



BUG WATCH

Are These Friends Or Foes?

**Find Out
Inside!**



**Woman's
Weekly**
LIVING SERIES

MARCH 2017



Gardening

Get A
Better Garden

With Our Brilliant
Ideas For 2017!



**Designer
Secrets
Revealed**

Make A...

- ✓ Woodland Path
- ✓ Summer Retreat
- ✓ Urban Sanctuary



**Wonderful
Wisteria...
Made Easy**

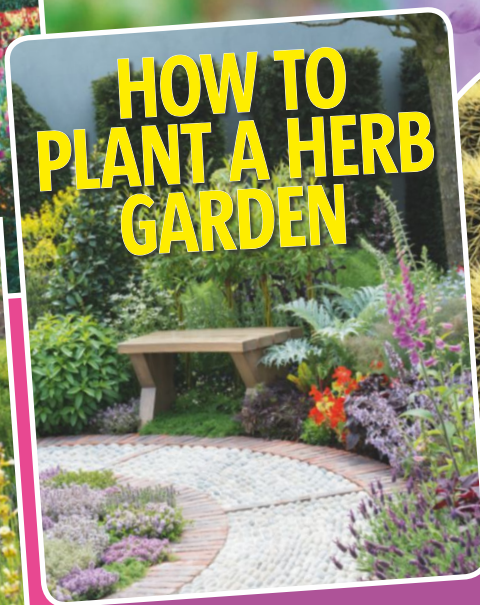
**23 Pages
Of
Inspirational
Gardens**



**With
Get The
Look
Tips!**



**HOW TO
PLANT A HERB
GARDEN**



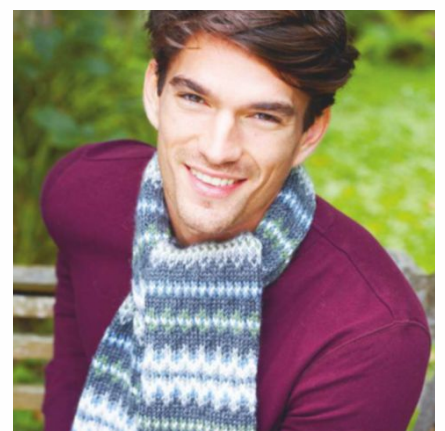
**Our
Top 10
House Plants**



The knitting NETWORK

FREE
pattern
offer*

The **NEW** website with 100s of quality knitting & crochet patterns, plus yarns **theknittingnetwork.co.uk**



Claim your FREE pattern now*

Simply visit **theknittingnetwork.co.uk/freebie**

*One free pattern per person – use code GB at checkout. The above images are a selection of what is available on the site. The free pattern will be a random pattern selected from the site and will differ from those shown on the page. Offer valid until 28 April 2017.

Spring is in the air!



Another wonderful gardening year is just beginning and there's never been a more exciting time to get into growing. So if you or someone you know is a beginner, why not check out our top 10 house plants on page 50? But if you're more experienced, you can discover all the latest garden design ideas on page 26 – I bet you'll be inspired to try some in your plot. And if you haven't got one already, find out everything you need to know about growing wisteria – perhaps my favourite plant – on page 18.

Don't miss our next issue, on sale 20th April. But before that, do look out for the next *Woman's Weekly Healthy Living*, on sale 23rd March. Happy Gardening!

Geoffrey Palmer, Editor

Time Inc.

WOMAN'S WEEKLY GARDENING MAGAZINE, Time Inc. (UK) Ltd, 161 Marsh Wall, London E14 9AP. Telephone 020 3148 5000. Back issues 01733 688964. Unless otherwise stated, all competitions, free samplings, discounts and offers are only available to readers in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland. Pre-press by Rhapsody Media. Printed by Wyndeham Group. **ISSN 2042 3950**. WOMAN'S WEEKLY is a registered trademark of Time Inc. (UK) Ltd and is sold subject to the following conditions, namely that it shall not, without the written consent of the publishers first given, be lent, resold, hired out, or otherwise disposed of by way of trade at more than the recommended selling price shown on the cover, and that it shall not be lent, resold or hired or otherwise disposed of in a mutilated condition or in any unauthorised cover by way of trade or affixed to or as part of any publication or advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever. © Time Inc. (UK) Ltd, 2017. We work hard to achieve the highest standards of editorial content, and we are committed to complying with the Editors' Code of Practice (<https://www.ipso.co.uk/IPSO/cop.html>) as enforced by IPSO. If you have a complaint about our editorial content, you can email us at complaints@timeinc.com or write to Complaints Manager, Time Inc. (UK) Ltd Legal Department, 161 Marsh Wall, London E14 9AP. Please provide details of the material you are complaining about and explain your complaint by reference to the Editors' Code. We will endeavour to acknowledge your complaint within 5 working days and we aim to correct substantial errors as soon as possible.

ART EDITOR Christine Bivand
SUB-EDITORS Wendy Humphries,
Heather Seabrook
ASSISTANT EDITOR Claire Bower
COVER Caroline Bellenberg
HEAD OF MARKETING Mary Bird

Contents



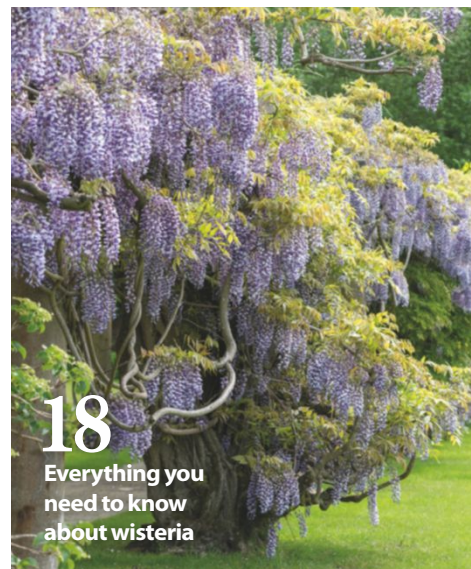
6

Get up-to-date
with all the best
gardening news



10

A Scottish reader's
garden packed
with ideas



18

Everything you
need to know
about wisteria



36

You asked the RHS
experts - they solve
your problems!



41

Create a herb
garden - let
Jekka McVicar
show you how



48

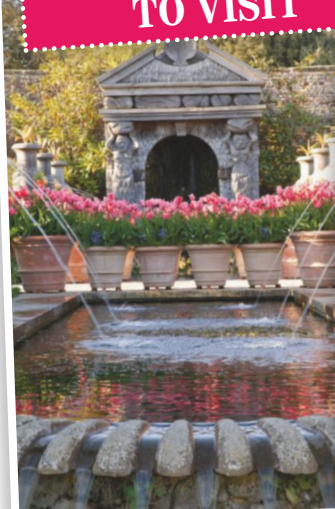
Celebrating
National
Gardening Week



52

Gardening
dates for
your diary

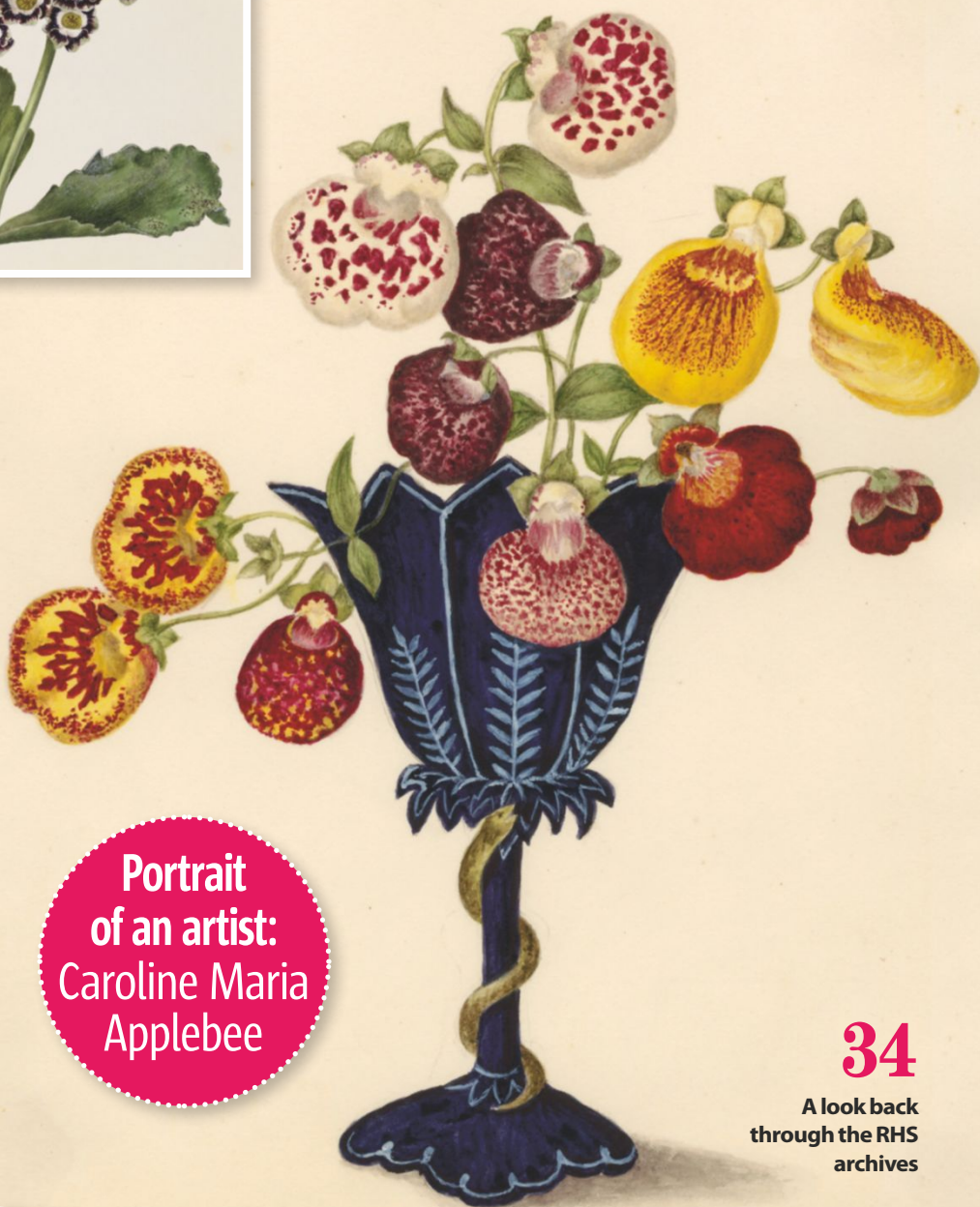
CASTLE GARDENS
TO VISIT





26

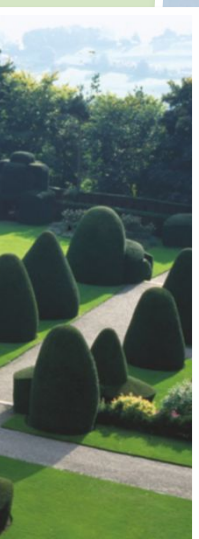
Brilliant designer ideas to revamp your outside space



Portrait of an artist: Caroline Maria Applebee

34

A look back through the RHS archives



55

Visit these stunning UK castles with gardens



64

Take inspiration from the Brays' garden



73

Jobs to do in the garden for March and April

Collect ideas,
discover what's
new this year and
become an avid
garden visitor

Let's get Gardening



James O'Neill, Butterfly Conservation

Kew is voted Attraction of the Year

Following a year of record-breaking visitor numbers, The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, has been named 'Best Attraction in London'.

The accolade was decided by a public vote and judging panel at the 2016 Worldwide Attraction Awards, beating The London Eye and The Shard. Higher visitor numbers can be attributed to a combination of factors including the first ever Science Festival in August, a full programme of events, and good weather. Other highlights include the world's longest double herbaceous borders, and Wolfgang Buttress' Hive, a 17m high structure that encapsulates the story of the honey bee through an imaginative sound and light experience. Director of Marketing Sandra Botterell said: "This award is testament to Kew's determination to offer the ultimate visitor experience". For info: kew.org

Royal Botanic Garden Kew's Hive installation is a symbol of the challenges facing bees



A few choice plants will give butterflies such as the peacock a chance to stock up on nectar



BC / Ivan Lynas

The Big Butterfly Count takes place every summer to help identify the causes that are driving declines and in some cases increases of our beautiful butterfly populations.

Sir David Attenborough with the ID card for the annual Big Butterfly Count



BC / Jim Asher

Plant now to help butterflies

The results of last year's summer Big Butterfly Count revealed a dramatic decline in these delicate insects.

Butterfly Conservation's Richard Fox, said: "The drop in butterfly numbers last summer was a shock". Despite the favourable weather during the summer, butterflies endured a harmful cold and soggy spring. People saw fewer butterflies during the count but results were mixed: small tortoiseshell, peacock, comma and gatekeeper numbers were down by almost half. However, numbers of the red admiral and green-veined whites were up by 70% and 58%, respectively.

Sir David Attenborough, President of Butterfly Conservation said: "It's up to every single one of us to make sure that the spectacle of mid-summer butterflies remains a much-anticipated highlight of the season rather than becoming a long-mourned memory."

There is plenty we can do in our own gardens: planting nectar-rich annuals and perennials; gardening less tidily; and having food plants for the larvae will all help conserve and restore numbers. For info Tel 01929 400209 Butterfly-conservation.org/

Create a butterfly friendly garden

- ✿ Grow nectar-rich flowers from March to November.
- ✿ Select a wide variety of species, such as buddleja, lavender, oregano, honesty, nasturtiums, *Erysimum* 'Bowles's Mauve', holly, catmint and ivy, planting the same type in blocks.
- ✿ Deadhead flowers and water well.
- ✿ Let an area of grass grow long.
- ✿ Leave a patch of caterpillar foods such as dandelions, bird's foot

trefoils, thistles, docks and nettles.

✿ Place large stones in sunny spots so that butterflies can bask.

✿ Make a log pile where butterflies and moths can hibernate.

✿ Grow climbers to create shelter from wind and frost.

✿ Don't use insecticides or pesticides. They kill butterflies and many other pollinating insects.





Plant of the month

Magnolia stellata AGM

Magnolia stellata is a great choice for a small garden

One of the obvious signs that the sap is rising and spring is on its way is when magnolia flowers appear in March. *Magnolia stellata* and varieties 'Water Lily' and 'Royal Star' flower profusely, covering the bare branches for weeks before the leaves emerge. The pure white, scented starry flowers are often blushed, and in 'Royal Star', the buds are pink. Many magnolias get too big for a small to average sized garden, but these slow-growing, rounded shrubs are ideally positioned as specimens in a lawn or border where they can freely develop to their full potential without gardeners having to worry about pruning. They also make excellent plants for containers.

At a Glance...

■ **How to plant:** Add plenty of well-rotted compost or manure to the planting hole and ensure the graft union is above soil level. Water well and apply a mulch to retain moisture.

■ **Size:** Height 5-8ft (1.5-2.5m) x Spread 8-15ft (2.5-4m) after 10 years. 'Royal Star' is taller at 15ft (4m).

■ **Soil:** Any soil, including heavy clay.

