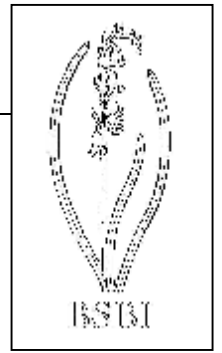


Plant Crib



HYACINTHOIDES

The majority of bluebells grown in gardens (and consequently found naturalised) are hybrid Spanish bluebells, *H. × massartiana* (*H. hispanica* × *H. non-scripta*); in some urban areas they are more widespread than the *H. non-scripta*. The flower colour of the hybrid is predominantly blue, with shades of pink, purple and white occurring less frequently. True *H. hispanica* is not often seen. The main differences between the species and the most widely observed intermediate are given below (Page 1987, Gravestock 1987):

	<i>H. hispanica</i> (Mill.) Rothm.	<i>H. × massartiana</i> Geerink	<i>H. non-scripta</i> (L.) Chouard ex Rothm.
Leaves	(Usually) Broad, 10-35 mm wide	(Usually) Broad, 10-30 mm wide	(Usually) Narrow, 7-15 mm wide
Inflorescence	Not 1-sided; flowers erect or spreading, erect in fruit	Not 1-sided; flowers usually spreading, erect in fruit	1-sided, drooping at tip; flowers drooping, erect in fruit
Perianth	Segments widely spreading, flowers becoming saucer-shaped	Segments moderately spreading, flowers bell-shaped	Segments parallel-sided below, flowers appearing tubular
Tips of perianth segments	Not reflexed	Turned outwards, scarcely reflexed	Distinctly reflexed
Anthers	Blue	Blue, often cream in white and pink flowers	Cream
Outer filaments	Inserted below middle of perianth segment	Inserted just below middle of perianth segment	Inserted just above middle of perianth segment

References Bond, T. E. T. (1976). *Watsonia* **11**: 141-149.
Page, K. W. (1987). *BSBI News* **47**: 9.
Gravestock, I. F. (1987). *BSBI News* **48**: 22.

Author K. W. Page, 1987. Minor updates, T. C. G. Rich, 2012