

*Libertia chilensis*  
flowers in spring and summer



*Ugni molinae*



## The Expert

# Charlotte Harris



Charlotte is the co-founder of Harris Bugg Studio, and is an award-winning landscape designer with experience designing gardens

across Europe, including the Kitchen Garden at RHS Bridgewater

“*Libertia chilensis* AGM is a striking and resilient hardy evergreen for a sunny, sheltered position, growing to 90 x 60cm. Clumps of its blade-like foliage deliver dynamic vertical interjections in the garden, combining well with grasses. Sprays of airy white flowers in late spring and early summer are followed by attractive seedheads, providing extended seasonal interest. “Location, geology, soil type and topography all affect how a garden is impacted by climate change. The landscapes of the Mediterranean, California, South Africa and South America all give inspiration for how

we might cope with a changing climate. Here, I’ve looked specifically to Chile for plants that cope well with warmer summers as well as still being hardy and resilient in winter.

“*Ugni molinae* (Chilean guava) is a small, evergreen shrub for sun or part shade, which can also be used effectively en masse for hedging. It grows to 1.5 x 1m, with bell-shaped, pale pink, fragrant flowers in May and June. These are followed by delicious, aromatic and vitamin-packed red fruit in autumn that add extra seasonal value.”

“*Nothofagus antarctica* (Antarctic beech) is a handsome, medium-sized Patagonian native with small beech-like leaves and an elegant presence. It grows to 12 x 8m and the deep green glossy foliage casts delicate dappled shade. Leaves turn an attractive buttery yellow in autumn before falling, revealing attractive bark and good layered branch structure. It makes a strong statement as a multi-stemmed tree, and grows well in moist soil, handling dry summers once established.



*Nothofagus antarctica*

“*Libertia chilensis* is a striking and resilient hardy evergreen for a sunny, sheltered position”

Louise Curley is an author and garden writer