■ **Position:** In full sun or part shade in a sheltered spot out of strong winds, and situated where frosted blooms are out of the morning sun.

■ **Pests:** Use slug deterrents in April and May and rabbit guards, for young specimens. ►

What to grow in 2017

Dobies grafted Quad cherry tomato varieties come with four stems that can be trained into a fan shape, offering four times the normal crop, £8.99 + £4.99 p&p
Tel 0844 967 0303
dobies.co.uk



Higher yields

Grafted vegetable plants are a good idea when you have little growing space, and although they can be pricey (£5-10 each), they offer a higher yield and often give an earlier crop. Most seed merchants offer grafted plants of tomato, aubergine, chilli, pepper, melon, cucumber and tomato.



Cosmos 'Cupcakes' – apparently the shape is favoured by bees



'Cupcakes' is a winner

A cosmos found in Diane Engdahl's Californian garden 10 years ago has been voted the visitors' favourite during trials at RHS Garden Wisley, last summer. Instead of a daisy shape, all the petals are fused into one single cup. The cosmos has been developed into three shades, in single or semi-double blooms. 'Cupcakes White' reaches 4ft (1.2m) x 2ft (60cm). Seed costs £1.99, Tel 0844 5731818 thompson-morgan.com

Highly fragrant



SUTTONS

Sweet pea 'Kingfisher'

Try this modern Spencer sweet pea 'Kingfisher', for its smokey blue-grey blooms on very long stems, good for cutting. New to Suttons Seeds, they cost £2.99 per packet plus p&p. Tel 0844 326 2200
suttons.co.uk

ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA APPEAL

Mr Fothergills has pledged to give 25p from every packet of new sweet peas 'Scarlet Tunic' sold to the Royal Hospital Chelsea charity, to support war veterans. It bears large flowers, ideal for cutting. Seed, £2.19 Tel 0333 777 3936 Mr-Fothergills.co.uk



Zinnias – easy from seed

A must-have zinnia, 'Queen Red Lime', produces sumptuous pale red petals brushed with lime. Ideal for pots or borders, it has long stems that last a week in water. Easy from seed, £2.55; or 15 garden ready plants cost £9.99. To order Tel 0844 967 0303, visit dobies.co.uk

Spring gardens to visit



Get out and enjoy all that spring gardens have to offer – it's the dawning of a new and exciting growing season

Cotehele, Cornwall

Cotele is famous for its daffodils, which historically were cut and packed onto trains bound for the London flower markets. You can see traditional and new varieties during the Daffodil Weekend, 18-19 March, 11am-4pm, and watch the estate's gardeners create daffodil sculptures. Grounds are open daily, house from 11 March. Also, take advantage of an early Cornish spring where magnolias flourish at Trellisick, and on 25-26 March the garden is hosting a Daffodil Show where 200 varieties will be on display. Visit nationaltrust.org.uk



What's New





Batsford Arboretum

There's something of interest during every month of the year in this lovely Cotswolds garden, near Moreton-in-Marsh. In March, the daffodil season reaches a peak, and displays are complemented by crocuses, hellebores and early magnolias. In mid spring, attention turns to the Japanese cherry blossom and later flowering magnolias, a sight to behold. The garden is open daily, for more information Tel 01386 701441 visit batsarb.co.uk

At no time is colour more appreciated than when it appears at the beginning of spring, when we can walk amongst spring bulbs, blossoming trees and swathes of wild flowers. It's a good time to explore new gardens for inspiration and fresh ideas.



National Trust Images / Carole Drake



Quarry Bank Mill Gardens

The gardens near Wilmslow, Cheshire, surround one of the best preserved textile mills in the country, now a museum. In spring, as well as rhododendrons, the gardens are full of drama, with formal borders carpeted with daffodils, hyacinths and tulips. Also see the newly restored glasshouse containing tropical plants and grape vines. Open daily, Tel 01625 527468 look up nationaltrust.org.uk

The Geoff Hamilton Border

A new border at Barnsdale Gardens has been opened by Carole Klein in commemoration of the untimely passing of Geoff Hamilton in 1996. The border was originally created by Geoff during his time presenting BBC *Gardeners' World* and has been re-planted with special and unusual plants donated by friends, family and colleagues. The Winter Garden contains over 9,000 snowdrops, and is designed to establish and flourish in every season. Barnsdale Gardens is at Oakham, Rutland, for more information Tel 01572 813200 visit barnsdalegardens.co.uk



▲ Geoff Hamilton



Carole Klein opening the border at Barnsdale

Lost tools will be a thing of the past with FloraBrites range, including hand tools, secateurs and snips. They have fluorescent handles that glow under torch light. From £9.95 from garden centres or Burgonandball.com by mail order



Give flowers, shrubs, fruit and veg a boost with Neudorff's Super Strength Seaweed Extract, a natural formulation to stimulate shoots and root growth and keep plants healthy. Concentrated to make 100 litres, £9.99

Designed for gardeners, Wilkinson Sword's Garden Multitool comprises a bypass pruner, wood saw, garden knife and stem stripper hidden in the handle. Compact at just 5in (13cm) long, it can attach to your belt. Price £14.99 from garden centres or Wilkinsonsword-tools.co.uk



Looking for a new pair of good gloves? Old-fashioned flowers are the inspiration for these pretty Flower Girl Comfy Gardener gloves which have reinforced leather palms and fingers. £8.99 from garden centres or to order: briersltd.co.uk

Life Plum



Sally Lorimore
and Eric Wright

Eric Wright and Sally Lorimore's undulating garden features four distinct but connected areas: sunny beds, an alpine terrace, a wild garden and a vegetable plot

In spring the garden erupts into life, only possible after protective hedging and trees were planted to create a shelter belt, slowing the strong winds

Seventeen years ago when Sally Lorimore and Eric Wright bought Willowhill, their undulating 3-acre garden near Newport-on-Tay in Fife, they did so with the express intention of creating a garden they would open on a regular basis. Taking advantage of the mild estuary climate the aim was to create a garden for all seasons, starting with brightly coloured tulips, in May. 'The selling point for us was the land,' Sally says. 'We are both passionate gardeners and the land here was a blank canvas.' ►

Sally Lorimore
& Eric Wright

Fact File

Gardeners:

Eric Wright and Sally Lorimore

Location: Willowhill, Forgan, Newport-on-Tay, Fife, Scotland

Moved in: 1999

Garden size: 3 acres

Special features:

A series of mixed borders featuring different colour-themed beds for year-round interest surround the single story house. Bulbs, especially tulips, are followed by roses and herbaceous plants. An alpine terrace leads down the slope forming the transition to the grassy area where the wildlife pond is backed with trees underplanted with bulbs in a naturalistic style.

Problems overcome:

Wind was a major problem and the couple decided early on to plant trees to filter much of the wind while retaining some long views. This led to the creation of a loose woodland area with large wildlife-friendly pond and grassland areas containing bulbs such as snowdrops, narcissi, bluebells, camassias and alliums followed by herbaceous plants to provide a long season of interest.

Inspired by:

Visiting and reading about Christopher Lloyd's garden at Great Dixter. Visiting local gardens where plants that grow well in Fife could be observed at first hand.



When planning the garden two themes emerged. 'The first was to fit the garden into the wider landscape,' Sally explains. 'We wanted to provide a sense of travel, drawing the eye up towards the backdrop focal point of a distant gap in the tree line.' This feeling of movement was achieved by the creation of curving, sweeping paths that extend from the immediate garden through the wild garden and on towards the tree line. To their excitement this area proved friendly to wildlife.

Beyond the wild garden, the fresh, young grass is alive with different bulbs. 'We chose natural looking varieties such as the soft wild daffodil *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* and the Tenby daffodil.' These are followed by pale and white yellow 'Pipit' and fragrant *Narcissus* 'Pheasant's Eye', which flowers in combination with blue and white camassias.

The second theme was the introduction of vibrant, year-round combinations in the herbaceous beds that radiate on all sides of the single story house. On the south side, a gravel path meanders

through beds planted in a palette of primary colours, red, blue and yellow. On the north side a circular lawn is enclosed by mixed shrubs underplanted with a more subdued scheme of pink, purple, white and yellow before blending to deep orange, chocolate and purple-red hues.

The vibrant, hot theme continues in the outer garden, reached via a gate in a stone wall, where a dramatic, long border is packed with orange, magenta purple and yellow tulips followed by herbaceous plants in the same palette. Early season colour is provided by hellebores. 'In particular we like the Ashwood

Nursery Neon and Sunrise or Sunset hybrids as they stand out well in late winter and tend to hold their heads well up high for all to see.'



Hellebores stand out in late winter



Daffodils bring spring cheer





A gravel path meanders through wide herbaceous borders, planted for year-round colour



Exciting colour combinations by Christopher Lloyd have been a strong influence



Structure

The grassland area beside the wildlife pond is home to two deer sculptures. Around them, different narcissi are planted for natural effect

Structure comes from existing trees, such as the evocative Scots pine, *Pinus sylvestris* and several cordylines which thrive in the estuary climate and a beech hedge backdrop, which doubles as a windbreak. Shrubs also provide shape and structure – special spring

favourites are contorted hazels for shape and spirea varieties especially *S. japonica* 'Goldflame' for exciting early colour. In the vegetable plot to the rear of the house the geometric outline of raised rectangular beds gives shape and definition to the area.

The wildlife pond is the place to watch the antics of wildlife, including toads, frogs, insects, ducks and swooping house martins



◀ Tulip 'Parrot King' matures to a bright orange



Elegant Lily-flowering tulips are a favourite

Pieces of garden art add charm



Wild Garden

To the west, a terrace of alpine beds links the two parts of the garden by leading the way to a wildlife pond and large grassland area. This is planted with trees, bulbs and herbaceous perennials through which wide sweeping paths are mown. The pond is planted around and within with sedges, purple loosestrife, kingcups, flag iris and bulrushes, to give a natural link to the surrounding grassland. 'Pond wildlife was initiated in the usual way with a bucket of

water from a neighbouring pond. The rest of the wildlife just turned up.' The couple did not add fish in order to encourage a biodiverse population of invertebrates as well as attracting amphibians such as frogs and toads.

Birds such as a mallard, ducks, a heron and a wide variety of garden and farmland birds make the garden their home. 'Great numbers of swallows and house martins are attracted over the summer months and give us great pleasure as they swoop the pond.'

The couple regularly open the garden to visitors, it's a chance to share the garden and exchange ideas

Spring Tulips

In spring, tulips reign supreme and all the colour rules are broken. 'May is the first time the garden has dramatic variations in colour as tulips emerge.' These are set against the lime green of emerging foliage such as euphorbias, *E. palustris*, *E. polychroma* and *E. griffithii* 'Fireglow' are special favourites, and the unfurling leaves of shrubs or drifts of deep purple honesty (*Lunaria annua*). 'The aim is for a very lively and sometimes shocking display.'



Favourites

Years of trial and error has resulted in a section of favourite perennial tulips including the shorter species tulips such as fiery red *T. linifolia* and 'Red Riding Hood', burnt orange *T. whittallii*, yellow *T. tarda*, soft orange 'Prinses Irene', deep red 'Kingsblood' and deep purple 'Queen of the Night'. Fresh white and green 'Spring Green', pale pink and green 'Greenland' and 'Night Rider' are used for contrast. The frilly parrot varieties are represented by 'Apricot' and intricate, generous orange 'Parrot King'.

The bulbs are planted in mixed groups of colour and in drifts to provide a natural look that chimes with the outer garden. Tulips are typically placed at the back of borders so emerging perennials will cover dying foliage as much as possible. 'This avoids a scruffy look later in the season.'

A special favourite is frilly orange 'Prof Rontgen', named after the German physicist, who

discovered X-rays in 1895.

'We had to buy this as not only is it a fabulous orange but also Eric, now a retired University Professor, worked extensively on the health effects of radiation, in particular, radiation induced leukaemia.'

Experience has shown that tulips are most likely to flower again if dug in really deeply. 'We double-dig with a layer of mulch on top. We find the larger bulbs can be as much as 18-24in (45-60cm) under.' Both Sally and Eric 'love' the elegant lily varieties especially scarlet 'Redshine' and orange 'Ballerina'. 'They do well when first planted but gradually decline in numbers year after year.'

With such a display to share, it comes as no surprise that the fun of opening the garden remains undiminished after 15 years. 'Best of all the garden visitors are so nice and friendly and garden openings are a great place to share and exchange ideas.'



Tulips are planted at the back of borders so that fading foliage is disguised by emerging perennials

Continued overleaf



Inspiration

Eric and Sally, who are both scientists, have been passionate about gardening for 35 and 30 years respectively and both are drawn to herbaceous and mixed border designs. Ideas have come from reading and visiting gardens throughout Britain but their main inspiration has been Great Dixter. 'We were bowled over by great design but mainly the variety of exciting and unusual colour combinations of plantings.'

Closer to home they have been inspired by the many private gardens open under Scotland's Gardens: events such as the Fife Garden Trail are a

particular source of inspiration. 'It is very helpful to see what works locally and we are continually delighted by the range of ideas of design and plantings gardeners come up with: they are such a creative inspiring group of people and on hand to share their ideas.'

While they continue to modify their own garden and introduce changes, local garden visiting when time is short is particularly valuable. 'In particular we love the tall plantings and height of the garden at Michael Innes's garden at St Mary's Farm. Equally inspiring are the tall, fragrant borders at Lucklaw House.'

● Willowhill, Forgan, Newport-on-Tay, Fife DD6 8RA is one of nine gardens including St Mary's Farm, Cupar KY15 4NF and Lucklaw House, Logie KY15 4SJ, open for Scotland's Gardens for the Fife Garden Trail on: 20-22 June,

27- 29 June or 4-6 July 2017. Gardens can be visited on different dates. For further info visit www.scotlandsgardens.org/fgf2017. Willowhill is also open by appointment: contact Sally Lorimore email s.a.lorimore@dundee.ac.uk

Get the Look

The Tulip Garden

The underlying theme is based on colour. 'Anything goes in spring, a time for having fun and experimenting. The question we always ask ourselves is: 'How do these colours work together and in relation to the intensity of the sun?' 'Colour themes remain the same throughout the year and work for bulbs, perennials and shrubs,' says Sally.

- Sunny south- and west- facing beds are filled with plants in primary colours: red, yellow and blue.
- Northerly and easterly beds feature softer, peachy combinations, such as pinks, burnt orange or dull scarlet.

'Don't make colour combinations too comfortable in spring, when you can get away with anything. For example, frilly, orange Tulipa 'Parrot King' and 'Prinses Irene' might be spiced with dark purple 'Queen of the Night'. You give it a go and if it doesn't work you start again'



Euphorbia characias adds valuable year-round structure

Different varieties of euphorbia are used throughout the garden to create a unifying look. Lime green *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii*, *E. griffithii* 'Fireglow' and *E. amygdaloides robbiae* add zing in spring, as do the red and gold leaves of spireas.



Spireas are used to create an exciting foil to flowers



◀ Tulip colour schemes are planned according to the relative light levels

Sally takes Christopher Lloyd's advice: 'I use the space under shrubs to plant tulips and hellebores. When the lower branches come into flower they cover the dying leaves.'

