

Erysimum 'Julian Orchard'

'Julian Orchard' was raised by nurseryman Adrian Orchard, of Southease Plants, near Lewes, in Sussex. One year he obtained two seeds from his patch of *erysimum* 'Bowles Mauve' – a rare event, even from a patch of around 30 plants! According to Adrian, he dropped and lost one of the seeds, but grew the other one on successfully. The resulting cultivar was named 'Julian Orchard' after his brother, who was an actor and also a keen gardener. It has not been propagated for the mass market, but is available from one or two specialist nurseries.



'Julian Orchard' is an evergreen perennial with an upright, sub-shrubby habit and grows to 50 or 60cm. The leaves are lanceolate, unserrated and a greyish or silvery green – perhaps the most silvery of any *erysimum* cultivar. The flowers are borne in medium length racemes, opening orangey red and fading to mauve. They have a wonderful, almondy scent and are produced in all but the coldest months of the year.

'Julian Orchard' seems to have inherited many of the characteristics that make 'Bowles Mauve' such a good garden plant. It is tough, relatively long-lived and has a very long flowering period. I am extremely fond of 'Julian Orchard' and rate it as one of the best of the lesser-known and rarely grown cultivars.