

Special plants *Pat Mansey*

Eucryphia glutinosa

This is a glorious woody plant or small tree, reaching 10m high. It is semi-evergreen, with small, glossy, toothed leaves, and carries exquisite cup shaped white flowers containing a conspicuous sphere of brown tipped stamens. *Eucryphia glutinosa* is the hardiest of this genus, not requiring a special position, soil or moisture, as some of this family do. Its flowers open in July and August, making a superb display, to be followed a month later by the leaves turning red, so continuing the plant's worthiness. One of my late summer special treasures.



Dierama robustum

Dieramas are cormous perennials, similar to gladioli and crocosmias, in that they make chains of new corms on top of one another. They are semi-evergreen, and reasonably frost hardy, but will not tolerate being frozen in waterlogged soil. They need a sunny, well drained, open position, not overcrowded by neighbouring plants. Their leaves are grass like, about three feet high and their flowering stems can be even higher.



Dierama robustum is the most hardy of this genus, producing flowers at about two metres. The pale pink tubular flowers dangle down most gracefully from incredibly thin hair like threads, making a most elegant picture, and hence their common name of 'angels' fishing rods'.

Dieramas are often grown alongside ponds, making good reflections, but should not be in soggy ground. They do well in gravel gardens, and, planted in drifts, they make a considerable impact. They are easy plants to grow providing they are given their preferred conditions.