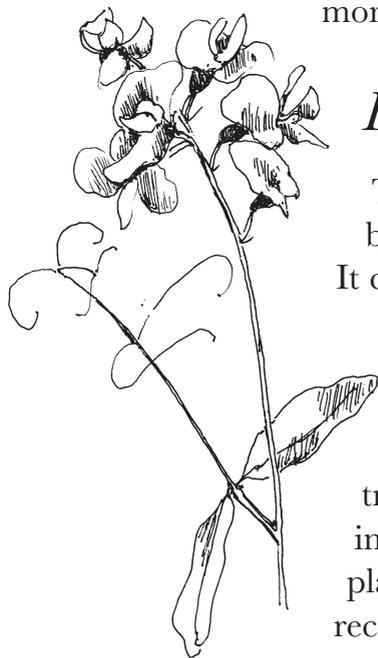
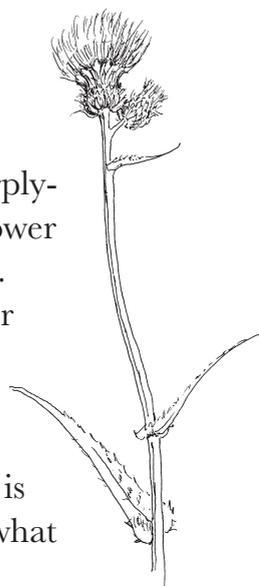


Special plants *Pat Mansey*

Cirsium heterophyllum

This is one of the many members of the thistle family, closely related to *Cirsium rivulare* 'Atropurpureum'. It is a robust plant, with stiff 2ft stems, bearing lance shaped leaves, which are sharply-toothed and prickly with the typical thistle type flower forming in twos and threes at the top of the stems. The main difference from *C. rivulare* is in the flower colour as *C. heterophyllum* is a pretty pinky lilac, rather than deep red.

I like this plant for its ease of growing, needing only deadheading. It is totally hardy, likes the sun, is not too thirsty, happy in most soils - what more can anyone ask?



Lathyrus rotundifolius

This is a herbaceous perennial pea, climbing by tendrils which branch into three at the tips. It climbs to about 6ft with many stems and has copious fresh green foliage. In early summer it produces small pea flowers in clusters, which are an attractive soft brick red colour.

L. rotundifolius does need some support; a trellis, pillar or host plant, and should be tied in at intervals, but otherwise is another easy plant, quite hardy and reliable, and I highly recommend it.