

Anne is interested in species peonies, hardy chrysanthemums and pelargoniums



'Once I started propagating plants I never looked back!'

Anne Tweddle took to gardening with a passion after moving to Suffolk, which spurred her to join conservation charity Plant Heritage (PH) over 20 years ago after reading about them in a magazine. "I was soon propagating plants for my local branch sales and their National Plant Exchange, which all members can access, and since then



Anne Tweddle
Retired oil company marketing executive and passionate plant propagator

"I've never looked back!" said Anne.

She previously had a marketing career with an oil company in London and had no gardening experience, but quickly took to propagating plants of all kinds, and is now self-styled 'propagating officer' for her local PH branch.

"An alpine plant expert came to show us how to propagate

snowdrops by twin-scaling. It was a revelation and, as a result, a group of us started propagating rare and unusual snowdrops and daffodils to help conserve them and make them more widely available."

As one of the charity's Plant Guardians, Anne looks after hardy chrysanthemums

and pelargoniums, with seven varieties of the latter currently in her care. "They're all obtained through the Plant Exchange scheme," she explained. Three favourites are 'King of the Boars', an enigmatic variety about which Anne knows little; 'Roller's Satinique', an American-bred, scented-leaf variety, with a bushy habit and amazing salmon-pink flowers; and 'Pink Raspail', grown at Pyrford Court, Surrey in the 1920s, and only saved by a PH member obtaining cuttings before all the original plants were



Grow your own!



Pelargonium 'King of the Boars'

Bright and easy

Pelargonium 'King of the Boars' produces striking coral blooms throughout winter and has attractive rounded, zoned foliage that takes on red tints. Like most pelargoniums, it's easy to grow in a peat-free potting compost with added grit or Perlite for drainage and fed every 10 days for strong growth and plenty of blooms. They're best overwintered in a frost-free greenhouse or conservatory. Anne hopes to propagate more 'King of the Boars' for sale via Plant Heritage.

unwittingly destroyed. "Any member can become a Plant Guardian, the only stipulation being that no more than two nurseries list any particular plant for sale and it's very rewarding to be part of that!"



'Pink Raspail' was saved from destruction by a Plant Heritage member

How you can be a plant hero

You can help preserve rare and unusual plants in your garden! The Plant Heritage charity works to conserve the nation's garden plants through the National Plant Collection® scheme and individual Plant Guardians®,

and is looking for Garden News readers to get involved with its crucial work. Contact collections@plantheritage.org.uk for information or visit www.plantheritage.org.uk.



Are you growing any rare or unusual plants? Let us know – see our contact details on page 3

#GNREAL GARDENS