The Wild Garden

The same planting principles are applied in the wild garden where a naturalistic look is created by a layout of wide, sweeping paths. Sally stresses the importance of keeping the lower tree branches raised to retain the view and create an airy feel while giving protection from the wind. The resulting light allows bulbs and later perennials to thrive in the long grass under the trees.



Eric & Sally's Top Tips

● Sally works on a simple principle she learnt as a child. 'My father used to say that the best toy we had as a child was a Brio building set. You build something and take it down. It's the same in gardening you can make changes as you go along.'

● Prepare beds well from the start. Perennial weeds such as ground elder were eliminated by laying heavy black plastic on beds for a year before planting.

● Bulbs are planted deep into the subsoil of this free-draining ground, a technique she cautions might not work on heavy clay. 'We plant deep towards the back of the border where emerging leaves of perennials and shrub foliage hides the dying bulb foliage.' At Willowhill many of the tulips flower for several seasons with the exception of single varieties, such as 'Ballerina'.

The Queen of

Wisteria sinensis cloaks a sunny patio terrace – the flowers are highly fragrant and appear before the leaves. They're also spectacular over a pergola or formally trained against a wall

Climbers

Long, luxuriant racemes of fragrant pea-like flowers hang in regal masses, there is no doubt that wisteria are the royalty of climbing plants. We share wisteria wisdom and show that it's not just for walls

There are plants that are easy-going and hassle-free, and then there are the awkward squad, wayward beauties like wisteria that need understanding and a firm hand. It is a small price to pay for one of spring's most beautiful sights, a profusion of fragrant, pea-like flowers suspended in long bunches before the greenish bronze leaves have time to fully unfurl. Occasionally in autumn, each cluster of flowers is replaced by a single, velvety, bean-like pod that dries well, a handsome addition to dried flower arrangements. ►

7-page
WISTERIA
SPECIAL



Wisteria sinensis 'Alba' is less vigorous than the type, perfect for training into a standard tree

One thing is certain, wisteria has some quirky traits. Japanese varieties, for example, twine in an anti-clockwise direction whereas Chinese ones travel clock-wise. Then there is the antisocial behaviour — the unlicensed invasion of roof spaces, or toppling of weak supports.



Many wisterias develop long, green velvety seed pods by autumn

The seedpods even cause minor eruptions when, if warmed, they explode, scattering small black seeds far and wide. Over the years, there have been reports of people startled

by muffled bursts from overhead, or awoken at night by sounds resembling an air rifle. A flower arranger recalls finding her cat crouched terrified in a corner, hiding from the flying seeds.

Despite its alarming means of seed dispersal, wisteria has long been revered in Japan and China, the subject of flower viewing parties 1,000 years ago, and appearing in paintings. Its Chinese name is 'Zu Teng' which translates as 'Blue Vine' — similar to the German name 'Blaue Regan', or 'Blue Rain'. It was not until the early 1800s that an Englishman, Captain Welbank, brought seeds back from China, after attending a dinner party beneath a pergola dripping in wisteria flowers. Britain's oldest wisteria is thought to be at the Fuller's Brewery in west London, where it was planted in 1816.

Not Just for Walls

Wisterias are deciduous, twining climbing plants with sweetly scented flowers that come in shades of white, purple, blue or pink. They all flower in late spring, and a few repeat flower sparsely in late summer.

The wisteria family comprises about ten species,

but the most commonly found are *Wisteria sinensis* (Chinese wisteria), *Wisteria floribunda* (Japanese wisteria), *Wisteria brachybotrys* (silky wisteria) and *Wisteria x formosa* (a cross between floribunda and sinensis). There are more varieties of Japanese species

than the others, and they usually have longer bunches of flowers (known as 'racemes').

Wisterias with long bunches of flowers such as *Wisteria floribunda* 'Multijuga' (a Japanese wisteria with flower bunches up to 4ft (1.2m) long), are shown at

their best on structures such as pergolas or arches, where the long racemes hang free.

Others, such as *W. sinensis*, are ideally grown on a wall, trained onto horizontal support wires of 1/8in (3mm) galvanised steel set at 12in (30cm) intervals and secured by screwed vine eyes.



How to Guarantee Wisteria Flowers



Much has been written about the problems of wisterias not flowering. In many cases, these are plants grown from seed which can take up to several decades to bloom, as opposed to grafted plants which typically flower within three years. Look for the graft union which is easily recognised as a bulge near the base of the stem.

There are also seasonal causes — flower buds can be damaged during frosty periods causing them to blacken before opening. The flower buds are formed in late summer, so position plants in a sheltered position in a south or south-west facing position, never east or north. A restricted root-run is also believed to encourage better flowering.

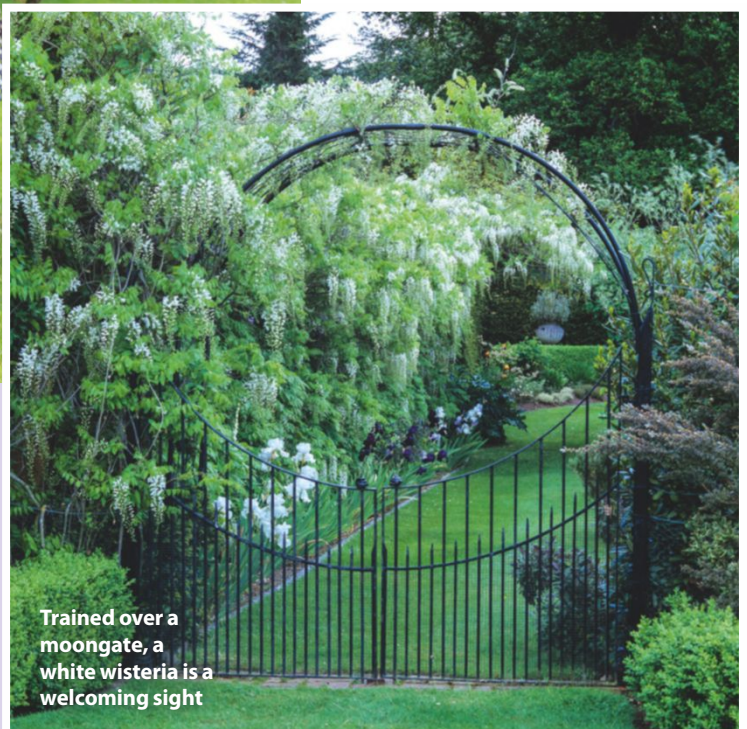


Few people will have space for more than one wisteria, so make sure it's a top quality plant and one of the best forms – see over the page our top 10 wisterias

As you'll see in our list of Top 10 wisterias over the page, *W. brachybotrys* – the silky wisteria – is an ideal wisteria to train into a standard on a support post where its highly scented flowers can be appreciated more easily.

If you have a large tree and plenty of space, you could

allow a wisteria to grow through it. Within a few years it will make a magnificent show every May and June, and it won't need pruning. Be warned, if the climber is on the boundary line adjacent to neighbouring gardens, it will rampage across every garden and up the street if you let it.



Trained over a moongate, a white wisteria is a welcoming sight

Continued overleaf

Top Ten Wisterias

1

Wisteria floribunda 'Kuchi-Beni' has pale pink mauve, richly fragrant flowers tipped with purple, hanging in 16in (40cm) long bunches. Leaves turn yellow in autumn

Growing in Containers

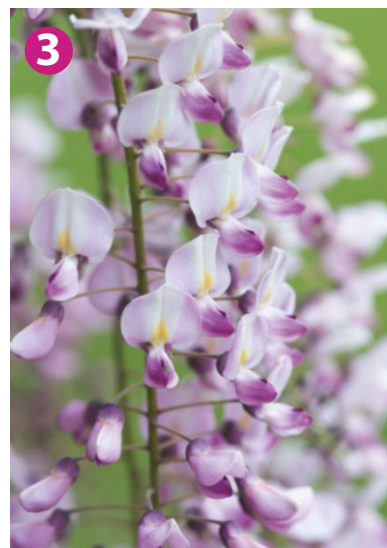
Wisterias can be raised in containers and trained into standards. Choose a large tub, at least 18in (45cm) in diameter filled with John Innes No3 compost. Feed plants with liquid tomato feed during mid spring and again in summer or add a slow release fertiliser at planting time.

2



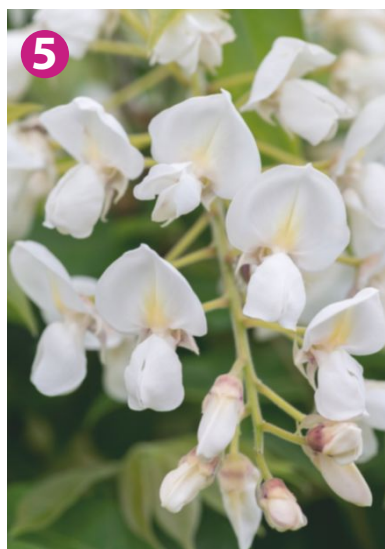
Wisteria x formosa produces violet blue flowers with white and yellow markings, in 9in (25cm) long racemes that open all at once

3



Wisteria floribunda 'Rosea' AGM ('Hon-beni') has very fragrant, pale flowers tipped with purple, on 2ft (60cm) long racemes

5



Wisteria brachybotrys 'Shiro-kapitan' AGM Quick to flower after planting, it bears short, stubby bunches of highly scented flowers

6



Wisteria floribunda 'Multijuga' AGM (formerly 'Macrobotrys') has incredibly long, 3ft 3in (1m), slender racemes of very fragrant lilac-blue blooms

8



Wisteria sinensis 'Amethyst' AGM bears fragrant violet blue flowers, flushed red, in dense 12in (30cm) long racemes before the leaves appear

9



Wisteria brachybotrys 'Showa-beni' AGM the strongest pink you will find, it has short hanging sprays of scented flowers

How to Train a Wisteria as a Standard

7-page
WISTERIA
SPECIAL



Wisteria 'Burford' AGM produces 3ft (90cm) long racemes of purple and blue flowers that are heavily scented



Wisteria floribunda 'Alba' AGM (also known as 'Shiro-noda') bears elegant, 2ft (60cm) long clusters of fragrant white flowers



Wisteria floribunda 'Violacea Plena' AGM has deep purple scented double flowers held in short, full bunches

Standards look like small trees, all that is needed is a stout stake



Standard wisterias look lovely grown in a large pot, or as stand-alone specimens in a bed or border. They take a few years to train, but become more beautiful as they mature, and are well worth the effort

✿ Taking a young, single-stemmed wisteria, plant either in the ground or pot, alongside a 4-5ft (1.2-1.6m) tall support. The height of the support dictates the height of the stem, also known as the central leader.

✿ Prior to planting, drench the wisteria with water, loosening the rootball and teasing out the roots. Ensure it is planted to the same depth as in its original pot.

✿ Train the stem to the support, using expandable rubber ties.

✿ Guide the main, central leader until it reaches the top of the support, nipping out the tip in



Wisteria x formosa is delightful, opening its flowers all at once in early summer

late winter to encourage lateral sideshoots to form.

✿ Then, each winter, trim back the sideshoots to no more than 12in (30cm), gradually building up the head of the standard.

✿ As the head develops, it will need pruning in both summer and winter, according to the regime for mature plants.

**SAVE
UP TO
26%**



Join Rewards at womansweekly.com/rewards

0330 333 1113 Quote code: **11XD**
Lines open 7 days a week, from 8am-9pm (UK time)

Please also notify us.

10.95 payable by 3 months Direct Debit. The price is guaranteed for the first 12 months and we will notify you in advance of any price changes. Offer open to new subscribers only. Direct Debit offer is available to UK subscribers only. Please allow up to 4 weeks for delivery of your first subscription (up to 8 weeks overseas). The full subscription rate includes postage and packaging. If the magazine ordered changes frequency per annum, we will honour the number of issues paid for, but not the term of the subscription. Offer closes 30 September 2017. For full terms and conditions, visit www.magazinesdirect.co.uk/terms. For enquiries from the UK, please call 0330 333 4333. For enquiries from overseas, please call 01203 639991. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery of your first issue. We will be happy to provide you with more information to process your order. **Woman's Weekly** and **Time Inc. (UK)** Ltd would like to contact you by post or telephone to promote and ask your opinion on our magazines and services. Please tick here if you prefer not to hear from us. ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No, please do not contact me. **Time Inc. (UK)** Ltd may occasionally pass your details to carefully selected organisations so that they can contact you by telephone or post with regards to promoting and researching their products and services. Please tick here if you agree to this. ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No, please do not contact me. **Time Inc. (UK)** Ltd would like to email you with offers from carefully selected organisations and brands, promoting and researching their products and services. If you want to receive these offers, please tick here ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No, please do not contact me.



Wisteria sinensis flowers can be seen easily when trained against a wall

Growing tips

Wisterias are not difficult plants to grow, but for the best flowering, there are a few golden rules ...

How to Prune

Regular pruning does not only keep both growth and size under control, but also improves the flowering display. Wisterias are pruned twice a year — in summer after flowering, and in winter. Since the flowers develop on the previous year's growth, the long shoots that develop in spring and summer after flowering should be pruned back to five or six leaves from the main branch.

This pruning not only keeps the plant within its allotted space, but also develops a framework of short stems on which the following year's flowers will hang, close to the structure. Leaving any spent flowers results in seedpods developing. Then, in winter, after the leaves have fallen and the plant is dormant, tidy up any

long, wayward shoots, and cut back the same leaf stems further so that each sports between three and five buds. Reducing the stems' length not only directs the plant's energy into producing flowers, rather than leaves, but also ensures the flowers are not obscured by foliage.



Take whippy summer shoots back to about five leaves, then reduce again to three buds in winter

Keep the secateurs handy

Once a wisteria is happily established, it will send forth shoots that can easily grow 10ft (3m) or more in a single season. These are no weak whips, but rampant shoots that scale drainpipes, forcing their way under eaves and beneath roof tiles. Unchecked, a wisteria needs but a few years to engulf a cottage, an impenetrable mass of shoots and foliage that contentedly clambers over and coils around all in its path. Life without doors or windows is not for everyone, so a wisteria needs to have a pruning regime from the very outset.

● As the plant develops, secure to its support with expandable ties. At the same time, remove any root suckers from the trunk.

● The removal of unwanted growth in summer is essential to allow free air circulation as well as enabling more sunlight to reach the base of young growths which fosters ripening of the wood, thereby encouraging the formation of flower buds.

● Flower buds form on wisterias during late summer, so water well during dry spells.

● Choose mature named varieties grown from cuttings or by grafting, preferably whilst in flower, to ensure reliable future flowering.

● Wisterias need sufficient sunlight to flower well — not less than six hours a day. Ideally, plant in a south- or west-facing position, sheltered from sharp spring frosts. Cover with fleece if frost is forecast.

● Wisterias are not too fussy about soil type, provided it is moist and well-drained. Prepare a planting hole 3ft 3in (1m) wide and 15in (40cm) deep, adding plenty of well rotted organic matter such as home-made compost adding grit in heavy soils.

