

Seasons at Wakehurst Place

One of the great attractions of the gardens at Wakehurst Place is that there is always something colourful to see. Even in the depths of winter the vivid red and yellow stems of willow (*Salix* species) and dogwood (*Cornus* species) glow against the grey skies. Come spring and the yellow blooms of daffodils and primroses provide a foretaste of sunny days ahead. As spring proceeds, the flowers of rhododendrons and azaleas create a colour spectrum beneath the woodland canopy. At the height of summer, glorious herbaceous borders vie with the delicate wild flowers for attention. Then, as autumn moves in, birches, maples and other trees provide the glorious spectacle of amber, orange and scarlet that brings the annual cycle to a close.

SPRING

March

- Winter Garden for dogwoods (*Cornus*) and willows (*Salix*), cyclamen and snowdrops (*Galanthus* species and cultivars)
- Daffodils (*Narcissus*) in the Gardens entrance area and above the Slips
- Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) and Lady's Smock (*Cardamine pratensis*) in Bethlehem Wood
- Spring Border

April

- Magnolias and *Pieris* in the Slips
- Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) and Lady's Smock (*Cardamine pratensis*) in Bethlehem Wood
- Spring bedding in the Pleasaunce
- Rhododendrons in Westwood Valley
- Spring Border
- Southern Hemisphere Garden

May

- Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) in Horsebridge Wood and Westwood Valley
- Rhododendrons and early wild flowers in Westwood Valley
- Herbaceous plantings in the Water Gardens
- Chilean Fire Bush (*Embothrium coccineum*) in the Southern Hemisphere Garden

Winter: witch hazel



Spring: bluebell

SUMMER

June

- Giant Himalayan Lilies (*Cardiocrinum giganteum*), blue poppies (*Meconopsis*) and primulas in the Water Gardens
- Wild flowers including Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) in Westwood Valley
- Various shrubs in the Specimen Beds
- Mediterranean plantings including *Cistus* and Jerusalem Sage (*Phlomis*) below the Balustrade
- West Mansion Border for colour-themed shrubs and herbaceous plants

July

- Mixed cottage plantings in the Sir Henry Price Garden, based on plants with pink, purple or blue flowers or with silver foliage, eg lavenders (*Lavandula*), sages (*Salvia*), *Indigofera* and *Eryngium*
- Summer bedding in the Pleasaunce
- Japanese Iris (*Iris ensata*), daylilies (*Hemerocallis*), *Rodgersia*, *Astilbe* and other mixed herbaceous plantings in the Water Gardens
- Wild flowers in Westwood Valley
- West Mansion Border for colour-themed shrubs and herbaceous plants

August

- Mixed cottage plantings in the Sir Henry Price Garden
- Summer bedding in the Pleasaunce
- Mixed herbaceous plantings in the Water Gardens
- Wild flowers in Westwood Valley
- *Hypericum*, *Hydrangea* and *Agapanthus* in the Specimen Beds
- *Hedychium* in the Monocotyledon Border
- *Eucryphia* in the Southern Hemisphere Garden
- West Mansion Border for colour-themed shrubs and herbaceous plants



AUTUMN

September

- Mixed cottage plantings in the Sir Henry Price Garden
- Summer bedding in the Pleasaunce
- West Mansion Border for colour-themed shrubs and herbaceous plants
- *Bistorta vacciniifolium* in the Himalayan Glade

and other plants in the Water Garden

- Berries on mountain ashes (*Sorbus*) and cotoneaster in the Tony Schilling Asian Heath Garden

November

- Autumn colour in the Oaks, Slips, Westwood Valley and Horsebridge Wood
- Winter Garden

October

- Autumn colour in the Oaks, the Slips, Westwood Valley, Horsebridge Wood and birch collection in Bethlehem Wood
- Seed heads of Giant Himalayan Lily (*Cardiocrinum giganteum*)



WINTER

December

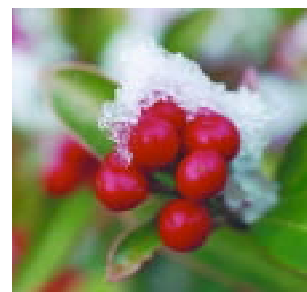
- Winter Garden, including *Skimmia* collection, viburnums and mahonias
- *Daphne bholua* in Westwood Valley
- Christmas tree near the Mansion

January

- Winter Garden for dogwoods (*Cornus*), willows (*Salix*), heathers, cyclamen and *Iris unguicularis*
- Witch hazels (*Hamamelis*) in the Winter Garden
- *Daphne bholua* in Westwood Valley
- Birches in Bethlehem Wood for bark colours

February

- Winter Garden for dogwoods (*Cornus*) and willows (*Salix*), cyclamen, *Iris unguicularis* and snowdrops (*Galanthus*)
- Daffodils (*Narcissus*) near the entrance
- Crocuses in the Slips
- *Daphne bholua* in Westwood Valley



Features of interest in the Loder Valley Nature Reserve throughout the year (permit required – please contact the administration office on 01444 894067 ahead of your visit)

Wakehurst Place, near Ardingly in West Sussex, is Kew's country garden. Open daily from 10am.

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