

## PERIWINKLE (MAUVE)



*Christopher Pilling*

Periwinkle  
(mauve) is in hiding  
when we're striding past on some horticultural mission.

Dry sticks of fuchsia  
dug up from by the quince  
are holding their own since the day of the transplant.

Solomon's seal,  
risen, sudden, green,  
can be seen to be losing every trace of inhibition.

Rose rose rose  
firmly set in three holes dug for them  
in the bed at the back come and gallivant.

"We're being flagrant",  
they say, swaying in their cups. With twilight, though,  
topdressing the show, they'll shrink, 'll

rose, fuchsia,  
Solomon's seal, but not the  
self-effacing dusky periwinkle.