● Plant at least 15in (40cm) away from a wall to ensure the wisteria stem is watered by falling rain.

● Avoid fertilisers high in nitrogen — these encourage excessive foliage growth to the detriment of flowering — in favour of feeding in spring with Growmore or a slow release feed such as Blood, Fish and Bone.

● Never plant a wisteria without having first prepared a sturdy support capable of carrying a mature plant that could stretch up to 32ft (10m) in every direction.



Wisterias prefer a sunny, protected spot

● Wisteria scale is a pest to look out for, particularly in London and the surrounding area, causing die back. Check stems in late spring, prior to flowering, for tell-tale signs of dark brown scales with a whitish dusting. Spray in late May and June as the nymphs are hatching with either a systemic insecticide (Bug Clear Ultra) or organic spray (Bayer Bug Free), but several applications will be needed. Do not use during flowering to avoid harming insects.

● The small black seeds are poisonous, remove faded flowerheads if children use the garden.

DESIGNER
GARDENS
IDEAS TO COPY



Get the Designer Look

Who doesn't want a bit of extra inspiration for the design of their garden? So we've had a look at five stunning garden exhibits from last year's shows and asked the designers who created them what inspires them



The annual gardening shows at Chelsea, Hampton Court and Tatton Park are a rich source of ideas, a mix of cutting edge design with beautiful plants. Each year, the show gardens are imaginative and varied, drawing on styles as diverse as cottage garden, oriental, woodland, contemporary or Arts and Crafts. Many feature schemes or planting combinations that can be adapted at home by gardeners, and there are always new or unusual plants to marvel at.

Each year brings a different plant fad, some one-hit-wonders, others enduring. After alliums, foxgloves came in from the cold, nothing fancy at first, just common varieties in white or purple, reminiscent of Beatrix Potter's illustrations. Today, Chelsea would not be Chelsea without foxgloves around every corner, and Hampton Court would be bereft without yellow spikes of the unpronounceable *Ligularia przewalskii* 'The Rocket'. Plant fashions walk hand-in-glove with planting styles. Around the millennium, a wildflower meadow appeared. It was sensational, and each year since seems to bring more cow parsley-like perennials. Naturalistic, prairie style planting never looked back after Piet Oudolf and Arne Maynard's millennium show garden.

The designers are a hardy breed, combining the staying power of a marathon runner with a Blitz spirit that survives even the extremes of the British weather. When a heatwave threatened her flag irises, Bunny Guinness bound each bud in tissue and string: as late frosts struck, out came hairdryers to coax open tightly-shut buds: and everyone manned the pumps when a cloudburst caused flash floods at Hampton Court.

Behind the dramas and headlines, designers continue to come up with a stream of ideas, and it's amazing how they find such inspiration. For many, it comes from a passion for plants and the desire to create a perfect environment in which they can thrive. For others, it comes from the world's great gardening styles, and the traditions that have shaped them. Diarmuid Gavin believes that inspiration is all around, in the everyday. 'You don't go out searching for inspiration — it's about having a heightened sense of awareness.' He draws inspiration from historic gardens but, in contrast, will introduce a Roald Dahl character like Willy Wonka. Other designers, such as Hay-Joung Hwang incorporate new technology into outdoor spaces. Nature, however, remains an enduring influence, and lies behind Cleve West's evocative design which was inspired by the rugged rocks and woodland of Exmoor. ►

British designers have been using traditional plants, and some are incorporating a more diverse palette

Designer ideas to re-create at home



EDGING PLANTS FOR PARTIAL SHADE

A pebble-and-stone path winds through the trees, with views to each side. 'When the tree trunks are broad, orchestrating the views through a garden is challenging,' says Cleve. Plants soften the edges — there's London's pride, ferns, hardy geraniums, alpine *Anemone magellanica* and pretty phlox. Cleve chooses his plants with huge care, often introducing relative unknowns such as golden Alexander and Scot's lovage.



Cleve West

'I recall a particular moment as a teenager, when I discovered an oak woodland — it was like an enchanted forest'

Tranquil and calming

The combination of mature trees and outcrops of sandstone interspersed with plants cannot fail to evoke a mood that is tranquil and calming. This is in part due to a variety of choice plants that emphasises the myriad shades and textures to be found in foliage. A modest smattering of flowers — white campion and anemones, geum, euphorbia, blue phlox and yellow foxgloves — add splashes of colour. The planting style is naturalistic, using familiar or rarer plants.



For partial shade: *Geum* 'Savannah Sunset', *Ranunculus* 'Flore Pleno' and *Omphalodes cappadocica* 'Cherry Ingram'

A Woodland Path

Designed by Cleve West

Nature and gardens are inseparable, but when the inspiration comes from a landscape as magnificent as Exmoor's, it is the essence and mood — rather than the faithful reproduction of individual elements — that a designer wants to evoke. 'I recall a particular moment as a teenager, when I discovered an oak woodland — it was like an enchanted forest,' explains Cleve. 'I wanted to capture the spirit of that moment in a contemporary garden. It is all about atmosphere.'

Signature plants



Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*), a short-lived perennial with yellow, cow parsley-like heads

▲ Scot's lovage (*Ligusticum scoticum*), a clump-forming perennial with glossy leaves and umbels of tiny white flowers followed by golden seed heads

SUPPLIERS

Designer: Cleve West Gardens. clevewest.com
Scot's lovage seed: plant-world-seeds.com
Tel 01803 872939
Golden Alexanders: email brighton.plants@gmail.com Tel 07955 744 802

INDOOR-OUTDOOR IDEA

Hay-Joung's design is based on creating a 23ft x 30ft (7m x 9m) space that is both comfortable as well as protected from the elements. A cantilevered pergola is suspended over the dining table and draped with wisteria, adding height to the plot, whilst also giving some protection. Nearby is a mature magnolia, adding stature along with shade. The floor is built from strips of brushed limestone in creamy pink tones contrasted with darker sections of stone.



The Smart Garden

Designed by Hay-Joung Hwang

Technology meets flower power in Hay-Joung's contemporary garden design. A smartphone not only monitors the moisture content and nutrient quality of the soil via bluetooth-enabled sensors, but also controls the automatic irrigation and lighting. 'Lighting is one of the most important components in the garden for creating a warm and cosy atmosphere at night,' says Hay-Joung. 'You can also add lanterns and fairy lights.'

Signature plants



Digitalis purpurea ▶ var. 'Alba', a white foxglove that is a 'must' in any cottage style border, and is loved by bees and butterflies

◀ ***Iris sibirica*** 'Tamberg', a delicate Siberian iris with flowers that, from a distance, resemble groups of dancing butterflies



SUPPLIERS

Foxgloves: chiltern-seeds.co.uk
Iris: kelways.co.uk
Designer: Hay-Joung Design.
Landscape Architecture: randlesiddleley.co.uk
Paving: ashfieldgroup.com
LG Electronics: lg.come.uk



Hay-Joung Hwang

Scandinavian 'cool'

Hay-Joung's style is a blend of Scandinavian 'cool' with a Zen feeling of tranquillity. The sense of calm is further highlighted by flowers in soft pastel shades — foxgloves, roses, aquilegias, irises, bistort (*Persicaria bistorta* 'Superba' and sweet rocket (hesperis) interspersed with stipa and briza grasses. 'I have used flowers with soft textures and delicate petals, harmonising the colours — I wouldn't use contrasting colours to achieve such a romantic look,' says Hay-Joung. The furniture is also light coloured, blending in well amongst the planting. 'Light coloured wood also complements place settings in a wide range of colours,' she adds.

'I have used flowers with soft textures and delicate petals, harmonising the colours'

A Very British Garden

Designed by Diarmuid Gavin

By and large, gardening is a serious business, the plants more likely to cause tears than mirth. Diarmuid Gavin says, 'Gardens are steeped in tradition and, especially in turbulent times, they provide reassurance or an escape, but are not places for sorrow or humour'. Diarmuid is a designer known for his unconventional approach. Even as a child, he was drawn to a neighbour's gnome garden. 'Most other people turned away, but I loved its eccentricity and humour,' he recalls.

How to use Summer Perennials

Behind the humour is a thoughtful design that incorporates a patio with seating area engulfed in flower beds filled with perennials. Viewed from several sides, the borders are carefully balanced with a mix of plants that fulfil different roles within the scheme. Orange foxtail lilies stand tall alongside foxgloves, adding drama. Body is injected by clumps of hardy geraniums such as G. 'Mrs Kendall Clarke'. Long-lasting, mid-height plants include red *Penstemon* 'Garnet' and the bushy pink-flowered *Rosa* 'Ballerina'. Then the 'glue' that holds everything together is white lace flower, *Orlaya grandiflora*, which is woven throughout. Finally, adding an element of control, there are bay trees and box balls.

Signature plants

• The foxtail lily ►
(*Eremurus x isabellinus*
'Pinokkio'), sends
• up tall elegant
• flowerspikes
• crowded with
• rusty orange buds
• that open to
• golden yellow



▲ *Rosa* 'Ballerina' is a
small bushy shrub with
large sprays of white-
centred, small pink
flowers that bloom from
summer into autumn



SUPPLIERS

Roses:
classicroses.co.uk
Herbaceous plants:
hardys-plants.co.uk
Designer:
diarmuidgavin
designs.co.uk

'It represents things I really appreciate in British culture — humour, inventiveness and eccentricity'



Diarmuid Gavin

▲ ELEMENTS OF SURPRISE

Eccentricity and humour are elements that Diarmuid introduced at last year's Chelsea Flower Show. Inspired by the cartoons of William Heath Robinson depicting absurd mechanical contraptions, his design is a wacky combination of beautiful planting — helped by distinguished plantswoman Helen Dillon — with special effects such as box balls pirouetting amidst floral drifts, escalating window boxes and twirling bay trees. 'It represents things I really appreciate in British culture — humour, inventiveness and eccentricity,' he says. 'I've always been delighted by an element of surprise — it's a part of me that's never truly grown up.'

CREATING PRIVACY IN AN URBAN PLOT

The hedges on two sides of the 20ft sq (6m sq) garden are tall privet; if left unclipped, it bears sweet-smelling summer blooms. Around the seating area there is a low hedge of Christmas box (*Sarcococca confusa*), an evergreen shrub bearing scented winter flowers. 'I've decided against box because there is so much box blight about,' adds Martin. On the rear boundary, hornbeams separate long sections of steel louvred panelling. 'Laid horizontally, the panelling has the effect of making the garden appear wider.'

Martin Royer

An Urban Sanctuary

Designed by Martin Royer

Martin Royer's design combines contemporary style with easy-going plants that create maximum interest with minimal fuss. The planting centres around an orange and purple-blue colour scheme with achillea, verbascum and geum intermingling with perovskia, salvias and linaria. Most of the plants are drought tolerant, especially the two ornamental grasses — feather reed and wavy-hair grass. A layer of gravel around borders suppresses weeds and conserves moisture. The vitrified paving is low maintenance too — it absorbs virtually no moisture, so is non-slip and algae-resistant.

'I've decided against box because there is so much box blight about — the low hedge is Christmas box'

The sound of water

Especially welcome in an urban environment, a constant flow of water muffles extraneous sounds as it splashes into a broad, shallow steel bowl. A cedar plinth is drilled so that a water pipe runs up inside the wood and projects through a steel pipe. A galvanised bucket, which doubles as a sump, is submerged into the ground beneath the bowl. There is an electric pump, connected to the power via armoured cable laid underground. 'Always use a qualified electrician,' warns Martin.

The water feature muffles extraneous sounds

Signature plants

Achillea 'Terracotta', a perennial yarrow with terracotta flowers that fade to soft yellow in autumn. Drought-tolerant and resilient

◀ **Verbascum 'Clementine'**, an elegant perennial mullein with bright orange flowers that forms lovely clumps amidst grasses

SUPPLIERS

Designer: martinroyer.co.uk
Landscaping: final-5.co.uk
Paving: stonemarket.co.uk

Continued overleaf

**Woman's
Weekly**
FICTION SERIES

7 Page Touching
Frontier Tale

March 2017

Your
No.1
Short Story
Magazine!

Fiction

Relaxing Reading!

20 Fabulous
Stories

*To Keep You
Entertained!*

'I Love A Puzzle!'

Says Bestselling Novelist
Sarah
Pinborough

Packed With
✓ Romance
✓ Mystery
✓ Comedy

PLUS
COFFEE
BREAK
PUZZLES

'In The Wings'
9-Page Story
Set In
London's
Music Halls

Only
£1.99

On Sale Now!

A Summer Retreat

Designed by Amanda Waring & Laura Arison

'It's an achievable design that could easily be replicated in either a smaller or larger scale'



Amanda Waring and Laura Arison

It is the Arts and Crafts movement that inspired Amanda Waring and Laura Arison's design for a summer retreat, a quiet enclosed space to garden, relax and entertain. 'It combines simplicity, elegance, style, the beauty of nature and high standards of craftsmanship,' says Laura. The layout of the 30ft x 19ft (9m x 6m) space is simple with an interconnecting series of orderly geometric shapes in the form of hedges, paths, seating areas and a summerhouse. 'It's an achievable design that could easily be replicated in either a smaller or larger scale,' points out Laura.

Enclosed space

Structure plays an important part, with boundary walls constructed from natural stone that is softened by lengths of hornbeam hedging. There are three silver birches to add height, their canopies raised high to allow sunlight to catch the planting beneath. Raised borders — either curving or straight — are made from lengths of corten steel which contrasts pleasingly with the stone chippings.

ADDING A TAPESTRY EFFECT WITH PLANTS

Within the border, the planting style is essentially naturalistic, with plants given freedom to spread. 'It's an informal blend of contrasting colours that creates a tapestry effect,' says Laura. Soft mellow coneflowers, *Alchemilla mollis* and achilleas contrast with the hotter colours of heleniums and dahlias, but always tempered by a dense backdrop of foliage. Cottage garden favourites include delphiniums, agastache and foxgloves. All the materials used are, as far as possible, locally sourced. The

summerhouse, built by Grainstore Garden Buildings, is constructed using timber from sustainable sources. It is mounted on staddle stones, an ancient agricultural method for keeping granaries out of the reach of vermin and flooding.' This raised area also gives a different perspective of the garden whilst providing a beautiful place to sit at its very heart,' adds Laura.

Signature plants

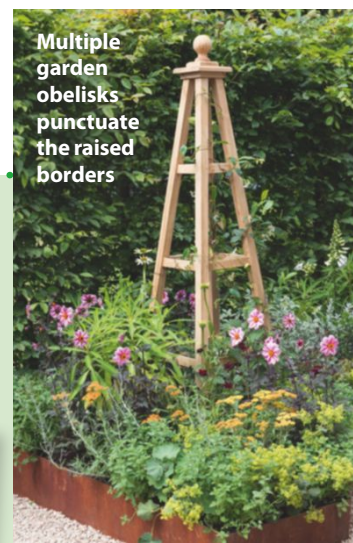


▲ **Helenium 'Moerheim Beauty'**, an upright perennial which has dark-centred, coppery red flowerheads that sing out from the back of a border

Dahlia 'Candy Eyes', a compact dahlia with dark bronze foliage and striped flowers, ideal near the front of a border, and makes long-lasting cut flowers ▼



Multiple garden obelisks punctuate the raised borders



SUPPLIERS Summerhouse: grainstoregardenbuildings.com
Stone aggregate: ced.ltd.uk
Sculpture: gilesrayner.com
Designers: lauraarison.com and cf-gd.com

Painting Perfection

Caroline Maria Applebee's stunning horticultural watercolours are now widely reproduced, but until recently, she herself was hardly known. Charlotte Brooks, Art Curator at the RHS Lindley Library, tells us more about this pioneering female painter

Caroline Maria Applebee is quite a star these days – her art works have featured in books, diaries and many other products in recent years, but for a long time our knowledge of this fascinating 19th century artist was very sketchy. Traditionally described as having come from a “wealthy family with access to greenhouses”, recent research has uncovered lots more about Applebee's interesting life.

