEAE (AVS)
- 6- Senecio elegans - ASTERACEAE (MEX)
- 7- Weinmannia trichosperma - CUNONIACEAE (Chile)
- 8- Olearia ulmaria - ASTERACEAE (SA)
- 9- Phytolacca puberula - PRIMULIACEAE (SA)
- 10- Phytolacca umbellata - PRIMULIACEAE (MEX)
- 11- Carpodetus serratus - ROUSSACEAE (NZ)
- 12- Salvia grahamii - LAMIACEAE (MEX)
- 13- Aporosa bulbiforme - SALICACEAE (NZ)
- 14- Cyrtanthus albertus - DRYOPTERIDACEAE (Japan)
- 15- Acacia calanifolia - FABACEAE (AVS)
- 16- Banksia penicillata - PROTEACEAE (AVS)
- 17- Protea laetifolia - PROTEACEAE (SA)
- 18- Senecio andropogon - ASTERACEAE (Madagascar)
- 19- Senecio papuensis - ASTERACEAE (NZ)
- 20- Rhopalostylis sapida - ARALIACEAE (NZ)

- 21- *Correa 'Mantii'* - RUTACEAE (AUS)
- 22- *Leucadendron salignum* 'Rigdoni' - PROTEACEAE (SA)
- 23- *Banksia sessilis* - PROTEACEAE (AUS)
- 24- *Protea 'Clark's Red'* - PROTEACEAE (SA)
- 25- *Erica verticillata* - ERICACEAE (SA)
- 26- *Leucadendron eucalyptifolium* - PROTEACEAE (SA)
- 27- *Erica canaliculata* - ERICACEAE (SA)
- 28- *Westringia frutescens* - LAMIACEAE (AUS)
- 29- *Melaleuca velutina* - MYRTACEAE (AUS)
- 30- *Taxandria marginata* - MYRTACEAE (AUS)
- 31- *Grevillea lanigera* - ~~RUBIACEAE~~ ^{PROTEACEAE} (SA)
- 32- *Romadendia heterophylla* - RUTACEAE (SA)
- 33- *Leucadendron selignum* 'Sofia Forest' - PROTEACEAE (SA)

PLANT IDENT #5

- 1- *Calceolus pedunculatus* - LAMIACEAE (SA)
- 2- *Gerrardia valentina* subsp. *Stauca* - FABACEAE
- 3- *Colletia parviflora* - RHAMNACEAE (BRASIL) (S.W.)
- 4- *Grevillea victoriae* - PROTEACEAE (AUS)
- 5- *Leptospermum 'Pink Concade'* - MYRTACEAE (NZ)
- 6- *Psoraleum cymosum* - PODALIRIACEAE (NZ)
- 7- *Chrysothamnus coma-anthera* - ASTERACEAE (SA)
- 8- *Fuchsia splendens* - STYRACIACEAE (MEX)
- 9- *Ravensalpinx* - APIACEAE (MADAGASCAR)
- 10- *Leucosiphon leucocarpus* - LAMIACEAE (SA)
- 11- *Asparagus africana* - ASPERIFACEAE (SA)
- 12- *Crassula arborescens* - CRASSULACEAE
- 13- *Fuchsia columnata* - ASTERACEAE (SA)

- 34- *Correa decumbens* - RUTACEAE (AUS)
- 35- *Cassipouira mauritanica* - COTTONEACEAE (MADAGASCAR)
- 36- *Tecomania capensis* - ~~NOYACEAE~~ ^{NOYACEAE} (SA)
- 37- *Probianthus kwintiana* - ACANTHACEAE (INDIA)
- 38- *Arctostaphylos* '7' - ASTERACEAE (SA)
- 39- *Acacia japonica* - FABACEAE (JAPAN)
- 40- *Butyrion megapetalum* - MALVACEAE (BRASIL)
- 41- *Watsonia 'Tresco Hybrid'* - IRIDIACEAE (SA)
- 42- *Rosa elliptica* - ROSACEAE (AUS)

