





Take-away Plan from Hasmead Sand and Ice Garden

by Linda Bush

This 'Silver Surfer' plant combination is suitable for a sunny, well-drained border, sheltered from strong winds. The plants have water-efficient adaptations, ideal for areas which have periodic water shortages. Linda has used these plants on the 'Ice' side of her garden at the Chelsea Flower Show because the cool, silvery colours and striking textures have the feeling of cold, sharp ice. A touch of purple sage has been added as a contrast, and the architectural cardoon (*Cynara cardunculus*) and *Verbena bonariensis* add purple flowers, and height and structure.

Plants used

- *Artemisia ludoviciana* 'Valerie Finnis' x 12:

Semi-evergreen perennial ground-cover plant for a sunny gravel garden. Drought-tolerant once established, the mound of jagged, aromatic, silvery-white leaves, become green with age.

- *Astelia chathamica* 'Silver Spear' x 1:

Grown for its striking, spear-shaped, evergreen, silver leaves.

- *Cynara cardunculus* 'Cardy' x 3: Good structural plant with jagged, silver-green leaves and large purple, thistle-like flowers from June to September.

- *Salvia officinalis* 'Purpurascens' x 5: Blue-purple flowers appear above the purple-grey leaves from May to July. The young purple leaves can be used as a culinary herb, and the plant grows into an evergreen or semi-evergreen shrub.

- *Stachys byzantina* 'Silver Carpet' x 5:

This non-flowering variety of 'Lamb's Ears', is a more intense shade of silver and is a good evergreen, drought-tolerant groundcover plant.

- *Verbena bonariensis* – two groups x 3:

Popular with designers because the bare-angled stems are vertically architectural without being bulky and hiding the plants beyond. The stems are topped with bright mauve flowers from June to September.