We know she was baptised in 1787, the eldest daughter of the Rev. John Applebee, and lived in Essex. Following her father's death in 1825, she obviously inherited sufficient money to allow her to live independently, moving to no 53 Crouch Street in Colchester – a “very desirable small residence ... with large walled in gardens.” It sounds like the

perfect place to settle down for the amateur gardener that she had become: Colchester at this time was a thriving centre for horticulture, with the Colchester and Essex Botanic Gardens opening in 1823 and regular flower shows being held. Caroline herself even won 2nd prize for a potted *Eucomis punctata* at one.

Strawberries:
Hautbois, Scarlet,
White Wood,
Chili, 1809 ▼

Auricula,
1835



Fuchsia fulgens, 1840 ►



'7 Varieties of Calceolaria', 1852



Geranium translucens, 1833



This emancipated woman also soon built a strong circle of local friends with whom she attended dances and supported fundraising events. Financially secure, she was a generous benefactor, making donations to hospital funds, education projects for women, the clergy in Ireland and other local initiatives.

It was also a time when many women were beginning to explore art: guides to watercolour painting, many aimed specifically at women, became increasingly popular during the 19th century. George Brookshaw's 'A new treatise on flower painting' (1818), states: "I am much inclined to think, that ladies would sooner arrive at perfection than men, were they at first taught its proper rudiments," and set about step-by-step instruction on how to observe, compose, draw, shade and colour illustrations of plants. Caroline took it up, keen horticulturalist as she was, and was soon demonstrating great skill, producing a string of carefully composed images.

Whilst we have an idea as to how she learnt to paint, we are still left with the question of how she painted such a wide range of plants. On only one of them did she record a specific source – 'William Watson's garden, in Dawlish.' Applebee completed



Striped grass, Turk's cap lily, 1830

over 300 paintings, dated between 1808 and 1852. In her surviving works some of the most fashionable plants of the time are represented, though she identified and listed them using their common names, not the botanical Latin that we see today. Many of these 'exotic' varieties would have had to be grown under glass and although the popular gardening publications featured articles on how to care for them, glasshouses were expensive to build and maintain. Applebee clearly had access to some impressive plants that she recorded with great dedication and skill.

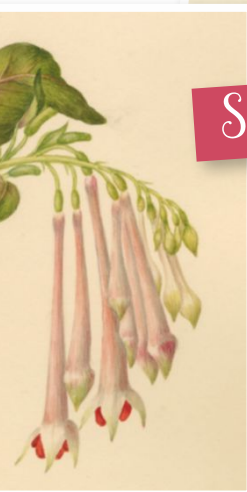


Lachenalia, 1834



See Applebee's work for yourself

The RHS Lindley Library is currently holding an exhibition of Caroline's art. 'Pigments and Petals' gives you the opportunity to see 16 original watercolours by this talented amateur flower painter, along with a digital recreation of one of her albums and fascinating books on exotic plants from the library's collection. The exhibition at the RHS Lindley Library, London, runs until 10 March 2017 and coincides with the RHS London Botanical Art Show 25-26 February (preview evening 24 Feb). For more information, opening times and tickets, visit rhs.org.uk



Ask the RHS Experts

Let our Royal Horticultural Society specialists answer
your personal gardening problems



Safe to use these woody shreddings?

Q My tree surgeons have removed a dead tree and they put the branches through their shredder. The wood is now in little pieces and would make an excellent mulch. Can I spread them around my plants now to prevent weeds?

Phillipa Cleaver, Surrey

What's this mystery find?

Q While weeding my borders today, I dug up a little glossy elongated brown shiny object – can you tell me, is this a chrysalis? Is it a pest and should I destroy it?

Kim Leclerc, London

A This is the pupa or chrysalis of a moth. Many moths pupate in the soil with an adult moth emerging later and in this case in spring or summer. The moths will, after mating, lay eggs which hatch into caterpillars that in turn pupate in the soil. There can be more than one generation each summer.

It is sometimes the case that the caterpillars will feed on shoots or roots, but it is rare for

serious damage to be reported to our RHS insect experts in our advisory service. Given the parlous state of Britain's moths, chrysalids should be spared.

If you wish to keep the chrysalis in a container such as a jam jar with a perforated lid and see what hatches before releasing the moth then you might be able to find out what the moth involved is. There are a number of excellent online identification guides - Google OPAL for a particularly good one.



A If the shreddings are from deciduous plants that lose their leaves in winter, there is seldom any adverse effect from using them as a mulch without any preliminary stacking and period of rotting. As it is very good practice to mulch in late winter, locking in winter rains

and preventing spring weeds from germinating, you could certainly get mulching now.

However, shredded conifer wood and perhaps other evergreens can release harmful levels of organic chemicals that can harm plants. Happily, these potentially harmful materials will break down naturally if the



Our neighbour planted a climber on our wall!

Q Our neighbour has grown a climber up the wall of our extension where it abuts his garden. Can he do this and if so who owns the climber?

*John and Enid McNeill,
South Yorkshire*

A As the wall belongs to you, your neighbour should not grow a climber up the wall without your permission. You are not

shreddings are stacked and left to decompose for three months. After this the shredded evergreen material is safe to use as a mulch.

If shredded material is to be used for paths for example or other uses that are not close to plants there is no need to delay using them.

obliged to give permission. If the climber or any nails or screws used to support the climber damages your wall your neighbour would be liable for the damage. If they erect, say, posts and trellis on their own land, not touching your wall, and grow climbers up them, then there should be no problem, although you might need access to the wall from time to time to

maintain it. Party wall legislation allows you access, under reasonable conditions, to maintain your wall.

Even though your neighbour's climber is growing on your wall the climber has its roots in your neighbour's land and is therefore their property. You cannot enter your neighbour's land to deal with the climber without their agreement.



Shredded deciduous trees can be used as valuable mulch without rotting first

Too late to plant bulbs?

Q Unfortunately, I was unable to plant all the bulbs I bought in the autumn due to ill health. They have been kept in my cool, dry garden shed and don't seem to have rotted or sprouted. Is it too late now or should I wait until autumn?

Cecil Knighton, London

A Bulbs require winter chilling to flower at the right time and it is getting late for this to occur now so the timing of flowering might well be a little late. Also the stems might not extend as much as they would if planted in autumn, and the flowers closer to the leaves than is normal.



However, as long as the bulbs have not rotted or sprouted excessively they will probably make a fair show and will revert to their normal flowering in future years if planted as soon as possible. Tulips seldom flower successfully in subsequent years but there is a good chance of success in the first year even if planted now. The bulbs are unlikely to remain viable through the warmth of summer until the autumn period, so it is best to plant them now, even if you have to pop them in containers if space is short or the ground is too wet for planting.

Continued overleaf

Ask the RHS Experts



Instant spring colour

Q How can I add instant colour for spring to my patio pots and tubs without spending too much money?

Joyce Broom, Nantwich

A Garden centres know that gardeners need to replenish their pots and borders in the spring and offer a wide range of inexpensive plants to do this. Particularly good value are bulbs planted in autumn in nurseries and kept in cold stores until the flower buds are triggered into growth by the chilling and then brought out and into bud in a greenhouse. By the

time they are for sale the flowers have formed. At low temperatures in the garden, these flowers, plunged to fill gaps in pots and borders can last many weeks, shrugging off frost and rain.

Once finished, and when the container or bed is replanted with summer flowers, the bulbs can be planted out in the garden to flower in subsequent years.

Dwarf bulbous irises and crocuses are particularly showy choices. Narcissi, including dwarf daffodils (above), are particularly effective, long lasting and will flower reliably the year after planting out. In fact, potted dwarf daffodils can cost less than buying the bulbs in autumn and growing them yourself.

What are these pests?

Q My house plants are covered with little wedge-shaped, pale yellow insects about 3mm long. When disturbed, they leap about. What are they and how can I get rid of them?

Clare Roper, Wolverhampton

A Glasshouse leafhoppers are the cause. They feed on the sap of plants in the same way as greenfly and whitefly. They are not fussy about their host plant, affecting a wide range of indoor plants and, in summer, outdoor ones too. They are amazingly prolific, with each generation taking a mere six weeks. Their feeding causes a pale mottling on the upper leaf



surface, eventually damaging the whole leaf. The spots join together in severe attacks, making the leaves unsightly.

Happily, unlike greenfly and whitefly they are not yet resistant to insecticides and any approved garden insecticide labelled for use on house plants and applied as directed on the label will eliminate them. Organic gardeners can use natural pyrethrum sprays.



How can I keep my poinsettia going?

Q I am told poinsettia can be kept and will flower again for next Christmas – how is this done? *Pat Treadwell, Norfolk*

A Poinsettias get a little leggy and cutting the plants back hard in April, to about 4in (10cm) encourages bushy growth. In June, repot the plant and place it in a light, cool place at about 15-18°C (60-65°F). Left to their own devices they usually flower in

spring but for Christmas flowers they must be put in a dark room or covered with a black plastic sack after 12 hours of daylight and protected from artificial light sources from November. This is because flowering and bract colouring is initiated by short winter day-length, occurring naturally in December and January. Finally, make sure they are not overwatered or get too cold – poinsettias need a constant temperature of around 18°C (55°F) to thrive and colour up well.



◀ Foliage needed for flower arrangements

Q As an enthusiastic, if novice, flower arranger, is there any easy-to-grow foliage I can produce in my garden to add to my winter flower arrangements?

Juliet Ashton, Leicestershire

A Evergreen foliage for cutting is easily grown and in many cases taking it for arranging actually takes the place of normal pruning, particularly for hedges where even Leyland cypress can provide greenery. Common shrubby plants such as the variegated *Aucuba japonica* (spotted laurel) and Portugal laurel (*Prunus lusitanica*) also respond well to being shorn for stems.

Others to try include *Eucalyptus gunnii* for its grey blue rounded juvenile leaves and variegated *Pittosporum tenuifolium* varieties.

Both respond very well to hard pruning and with eucalyptus, it is necessary to prevent the rather dull adult leaves.

Some evergreens have the bonus of fragrant winter flowers, such as *Viburnum tinus*, and sarcococca (Christmas box), shown left.

Butcher's broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*) has peculiar leaf-like 'cladophylls', that are actually stems and on female plants, bright red berries are borne in summer and autumn, shown left.



When to re-pot?

Q Some of my terracotta pots with shrubs have broken in the frost. Is it safe to repot them now?

Theresa Joplin, Manchester

A Careful repotting now is likely to be successful. In winter, the roots of evergreen plants are metabolising at a very low rate and repotting will not cause them any harm.

Woody plants (trees, shrubs and climbers) in pots are often best repotted every other year to refresh the root environment. As potting compost ages it loses its structure and water drains less easily leading to stressed roots with insufficient air. Plants are vulnerable to root disease when drainage is poor.

Although repotting into a slightly larger pot, say 8cm (3in) in diameter wider, encourages plants to grow, it is possible to use the same sized pot after removing a third of the old roots and old compost using a sharp stick and replacing with fresh.

Some terracotta pots are guaranteed to be frost proof, but if in doubt place the pots, wrapped in bubble polythene, against the house wall during frosts.

Dispute over a boundary tree

Q My neighbour and I are in dispute over who owns a tree that is right on our boundary, and therefore who has the right to retain or fell it. My neighbour wants it gone, but I depend on it for privacy in my garden. How can you tell who is the owner?

Neil Harvey, Liverpool

A Ownership of a tree depends on the position of the exact centre of the trunk at ground level. It is sometimes the case that this is plumb in the middle of the boundary and in such circumstances you and your neighbour will be joint owners and must strive to come to an agreement. More often, however, the centre of the trunk at ground level will be

slightly to one side of the boundary, even though the tree may well have grown up the centre of the boundary line or indeed slightly to one side, during the course of its life.

There are few things worth falling out over with one's neighbours, and an accommodation will keep the peace, avoid later acrimony and prevent lawyers getting rich at your expense. Perhaps a good tree surgeon could advise on remedial work that retains your privacy but placates your neighbour.



The **knitting** NETWORK

The **NEW** website for **Woman's Weekly** patterns

Crochet for the kids!

For 100s of quality knitting and crochet patterns visit theknittingnetwork.co.uk/tkn



Kids Mermaid Tail Blanket Crochet Pattern £3.99
Code WCD063
To fit ages 3-5 (6-10) years



Baby Christening Set Crochet Patterns £4.99 **Code WBD013**
Measurements: To fit ages 3-6 (6-12) (12-24) months



Teddy Bear Crochet Pattern £2.99
Code WTD090
Measures: Approximately 53cm/21in tall



Baby Set With Blanket And Duck Toy Crochet Patterns £3.99 **Code WBD047**
Jacket And Hat: To fit ages 0-3 (6-9) (12-18) (24-36) months. Blanket: measures 70 x 90cm / 27½ x 35½in. Duck: measures approximately 19cm / 7½in along body and 17cm / 6½in tall.



Baby Blanket Hat And Jacket Crochet Patterns £4.99
Code WBD006
Jacket and hat: To fit ages 0-3 (6-9) (9-12) (12-18) months
Blanket: 70.5 x 90.5cm / 27½ x 35½in



Vintage Jacket Kids Crochet Pattern £2.99
Code WCD001
Measurements: To fit chest sizes 41 (46) (51-56) cm / 16 (18) (20-22) in



Piggy Bank Crochet Pattern £2.99 **Code WTD076**
Measurements: Approximately 23cm / 9in long



Hen Make Crochet Pattern £2.99 **Code WTD017**
Measurements: Approximately 27cm / 10½in tall measured from base to top of comb

Register on theknittingnetwork.co.uk/tkn for our newsletter full of news, offers and tips

How to Order

The **knitting** NETWORK

DOWNLOAD YOUR DIGITAL PATTERNS NOW

Visit our website

theknittingnetwork.co.uk/tkn

You can buy, download and print a digital PDF version of any pattern on **The Knitting Network** website, instantly.

GET YOUR PATTERNS DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR

Call 0800 024 1212* quote LV04 or fill in the coupon below

Each pattern will be printed on A4 card and posted to you at an additional cost of £1.99 (first class postage).

Terms and conditions: The yarn(s) and the shade(s) quoted in these patterns were available when the designs were created. As we are unable to guarantee the availability of the yarn, where possible we have specified standard weights. However, if an alternative yarn is used, the yarn amounts may differ. For a perfect result, we recommend to always check your tension.

