

# Plants of the Heritage Garden—Queen of the Meadow

by Friends of the Garden

The meadowsweets, *Filipendula*, are herbaceous members of the rose family (Rosaceae) having panicles of small white to pink flowers held above divided leaves. Queen of the Meadow, *F. ulmaria* 'Flore-pleno' is one of five species of *Filipendula* growing in the Garden.



Our heritage Queen of the Meadow came from the garden of the late Dr. Aly O'Brien, from Oxen Pond Road, St. John's, in

1979. He believed that his Aunt Kate, who lived across the street from him, obtained the plant around 1880, from friends named Wright, who originally lived on the corner of Freshwater Road and Field Street.

*Filipendula ulmaria* 'Flore-pleno' can reach 1.3m in height. The plants produce panicles of small, double, cream-coloured flowers that rise above large pinnate leaves. It blooms late



July through August.

This plant does well in a bog garden or besides a pool, or in a border in full to part sun and moisture-retentive, organic-rich soil. It should be watered weekly during dry weather. This plant is easily propagated by division in early spring although it is sterile so does not produce seed.