- 43- *Apuleia* spp.
- 44- *Lobelia verticillata* - FICARIACEAE (CANADA)
- 45- *Fuchsia arborescens* - STYRACIACEAE (MEX)
- 46- *Rhaphitostomum vumstus* - VERBENACEAE (Johannesburg Island - Chile)
- 47- *Isotria medeoloides* - MALVACEAE (S. AMERICA)
- 48- *Taraxacum officinale* - ASTERACEAE (SA)
- 49- *Asperula ligustrina* - ASTERACEAE (MEX)
- 50- *Publia imperialis* - ASTERACEAE (MEX)
- 51- *Sistera 'Snowflake'* - SCROPHULARIACEAE (SA)
- 52- *Xeroma callistemoni* - ERICACEAE (Knight Island)
- 53- *Psoraleum lucidum* - PODALIRIACEAE (MEX)

PLANT IDENT #6

- 1- *Asperula ligustrina* - ASTERACEAE (MEX)
- 2- *Erica densifolia* - ERICACEAE (SA)
- 3- *Carpodacus serratus* - ROSSACEAE (NZ)
- 4- *Tecomania capensis* - BIGNONIACEAE (SA)
- 5- *Ericocephalus racemosus* - ASTERACEAE (SA)
- 6- *Gerrardia valentina* subsp. *Stauca* - FABACEAE (S. Europe)
- 7- *Erica verticillata* - ERICACEAE (SA)
- 8- *Polygala myrtifolia* - MYRTACEAE (SA)
- 9- *Acacia columbiana* - FABACEAE (AUS)
- 10- *Protea 'Mantii'* - PROTEACEAE (SA)
- 11- *Tetradlea grandifolia* - SOLANACEAE (Equador)
- 12- *Aletrisyon excelsum* - SABIACEAE (NZ)
- 13- *Butyrion megapetalum* - MALVACEAE (BRASIL)
- 14- *Protea verticillata* - PROTEACEAE (AUS)
- 15- *Erica canaliculata* - ERICACEAE (SA)
- 16- *Acacia dealbata* - FABACEAE (AUS)
- 17- *Banksia integrifolia* - PROTEACEAE (NZ)
- 18- *Salvia leucantha* - LAMIACEAE (MEX)
- 19- *Telanthropia grandifolia* - ASTERACEAE (MEX)
- 20- *Kunzea baxteri* - MYRTACEAE (AUS)
- 21- *Drimys winteri* - WINTERACEAE (Chile)
- 22- *Protea verticillata* 'Snow Crest' - PROTEACEAE (AUS)
- 23- *Probianthus kwintiana* - FABACEAE (AUS)
- 24- *Banksia integrifolia* - PROTEACEAE (AUS)
- 25- *Euphorbia noldus* - EUPHORBIACEAE (N. AUS)
- 26- *Psoraleum cymosum* - PODALIRIACEAE (NZ)
- 27- *Cassipouira mauritanica* - COTTONEACEAE (MADAGASCAR)

- 28- *Clanthus purpureus* - FABACEAE (NZ)
- 29- *Halimolobos longifolia* - RUTACEAE (NZ)
- 30- *Fuchsia splendens* - STYRACIACEAE (S. AMERICA)

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I would like to sincerely thank the Merlin Trust for making this opportunity a reality. In a professional field such as horticulture, much of the experience and early exposure often comes from being brought up around land or gardens, which can sometimes require certain privileges or circumstances. For many young people, gaining hands-on experience usually means first volunteering in gardens or working their way up through unpaid roles. Knowing that there are organisations like the Merlin Trust, which are genuinely committed to supporting and investing in young people, is truly inspiring. Their willingness to provide opportunities and financial assistance enables aspiring horticulturists to pursue their career ambitions regardless of their background.

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