This offer closes on 7 April 2017 and is subject to availability to readers in the UK, offers cannot be used in conjunction with other promotions, prices are correct at the time of printing. If you do not have the facility at home to print our downloadable knitting patterns you can call or fill in the coupon attached and pay an additional £1.99 for printing and delivery. Charge only applies to patterns delivered by post. Items will be despatched within 2-5 days once payment has cleared. You'll be notified if a longer delay is expected.

All correspondence concerning this offer should be sent to **The Knitting Network Patterns, Offer LV04 Time Inc, Customer Care, 5 Churchill Place, 2nd Floor, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HU**. Or call 0800 024 1212*.

* Telephone lines are open Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm, but closed on bank holidays. Calls are free of charge from all consumer landlines and mobile phones.

PLEASE FILL IN THE COUPON - Payment must be made by cheque, sent with the coupon to the address provided

To: The Knitting Network Patterns, Offer LV04 Time Inc, Customer Care, 5 Churchill Place, 2nd Floor, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HU

I enclose a cheque (no cash, please) made payable to **'The Knitting Network'** for the sum of

£ (please write your name and address clearly on the back of your cheque)

Mrs / Miss / Ms / Mr (delete as appropriate)

First Name

Last Name

Address

Postcode

Daytime tel no (incl code)

Email address

Pattern Code	Product Name	Price	Qty	Total
WCD063	Kids Mermaid Tail Blanket Crochet Pattern	£3.99		
WBD013	Baby Christening Set Crochet Patterns	£4.99		
WTD090	Teddy Bear Crochet Pattern	£2.99		
WBD047	Baby Set With Blanket And Duck Toy Crochet Patterns	£3.99		
WBD006	Baby Blanket Hat And Jacket Crochet Patterns	£4.99		
WCD001	Vintage Jacket Kids Crochet Pattern	£2.99		
WTD076	Piggy Bank Crochet Pattern	£2.99		
WTD017	Hen Make Crochet Pattern	£2.99		


By providing your details, you agree to be contacted by Time Inc. (UK) Ltd and its group companies, home of **The Knitting Network**, **Woman's Weekly** and other iconic brands. We'll only contact you about things we think you'll be interested in, like special offers and the latest updates. Please tick here if you DO NOT wish to receive these messages by email ☐ by post and/or telephone ☐.

First class postage
£1.99
TOTAL £



Herbal Highs

Herb gardens are not only beautiful and fragrant, they are a place to calm the mind. And to display your herbs to best effect, why not take inspiration from the garden Jekka McVicar created for London's St John's Hospice?



Symmetrical in shape, the garden is filled with researched-based plants known to be beneficial to health. A water feature and thyme bed create a focal point

It's for good reason that Jekka McVicar is dubbed the 'Queen of Herbs'. Not only has she promoted herbs as beautiful garden plants, but along the way she has revealed their many culinary, medicinal and therapeutic benefits. 'Herbs are wonderfully diverse, useful plants, coming in all colours, shapes, sizes and textures, she points out. 'Many are beneficial for health and mental wellbeing and,

at a time when we are constantly bombarded by the phone, internet or media, a garden of aromatic herbs is one place you can find a few moments of peace.'

Not surprisingly, Jekka closely follows ongoing scientific research into the properties of plants. Rosemary, according to recent trials, improves memory, whilst flax seeds are rich in phytoestrogens, a possible alternative to hormone

replacement therapy. 'What's really fascinating is that Italian biochemists have discovered that woad, an ancient source of blue dye, has greater cancer inhibiting properties than broccoli.

So many herbs have multiple uses,' she adds. For example, common-or-garden thyme is so much more than a ground cover plant. 'It's also a natural antiseptic and great with potatoes.' ►



◀ Thyme is a useful culinary and medical herb and features in a herb circle in the centre of the garden

It is a thyme bed that Jekka placed at the heart of a tranquil modern Apothecary's Garden created for St John's Hospice,

London. Filled with plants chosen for their scent, colour and texture, many have also been the subject of medical research into their healing properties. 'In Ayurvedic medicine, if you are poorly, the doctors suggest sitting in a herb garden because being surrounded by the scents of the plants has a calming effect, and lifts the spirits,' she explains. Inspired by conversations with doctors about the benefits of medicinal plants and gardens, Jekka's design was showcased at last year's Chelsea Flower Show.



The Apothecary's Garden



▲ Foxgloves vie for attention from bees and other beneficial pollinators. In June they add height and elegance to any garden



Hawthorn berries make good jelly

Demonstrating the links between nature and medicine, Jekka's Apothecary's Garden highlights her belief that a herb is any plant with roots, leaves, flowers, scents or flavours that are useful. Designed around a circular path, the garden's perimeter areas are planted as a

herb ley which, as a natural alternative to the monoculture of a traditional lawn, is filled with grasses and native herbs such as plantain, yarrow, sorrel, St John's Wort and oregano. 'Left unmown, flowers will develop, attracting pollinators and fostering biodiversity,' explains Jekka.

Trees mark the boundary and include hawthorn, a small tree with attractive leaves, flowers and berries that especially resonates with Jekka. 'I'm Somerset born and bred and, as a child, we were given the leaves to eat,' she recalls. Research shows that hawthorn extract strengthens the heart. 'And the berries are brilliant for the birds, and make a good jelly.'



**Renowned
herbalist Jekka
McVicar has
been growing
herbs for 30 years**

How Jekka's fascination grew

Jekka's interest in herbs can be traced back to her childhood. 'My mother was always using herbs,' she recalls. However, it was as a young mum herself that the defining moment came when a friend called, and asked to pick a sprig of French tarragon. 'This was a herb you couldn't buy anywhere and, being stuck at home with two toddlers, I realised that growing and selling fresh herbs was something I could do,' she says.

That was 30 years ago, and in the intervening years Jekka and her husband, Mac, have established a herb farm near Bristol which, starting with just 25 different herbs, now boasts more than 650. It houses the UK's largest collection of culinary herbs in a series of raised beds, Jekka's so-called 'Herbetum' which has its roots in an RHS Council meeting alongside fellow members who boasted arboretums, pinetums or rosetums. 'It made my herb farm sound very unsexy, so when I discovered that 'etum' tacked onto a word meant 'collection', I thought, why not create an 'Herbetum?' she explains.

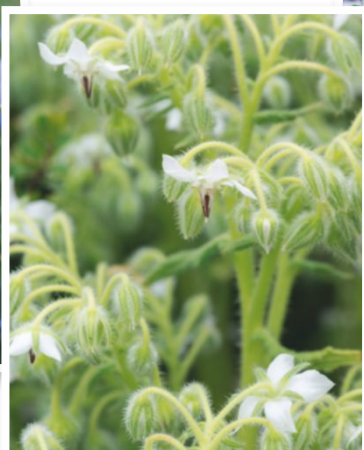
Jekka has designed many herb gardens, and knows only too well that herbs can be thuggish. 'Many herbs have been in cultivation for several thousand years, and naturally behave badly, but that's part of their charm. Remember that herbs are to be used, and don't be afraid to cut them back.'

'Rosemary, according to recent trials, improves memory'

**Rosemary is a handy
herb to have growing
near the kitchen**



▲ **Linum perenne** – flax seeds are a food and medicine



◀ **Borage** readily self seeds and is a magnet to bees





Design a Herb Bed

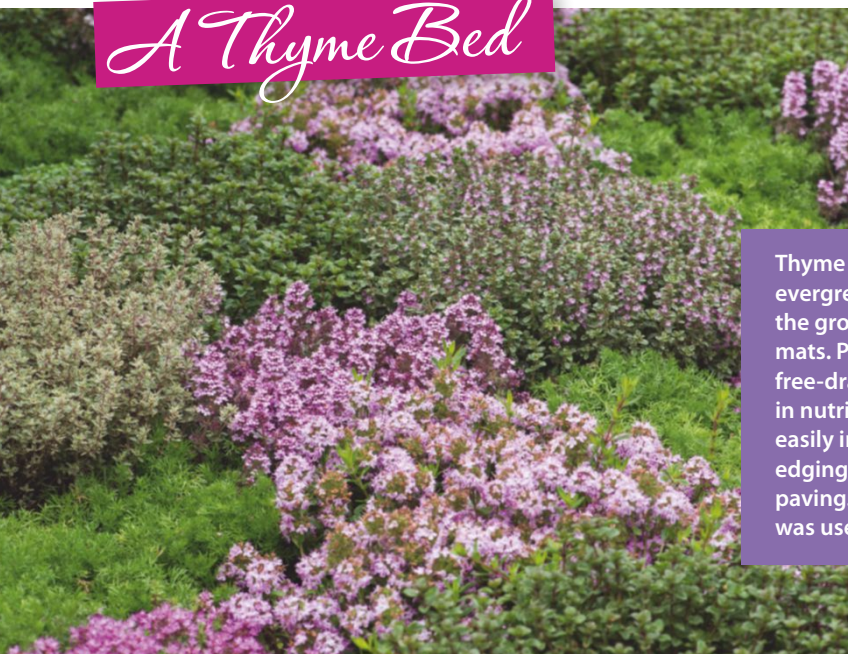
When planning a herb garden, consider the elements Jekka uses to make it a tranquil space, such as scent, water, and a myriad of textures

Before planting herb garden, identify the its purpose. 'Is it designed as a retreat away from the house, as a scented garden, or as a culinary herb garden by the kitchen door?' Jekka asks. You don't need a vast herb garden: herbs grow well in window boxes, containers, dedicated beds or as an integral part of herbaceous border planting. The idea is to grow herbs you use and enjoy.

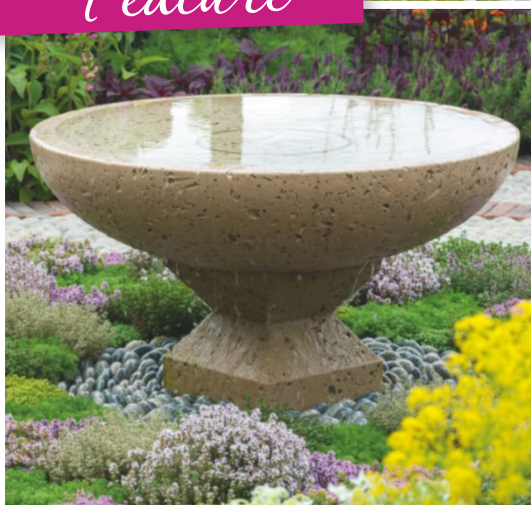
Formal or informal beds

Herbs suit both informal and formal garden styles. 'Formal herb gardens are based on patterns and geometric shapes, whereas informal ones are a free-for-all, with species and colours all mixed together,' Jekka explains. Despite the spontaneity of informal herb plantings, the best are carefully planned, even if only to ensure that the fully grown height and spread of neighbouring plants is compatible. In a formal scheme, Jekka advises beds of around 4ft (1.2m) in width, so that the herbs are accessible. 'Any wider, and it's worth adding stepping stones to improve access.'

A Thyme Bed



A Water Feature



Water is an important element of a herb garden. 'Water is the essence of all life, and the act of seeing and hearing water helps

people relax and recover a sense of balance. Then the healing process can start,' says Jekka. Water features can either be still — silent, reflective pools — or introduce the sound of water. There is a wide variety of pumped features, some gushing and busy, whilst others introduce a barely audible splash. It's worth experimenting to ensure the sound of water adds to the tranquil ambience, rather than causing a distraction.

Thyme is amongst the smallest evergreen herbs, creeping along the ground in dense, aromatic mats. Provided they are grown in free-draining soil that is not rich in nutrients, thyme establishes easily in containers, as a path edging, or in cracks between paving. In ancient times, thyme was used by the Egyptians in an

embalming oil, and in incense. It has strong antiseptic properties, and makes an effective mouthwash for treating infected gums. Jekka soaks thyme to make her own antiseptic kitchen spray. 'It's especially good if you have young children because they are bombarded with so many chemicals nowadays,' she adds.



'This simple act of sitting within the garden next to the plants is calming and uplifting'

Take a Seat

Jekka likes to place benches so that anyone sitting there is immersed in the scents and feel of the surrounding plants. People can feel the different textures of the leaves, or examine close-up the fine details of the flowers, all the time inhaling the fragrance. 'This simple act of sitting within the garden next to the plants is calming and uplifting,' she says.



Bay can be clipped into topiary shapes to give year-round structure

Shrubby Herbs



Common myrtle

Evergreen plants are essential, to add structure during the winter months when the vast majority of herbs are dormant. Bay and yew are especially useful, as both can be topiarised into neat shapes to fit in with the scale and proportions of the surrounding planting. Whilst yew clippings are used in a chemotherapy drug to treat cancer, bay is an everyday flavouring for soups or stews. Long-lasting shrubs include lavender, rosemary and sage — all three need regular trimming to prevent them becoming woody and straggly.

A Cobbled Path

Jekka has designed a circular path that revolves around a central water feature and thyme bed. 'Following curves and circles helps people to unwind,' she believes. From a design perspective, a curved path in a small garden ensures the space can never be seen in its entirety, adding a sense of anticipation. In addition, a cobbled path introduces a surface for walking barefoot, tapping into an aspect of reflexology that helps release tension.



Top Tip

Paths passing close to herbs are especially appealing. 'Paths introduce patterns to the design, and can help to define its shape,' says Jekka.



Lavenders are a blessing for their therapeutic uses

An edging of lavender

The path is edged in intensely aromatic lavenders — 'Jekka's Blue' which is very high in oils, and the French lavender 'Helmsdale'. 'It has beautiful burgundy purple flowers that last much longer than intermedia or angustifolia varieties and, if you chop it back midsummer, it flowers a second time,' adds Jekka. With its huge range of uses, no garden should be without lavender. It has been used medicinally for centuries, as an antiseptic, headache relief or to treat insomnia. Even dried and placed in linen bags, the aroma repel moths, whilst freshly picked flowers can be crystalised or used to flavour jellies.



Calendula

Planting a Herb Garden

Many herbs form lovely planting combinations: marigolds, poppies and chives add splashes of colour



Marigolds, poppies & chives

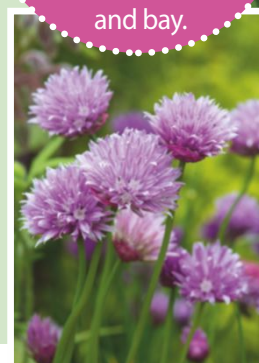
One of Jekka's staples is the marigold, *Calendula officinalis*. 'Marigolds not only do you good, but also look fantastic — they are such generous plants.' The flowers are antiseptic, and can be

Jekka advises growing herbs organically, not only because it avoids polluting the soil with chemicals, but so that edible plants remain uncontaminated. 'Organic methods also encourage bees and other beneficial insects, helping maintain a healthy balance between predator and pest,' she adds. Many herbs are fussy about where they live, and can be simply divided into those that prefer sun and those that thrive in partial shade. Generally, herbs for a sunny spot originate from the Mediterranean, and prefer their roots on the dry side.

used in a poultice to treat burns or stings. Then there are poppies to add splashes of vivid red. 'Originally, Benylyn cough mixture was dyed with poppy petals.' A poppy's pepperpot-shaped seedheads split to reveal tiny black seeds that can be sprinkled onto fresh loaves. Chives are another invaluable plant, self-seeding freely, providing a long season of pretty pink flowers and onion-flavoured leaves to add to salads or sauces. Chives make a good edging to paths on their own, or interspersed with clumps of leafy parsley.

