

## Some Plants We Have Discarded

### Rob Cole

Some plants which we thought would be a valuable asset have proved to be unworthy of their space in the garden, not because they have run riot, but because there are better ones to be had. I keep a list of plants which we have discarded for this reason, and here are some of them.

Hemerocallis is a favourite of ours, but we have discarded both *H.* 'Strutter's Ball' and *H.* 'Stella d'Oro' because in our garden they produced plenty of leaf but hardly any flowers. There are so many really outstanding varieties to choose from, which means that keeping poor ones is a waste of garden space.

We raised *Lonicera syringantha* from seed, having seen its beautiful soft pink flowers on a young plant somewhere on our travels. But after a few years of growth in the garden it became leggy and woody, and its brief flowering period meant that it came up for review (and pruning) quite frequently. Finally it had to go to make way for something more desirable.

Plant gifts are always a problem when they turn out to be less desirable than anticipated. *Iris confusa* 'Martyn Rix' was one such gift, and we grew it on for a number of years hoping that maturity would begin to show worthiness, but it never happened. It produced big fans of sword like leaves, and the odd fleeting and wishy-washy flower. Fortunately, the donor seems to have forgotten giving it to us, so we have never had to confess to shredding and composting it.

Roses are unexpectedly on our 'discarded' list. We rarely buy a rose without having seen it somewhere, or heard it being recommended, but *Rosa* 'Highfield', *R.* 'Glamis Castle' and *R.* 'Teasing Georgia' have all been removed after a few years of trying to get them to perform adequately.

There are many more plants on the list, but we continue to be fairly ruthless if a plant is not performing sufficiently in its allotted space, or if its allotted space runs out. Don't be afraid to do the same.