

GARDENING BY THE SEA



The Fifth Continent scheme is currently working with major landowners such as the RSPB and the Ministry of Defence to control these invasive plants on their land. This builds on the efforts of Folkestone and Hythe District Council, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership, EDF Energy, Natural England, RSPB, and Sussex Wildlife Trust. By all working together great strides forward have been made but now we need local residents like you to really make a lasting difference to your area.

Tweet us images of your wildlife friendly garden!
Use the hashtag #fifthcontinent

This leaflet was produced as part of the Fifth Continent Landscape Partnership Scheme led by Kent Wildlife Trust. A Heritage Lottery funded suite of interlinked projects covering Romney Marsh all aimed at reconnecting people with their landscape and celebrating all that makes this area so special.

For more information on this and other projects and to find out other ways to get involved, visit our website. fifthcontinent.co.uk



WHAT YOU PLANT IN YOUR GARDEN CAN HAVE A LASTING EFFECT ON THE LANDSCAPE AROUND YOU.

THIS LEAFLET PROVIDES SOME HANDY HINTS OF HOW TO GET THE BEST OUT OF YOUR GARDEN WHILST HELPING NATURE TO THRIVE.

The soil here is very free draining so it doesn't hold onto rain water for very long. This means that lots of common garden plants will struggle in a coastal environment.



However, some plants are very well adapted to tolerate these harsh conditions, just like this wild carrot (left).

NATURE DOESN'T SEEM TO NOTICE OUR BOUNDARIES

Shingle beach plants in your garden will mean a colourful display of flowers that need the minimum of care and many show some fascinating survival tactics for coastal living ;

Sea kale (right) has thick leathery leaves to hold on to moisture.



Vipers Bugloss (left) has deep roots to hold on to the loose shingle and soft hairy leaves to trap droplets of water.



Yellow horned poppy (right) produces masses of seed to help it survive, this can encourage lots of birds into your garden as they fatten themselves up before migration.



These are just a few examples of beautiful plants that will survive here and are nectar-rich attracting a variety of insects, including bees, butterflies and moths.

For more tips visit:

FIFTHCONTINENT.ORG.UK/SHINGLE-Information

Putting your garden waste over your back fence can lead to the spread of non-native plants which crowd out our delicate local ones



Some plants can be just too competitive and do so well that they can displace the delicate native plants in the area. These 'invasive' species don't notice your garden fence and can quickly spread into the wider landscape. The plant above is probably the best known example. Red valerian is now widely established across the shingle but was originally introduced from elsewhere.

Have you noticed these other plants that have colonised the area more recently?
Snow-in-summer (Below)
Yucca (Left),
Russian vine (Far left)



These plants can still work in your garden but it's a good idea to put them in pots or containers to limit their spread.

FOR LOCAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ADVICE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

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