Sun Lovers

Use thyme, oregano, basil, Rosemary, sage, coriander, chives (shown below) lavender, borage, hyssop, lovage, lemon balm, tarragon, camomile and bay.



◀ Chives cope in full sun, but grow happily in semi shade

Making a Thyme Wheel

Thymes are ideal for growing in the cracks between stones, paving and brickwork, in raised beds or troughs, in fact, any well-drained, sunny spot out of cold winds. All thymes have aromatic leaves, but the fragrance varies greatly from lemon or pine-scented, to having hints of camphor, caraway, spicy orange. Flowers are alive with bees in summer. With so many varieties of thyme to choose from, an attractive feature can be created by contrasting one against the other in a thyme wheel.



1 Use a galvanised tin washtub and drill drainage holes. Add gravel to the base and fill with a compost mix of quality composted bark, grit and peat substitute. Top with an salvaged iron wooden wheel.

2 Position the plants so that plain green varieties of thyme are interspersed with variegated silver or gold. Carefully plant within the spokes of the wooden wheel. ▼



3 Continue planting different varieties of thyme between the spokes, placing the upright varieties in the centre and the natural creepers to the edge.

Foxgloves, woad, borage & red leaves

'Red-leaved plants interspersed amongst green foliage makes the planting zing,' says Jekka. She favours ruddy beetroot leaves (*Amaranthus tricolor* 'Red Army', shown front) and red-leaved orach (*Atriplex hortensis* 'Rubra'), shown right; both have young leaves that are delicious eaten raw in salads. To inject a golden haze of tiny flowers, there is woad (*Isatis tinctoria*), the leaves are the ancient source of blue dye.

Partial Shade

Try mint, parsley, comfrey, sweet cicely, fennel, feverfew, sorrel, bergamot, rue and tansy.

4 Firm plants in well and label varieties. ▼

4

Borage is ideal combined with other tall herbs, such as angelica

Angelica & borage

Angelica is a wonderful example of a statuesque garden plant with multiple other uses. Candied, the stalks of angelica make a decorative confectionary for cakes. The young leaves are tasty in salads, but when used to make a tea, the drink apparently reduces tension. And, a decoction made from the roots soothes colds and coughs. 'You could even try crushing the leaves and placing near the air vent in a car, to help stop children being car sick,' adds Jekka.

Another favourite flowery filler is borage, *Borago officinalis*. It is a hairy, self-seeding annual with blue or white flowers that makes a good companion plant to attract bees to pollinate crops such as strawberries or runner beans. A natural night-cap is easily made from chopped borage leaves which — first soaked for five minutes in boiling water — are mixed with lemon and honey (not for prolonged use and take care when handling the leaves).

5

Water plants to settle them in after planting. Place in a sunny spot and trim plants after flowering. Feed with an organic liquid feed, such as diluted liquid seaweed in summer.

Jekka's Tips for Growing Herbs

- Most herbs perform well in undernourished soil providing it is light and well-drained, whereas overfeeding makes them grow tall and lanky
- Taller herbs such as bergamot need to be staked, so start when the plants are just knee-high by inserting discreet supports
- Perennial herbs vary in height from compact clumps of oregano and chives to tall fennel or grey-leaved cardoons, and are best planted in height order
- When planning a herb garden, plant densely in order to suppress weeds
- Most herbs enjoy the free-draining conditions found in a container and can be kept handy for easy pickings. Good contenders include: mint, thyme, bay, French tarragon, chives, basil, parsley and sage ▼



- Mint is especially thuggish, spreading far and wide, so plant in a big pot and submerge in the ground leaving the rim at least 1 in (2.5cm) above the soil. In November, lift and divide the mint in half, replacing one in the centre of the pot
- No herb garden should be without a small tree, so consider planting an ornamental cherry, hawthorn or fragrant, purple-flowered *Vitex agnus-castus*

Jekka's Complete Herb Book by Jekka McVicar, is published by Kyle Cathie



Sharing The Joy

The RHS came up with the idea of National Gardening Week to help a whole new audience discover the pleasures and health benefits of our wonderful hobby

It's official: gardening is good for us. It's relaxing, it eases stress, provides exercise and improves psychological wellbeing – in fact more than 90% of us in the UK say that even just looking at a garden lifts our mood. Planting extra plants and not paving over green areas also helps to increase air cooling, improves air quality (some trees can actually trap pollution), insulates buildings with garden vegetation, mitigates flooding, helps to intercept and reduce the impact of heavy rainfall. And not only does it improve our mental and physical health, but it also expands the number of potential habitats for wildlife. Your gardening could even increase the value of your home, by substantially improving its visual appeal. So, what's not to like!

As a result, the Royal Horticultural Society, wanting to do everything it could to introduce newcomers to gardening, came up with National Gardening Week, to share how easy it is to get started, no matter how much indoor or outdoor space you have, as well as encourage seasoned gardeners to communicate how rewarding and exciting it can be. RHS Chief Horticulturist Guy Barter explains: 'There need be no barriers to gardening, even if you live in a high-rise flat or only have a small balcony. We can't emphasise enough how rewarding it can be to fill whatever small spare space you have with plants, from a kitchen windowsill through to full-scale allotments – not only for aesthetic purposes, but because they are so good for your health and wellbeing.'

From events, courses and providing tips and advice for all potential gardeners, it is helping a whole new audience discover the wonderful world of gardening. This year National Gardening Week takes place from the 10th-16th April and the four RHS gardens will be leading the campaign, with other gardens and organisations across the country

getting involved and holding events. Activities planned at RHS gardens include giving plant cuttings for families to grow at home, demonstrations of how to grow a money plant from a single leaf, and workshops and Q&A sessions with gardening experts. Visitors will be encouraged to bring along their houseplants to a 'Houseplant Hospital'. Other gardens planning events across the country include Scampston Walled Garden, North Yorkshire, and Backhouse of Rossie Estate, Fife, which is staging Scotland's National Daffodil Festival.

Best Ways To Start!

So if you, or someone you know, is just starting out, two areas that are perfect for building confidence first are houseplants and container gardening, before diving into the wider expanses of the great outdoors. Then, once a gardener is ready, they can take advantage of the wide range of advice available on key staples such as pruning, sowing, planting, weeding – and even understanding gardening jargon.

Containing your enthusiasm

For those who have any outside space, and it can be just a balcony, small patio or even a broad windowsill, almost any type of plant can be grown in containers. Generally, the bigger the pot and the plant, the easier it is to care for. And as a broad rule of thumb, soft, fleshy,

leafy plants such as tomatoes and fuchsias are more demanding than 'leathery' plants such as pelargoniums (tender geraniums) or lavender.

There are also advantages and disadvantages to different pots. Clay or terracotta pots, for example,



Doing It Indoors

House plants have been part of our homes for centuries and come in all shapes and sizes, many with architecturally stunning foliage, and others with beautiful blooms in every colour. Apart from regular watering and feeding, most require little attention.

Whether it be a bold structural statement or a delicate floral display, there are houseplants to suit all tastes. And remember, the frost-free climate inside our houses and offices also gives us the wonderful option of growing genuinely exotic plants, making our surroundings truly interesting and pleasant places in which to live or work.

Turn over for the top 10 house plants

look attractive, but are also prone to cracking caused by frost, whereas metal containers look modern, are frost-proof and won't dry out like clay, but heat up quickly in summer and are very cold in winter. Experimenting is also recommended – household items such as old pots, baths, jars and crates can also make quirky containers.

Plants take a little while to settle into their containers and begin making root growth, so it is important to make room for more growth from spring and summer-planted containers compared to autumn or winter plantings. Permanent specimens are best planted in early spring as they will establish rapidly. Otherwise, plant between early spring and early autumn.



Potted plants can really cheer up a small garden.

Top 10 house plants

RHS Chief Horticulturist Guy Barter has come up with a list of the top ten easiest house plants to grow:

1 Mother-in-law's tongue, (*Sansevieria trifasciata* var *laurentii*)

Dramatic sword-like succulent leaves often with vivid colours (variegation). A very robust constitution have long made this plant a favourite for sunny, warm spots.



2 Aspidistra (*Aspidistra elatior*)

Is known as the cast iron plant. Its flowers are inconspicuous but the statuesque clumps of sword-shaped foliage make up for this.

3 Jade plant or money tree (*Crassula ovata*)

Has succulent, evergreen coil-like leaves and grows to about 1m wide and tall. Like many succulents, it needs little watering. A bright windowsill is ideal for this tough sun-lover.

4 Spider ivy or spider plant (*Chlorophytum comosum* 'Variegatum')

Is well suited to the dry, dark environment of offices. The spider plant is reputed to be effective at absorbing indoor aerial pollutants.

5 Swedish ivy (*Plectranthus verticillatus*)

Is widely grown in Nordic regions where house plants are very popular, presumably to keep people's spirits up during long dark winters. Hanging baskets or pots on shelves show off the draping habit of Swedish ivy.



Double the pleasure

One of the most satisfying early forays into gardening is growing some vegetables, as not only do you get the joy of growing a plant, you also then get the fun of eating it! If space is at a premium, consider dwarf selections and bush forms. Many seed companies now sell 'patio' vegetables, which are suitable for even the smallest garden.

The simplest way is to grow a collection of herbs in window boxes or containers in a sunny place near the house, a great asset for both garden and kitchen. Try mint, oregano, rosemary, thyme and sage. Delay buying

herb plants from garden centres until the weather warms up in late spring, as winter-planted herbs are vulnerable to root damage in the cold wet potting media.

When choosing vegetables, there are many different varieties of each crop, which can seem bewildering. Luckily, when it comes to choosing, help is at hand. The RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM) gives gardeners a guide to fail-safe choices, and is the result of meticulous trials with all the available varieties of each crop grown side by side, allowing RHS experts to pick the best. Some of the recommendations include:

- 1 'Sweet Million', a tasty, sweet, 'eat whole' cherry tomato for growing outside in the open garden.
- 2 'Marmande', a big beefsteak tomato with bright red fruits about 3½in (9cm) across – ideal for burgers.
- 3 'Charlotte', a potato that does well planted in rows in the traditional way, and also crops well when grown in containers.
- 4 'Annabel', a dwarf French bean – crisp dwarf French beans fresh from the garden, by contrast with the limp specimens in the supermarket, are one of the joys of veg gardening.
- 5 'The Sutton', a traditional broad bean, which is about half the height of other varieties, and so is less prone to blowing over in the wind.
- 6 'Boltardy', a variety of beetroot which is especially valuable because it can be sown early and will not run up to flower as some other varieties do.



A selection of delicious crops grown in the garden.



6 **Swiss cheese plant, (*Monstera deliciosa*)**
Hailing from Central America, the Swiss part refers to the large, glossy holed leaves that resemble Emmental cheese. An evergreen climber that grows fast in the right conditions, but can be cut back with little risk of killing the whole plant.

7 **Heart-leaf (*Philodendron scandens*)**
This has quick-growing lush green leaves.



9 **Sago palm (*Cycas revoluta*)**
Not a true palm but a 'fossil plant' that grew in prehistoric times. Grow in centrally heated rooms in bright light.

10 **Pink quill (*Tillandsia cyanea*)**
Tropical plant of the pineapple family. Place in a warm room, double pot in moss-filled outer pot, mist leaves – never let it sit in water. Divides after flowering.

8 **Golden barrel cactus (*Echinocactus grusonii*)**
Full light, sculptural cactus, long-lived, good for sunny windowsills in living and bedrooms.



Is this your allotted time?

For those who are looking to garden and grow vegetables on a larger scale, why not take advantage of the great advice available on starting allotments. The RHS currently runs year-long community allotment courses at RHS Garden Rosemoor in North Devon and RHS Garden Wisley in Surrey and is hoping to expand them to its other two gardens. Successful candidates receive expert RHS tuition, have their own plot to tend, and take away home-grown harvests for a year. They receive regular allotment master classes and weekly access

to their plots.

'All of our allotmenters have come from a great variety of backgrounds and across all age groups but they have one thing in common – the passion for and a willingness to learn the basic principles of growing your own vegetables. We offer brilliant facilities, all the equipment and know-how for a successful year of vegetable growing,' says course leader Peter Earl.

Across the year, the RHS also runs a rich variety of Horticulture Starting From Scratch short courses at its gardens, on

Save our front gardens

Comparisons between RHS studies in 2005 and 2015 revealed that around three times as many front gardens are now completely paved over compared to 10 years ago – that's 3 million less gardens, or 15 more 'square miles of grey'. These worrying figures led to the RHS Greening Grey Britain campaign, launched two years ago. Gardens play a vital role in urban areas, helping to protect against flooding and temperature extremes, as well as supporting wildlife and providing health benefits. It doesn't matter how much space you have, planting whatever you can will benefit our towns and cities.

subjects from growing vegetables to propagation, and also recommends many more courses on its website at: rhs.org.uk.

Want to know more?

For more info on National Gardening Week visit nationalgardeningweek.org.uk and why not also visit the RHS website at rhs.org.uk?

