

Special plants *Pat Mansey*

Androsace lanuginosa

This is a prostrate, evergreen, mat-forming perennial. It has trailing stems covered in silky, hairy, oval grey-green pointed leaves and produces a flower umbel of 10-12 on the end of a three inch stem. The flowers are pale pink with a dark central eye and formed in a spherical cluster.

Androsace lanuginosa is most attractive when planted in a shallow container as it spreads across and hangs over the edge. It is totally hardy, enjoys gravelly soil, full sun, and flowers in mid to late summer.



Eryngium alpinum

The common name for this plant is sea holly, as it lives happily near the sea. Eryngiums come from a large family of different varieties and *alpinum* is the largest and most colourful of the genus. *Eryngium alpinum* has a strong blue tinge to the stem and to the flowers with their attractive ruffs of very spiky leaves. They make good cut flowers but are very prickly to handle - and they go on to make fine dried specimens. They are long lasting perennial plants which will self-seed readily and enjoy fairly dry sunny sites.