Dates for your diary

Garden Openings

Planning a new border? Visit John's Massey's inspiring garden designed for year round interest

🌸 Garden Open

WEST MIDLANDS 18 Mar/ 22Apr
Visit John Massey's 3-acre private garden in all its spring glory, open for charity, 10am-4pm, £5. Next to Ashwood Nurseries, Kingswinford, Tel 01384 401996 ashwoodnurseries.com

🌸 Snowdrops at Hodsock,

NOTTS Until 5 March
Open daily, 10am-4pm, history talks take place daily at 2pm, £5, child £1. Hodsock Priory, Blyth, Worksop S81 0TV Tel 01909 591 204 hodsockpriory.com

🌸 Snowdrops and hellebores

NORTHANTS Until 5 March
Snowdrops will be looking their best along with hellebores and other late winter flowers. Open 11am-4pm, £3.50, Coton Manor, Coton, Northants NN6 8RQ Tel 01604 740219 cotonmanor.co.uk

🌸 Crocus Week

SOMERSET 4-12 March
Crocuses carpet the lawns of Forde Abbey, Chard TA20 4LU, along with other late winter blooms, 10am-4.30pm. For info Tel 01460 220231 fordeabbey.co.uk

🌸 Eden Project Walkway

CORNWALL 18-19 March
A weekend of fun activities at the Eden Project to celebrate the newly completed Rainforest Canopy Walkway. Normal garden admission, adults £25 or in advance. Eden Project, Bodelva,

Cornwall PL24 2SG Tel 01726 811911 edenproject.com

🌸 Free Day Tuesday

All four RHS Gardens 21 March
Enjoy the early sights of spring for free at one of the RHS Gardens: Hyde Hall, Essex; Wisley, Woking; Harlow Carr, North Yorks and Rosemoor, Devon. 10am-5pm rhs.org.uk

🌸 Jekka's Open Days

BRISTOL 31 March-1 April
A chance to see the Herbetum, with free tours by Jekka at 11am and 2pm. Jekka's Herb Farm, Rose Cottage, Shellards Lane, Alveston BS35 3SY Tel 01454 418878 jekkasherbfarm.com

🌸 Garden Open

HEREFORDSHIRE 1 April
Stockton Bury Garden, Kimbolton, a 4-acre garden with rare and unusual plants. Opening for NGS, 12-5pm, adults £7, child 5-16 yrs £3. Garden open 1 April-1 Oct Wed-Sun and Bank hols. Tel 07880 712649 stocktonbury.co.uk

🌸 Scottish Rhododendron Festival

SCOTLAND 1 April-31 May
Opening daily, rare and fragrant rhododendrons thrive in the

sub-tropical Logan Botanic Garden, Port Logan, Stanraer, Dumfries and Galloway DG9 9ND 10am-5pm, entry £6.50, children free Tel 01776 860231 rbge.org.uk

🌸 Easter at Blenheim

OXFORDSHIRE 14-17 April
Family fun organised within the Pleasure Gardens at Blenheim Palace. Open daily, park and gardens: £15.30, child 5-16, £7.10 (house extra). Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1PP Tel 01993 810530 blenheimpalace.com

🌸 Bluebells & Wildflowers

KENT 24-29 April
Swoon over spring flowering bulbs on a guided walk, 2-4pm, £15, with cream tea, plus normal garden entry. Sissinghurst Garden, Biddenden Road, Nr Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2AB To book tickets, Tel 08442491895 or see national-trust.org.uk

🌸 Bluebells at Blickling

NORFOLK during May
Follow the trail through the Great Wood, one of the best places to see bluebells in this region. Blickling Hall, Blickling, Norwich, BR11 6NF Tel 0344 249 1895 nationaltrust.org.uk

Snowdrop Walks

CHESHIRE Until 5 March
Rode Hall, Scholar Green, Cheshire ST7 3QP 11am-4pm, closed Mondays. Tel 01270 873237 rodehall.co.uk

Rode Hall's annual snowdrop display

Shows and Fairs

🌸 Butterflies in the Glasshouse

SURREY until 5 March

The Tropical Zone at RHS Wisley will be brought alive with exotic butterflies, open 10am-4pm. Normal garden entry. RHS Garden Wisley, Woking Surrey GU23 6QB Tel 0845 260 9000 rhs.org.uk/garden/wisley

Bethan Clarke / RHS

Hippeastrums and a dazzling range of spring plants displayed in the Floral Marquee, RHS Cardiff

🌸 Plant & Gardening Fair

SOMERSET 5 March

Takes place at the beginning of the popular Crocus Week, 30 stalls selling plants and sundries, 10am-4pm. Forde Abbey, Chard, Somerset TA20 4LU Tel 01460 220231 fordeabbey.co.uk

🌸 Spring Plant Fair

SURREY 24-26 March

RHS Garden Wisley, Woking Surrey GU23 6QB. Over 50 specialist nurseries will be selling plants. Open 9.30-4.30pm, normal garden admission Tel 0845 260 9000 rhs.org.uk/wisley

🌸 Mums go free!

STAFFORDSHIRE

26 March (Mother's Day)

The spring displays at Trentham Estate are bursting into life, and mums go free when accompanied by a full paying adult, £8.70, child 5-15 yrs £7.50, 10am-5pm. Advance online tickets. Tel 01782 646646 trentham.co.uk

🌸 Cornwall Spring Flower Show

CORNWALL 1-2 April

Cornwall's Garden Society show is at Boconnoc Estate, Lostwithiel, Cornwall PL22 0RG. Major competitions in daffodils, rhododendrons and camellias. Gate price £9.50, under 16s free, advance £7.50 crbo.org.uk/CCGSpringShow Tel 01726 879 500

🌸 Plant Hunters' Fair

STOCKPORT 2 April

Bramhall Hall hosts a plant fair and its recent restoration is on view, 11am-4pm. Adults £2 entry. Bramhall Park, off Hall Road, Bramhall, Stockport SK7 2NX planthuntersfairs.co.uk Tel 0161 474 2020

🌸 Rare Plant Fair

NORTHANTS 2 April

Evenley Wood Garden hosts a plant fair, 11am-4pm, entry £5, under 16s free. Evenley, Brackley, Northants NN13 5SH Tel 0845 468 1368 evenleywoodgarden.co.uk

🌸 Harrogate Spring Flower Show

NORTH YORKS 20-23 April

Be inspired by the show gardens, design ideas and florals exhibits. Over 100 nurseries will be in the new Plant Pavilion. Open from

RHS Cardiff Flower Show

CARDIFF 7-9 April

The first major outdoor show for the RHS, and a chance to buy from specialist nurseries and see stunning spring floral exhibits. Open Fri-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 10am-4.30pm. From £10 in advance, £13 on the day. Bute Park, Cardiff Castle, Cardiff CF10 3EA Tel 0844 9959664 To book visit: rhscardiffseetickets.com

Thur-Sat £19, Sun £17; advance discounts available. Tel 01423 546157, visit flowershow.org.uk. Regional Agricultural Centre, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate SG2 8NZ

🌸 Toby's Garden Festival

DEVON 28-29 April

A chance to buy and plan for the season ahead. Speakers include Pippa Greenwood, Adam Frost and Jim Buttress. Open 10am-5pm, £10 in advance, £12.50 on the day. tobygardenfest.co.uk. Powderham Castle, Kenton, nr Exeter EX6 8JQ (no dogs)

🌸 Plant Hunters' Fair

CHESHIRE 29 April

A plant fair takes place beside Norton Priory's walled garden, as featured on Chris Beardshaw's BBC series *Hidden Gardens*. Free entry, garden is optional: £3.50. Norton Priory, Tudor Rd, Manor Park, Runcorn WA7 1SX Tel 01928 569895 planthuntersfairs.co.uk

Make a special outing to Trentham to celebrate Mother's Day

Take in the scent and vibrancy of the spring bulbs and floral exhibits at Harrogate

ON SALE NOW

KITAZINE

The craft NETWORK
KITAZINE
5 010791 665008
ISSUE 03 £9.99
OCT/NOV 2017

Knit a Bunny

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNIT THIS TOY

Inside... All the yarn, stuffing, embroidery thread, ribbon & knitting needles

Includes a choice of ribbon colours

ONLY £9.99

Plus BONUS PATTERN FOR A CUTE DUCKLING

Also...PRETTY CRAFT IDEAS

**AT WHSMITH AND ALL GOOD RETAILERS
OR VISIT THEKNITTINGNETWORK.CO.UK**

View From The Ramparts



Daffodils outside
the Fitzalan Gate at
Arundel Castle

*W*e British love a castle don't we? But they don't have to be just mottes, moats and machicolations – many have some pretty lovely gardens too. Here's three to savour in 2017...



Arundel Castle



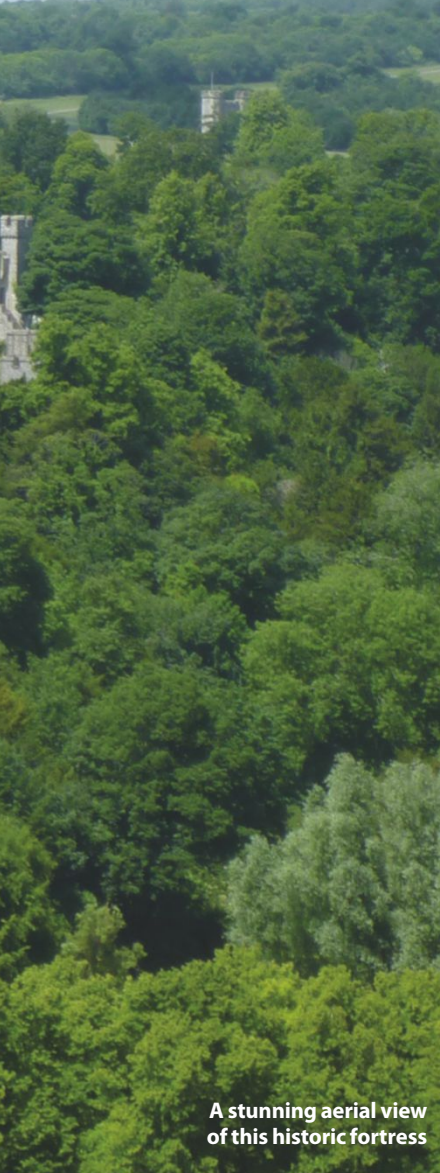
The newly
planted rose
garden



In spring, tulips
surround the rill pond

Arundel Castle in Sussex, home of the Howards, Dukes of Norfolk, is almost unbelievably historic. Started just two years after the Norman Conquest, it grew into a truly massive fortress in the Middle Ages, but was seriously damaged during the Civil War, before being restored and largely rebuilt in the 18th and 19th century. It is now a major tourist destination, but comparatively recently its ancient walls and lovely grounds have been enriched with the addition of a new and truly impressive formal garden. Conceived as a tribute to Thomas Howard, 14th Earl of Arundel (1585-1646), perhaps the first of the great English art collectors – his acquisitions form the basis of the treasures now on show in the castle – and saviour of the Norfolk family fortunes. The new garden occupies about a third of the area of the derelict Georgian and Victorian walled kitchen garden – which had become an ugly car park.

Initiated by the present Duke and Duchess, with the enthusiastic backing of the Castle Trustees, it has been conceived as a Jacobean formal garden, an imaginative re-creation of what the garden may have been like at Arundel House – the family's old London home. The domed pergola and fountains are based on those



A stunning aerial view of this historic fortress

seen in the garden vista in the background of a Mytens' portrait of the Countess of Arundel that can still be seen in the castle, while the various gateways and pavilions are based on Inigo Jones' designs for Arundel House (preserved at the RIBA Drawings Collection). They have been executed in green oak and have a rustic charm and robust character appropriate to the garden. The grand centrepiece is the rockwork 'mountain' planted with palms and rare ferns, supporting a green oak version of 'Oberon's Palace', a fantastic spectacle designed by Inigo Jones for Prince Henry's Masque on New Year's Day 1611, flanked by two green oak obelisks. This contains a shell-lined interior with a stalagmite fountain and gilded coronet 'dancing' on top of the jet. The garden is divided into formal courts with a centre canal pond and tufa-lined cascade.

So this extraordinary garden, an evocation of Jacobean formality, aiming to 'stand alone, to be pleasing, timeless and memorable', is a fascinating new addition to the existing gardens and architectural ensemble at Arundel Castle.



Arundel Castle Visitor Information



Address: Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 9AB

Opening Times: Arundel Castle will be open from Saturday 1 April to Sunday 29 October; The Collector Earl's Garden, Gardens & Grounds are open from 10.00-17.00, the Castle Keep from 10.00-16.30 and the Castle Rooms from 12.00-

17.00. Last admission 16.00.

Contact Details: Telephone: 01903 882173 Email: visits@arundelcastle.org

Website: arundelcastle.org

Current Prices: Garden: Adults £11, Child £10. Whole Property: Adult £20, Concessions: £17.50, Child: £10, Family £50

Continued overleaf

Chirk Castle

'From a military build

Explore the 18th-century 'ha-ha'

Chirk was built in the 13th century as a military fortress on the England/Wales border at the instigation of Edward I, to control the neighbouring Dee Valley. It had the most up-to-date defences for the time, with the new easily defended round towers and five-metre thick walls, and dominated the surrounding land. However, as the centuries passed by and became more peaceful, the building slowly transformed from a purely military installation, into a grand home.

The first formal garden was laid out in 1653, following contemporary French examples. Then in 1764, a landscape architect remodelled the gardens and parkland, planting vast lawns and thousands of trees. In the 19th century yew topiary, hedges and wrought iron gates were

introduced, and then in the early 20th century, the celebrated gardener Norah Lindsay created a magnificent herbaceous border on the upper lawn.

The gardens were neglected during the Second World War until they were almost single-handedly revived by Lady

Margaret Myddelton, creating the colourful planting scheme that exists today.

Don't miss the long border, with three seasonal areas, filled with shrubs and herbaceous plants. Lady Margaret Myddelton planted it after the Second World War as a low-maintenance way to ensure seasonal colour and scents.

The pretty hawk house was built in 1854 to an E.W. Pugin design. There used to be an 18th-century orangery on the same site. It was originally a conservatory, before a thatched roof was added, so it could house birds of prey.

The shrub garden also has



The north-east face of Chirk Castle



Fantastic topiary is a highlight of the gardens



ding, to a grand home'

year-round interest, but the late spring rhododendrons look and smell particularly beautiful. An early summer highlight is the handkerchief tree with its elegant white bracts.

Lady Margaret Myddelton was very fond of roses – especially scented ones – and many of her favourites grow in the rose garden. Including Dearest (soft pink), Allgold (bright golden colour) and Elizabeth of Glamis (salmon pink). Many other roses can be seen around the garden from tall climbers like Rosa 'Madame D'Arblay' with soft pink carnation-like flowers, to Rosa 'Blanc Double de Coubert' – a white shrubby variety.

The pleasure ground wood, right next to the main gardens, is a formal area of woodland with an incredible display of snowdrops in February, followed in turn by bluebells and foxgloves, and beyond the gardens you can still see the 18th-century 'ha-has', designed to provide unobstructed views of the sweeping parkland and fields beyond.

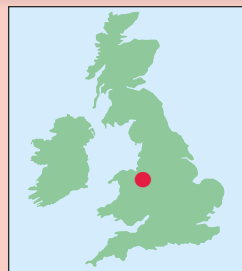
A small kitchen garden is slowly being developed at Chirk, with a range of vegetables in season that are sold in the shop, and the historic laundry is also worth seeing – first built in 1790. It was in use up until the Second World War.



Roses are a particular feature



Chirk Visitor Information



from 10am-5pm (Guided State Room tours 11:15am and 11:30am daily from March to October (places limited))

Contact Details: Telephone: 01691 777701. Email: chirkcastle@nationaltrust.org.uk

Website: nationaltrust.org.uk/chirk-castle

Address: Chirk, Wrexham, LL14 5AF

Opening Times: The garden and tower are open every day

Current Prices: Whole Property: Adult £12.20, Child £6.10, Family £30.50

Continued overleaf

Dunster Castle



Astounding views
are on offer at
Dunster Castle

history. The castle boasts spectacular views toward the Bristol Channel, the Quantock Hills and up to the moors of Exmoor. The family who lived here for most of its existence, the Luttrells, (they first moved in 1376!) slowly changed their medieval stronghold into a comfortable family home, and eventually created the beautiful gardens.

Dramatically sited on a wooded hill in north Devon, a castle has existed here since at least Norman times, with an impressive medieval gatehouse and ruined tower giving a reminder of its turbulent

With far-reaching views across the Deer Park and distant sea, the present day South Terrace evokes the Victorian period, though it was initially created in the 1820s. To reflect its history, the flower beds are planted in the Victorian style with spring bulbs giving a spectacular floral display and in summer there is an abundance of brightly coloured bedding plants. The area has a Mediterranean feel due to its fortunate micro-climate and this enables tender plants to thrive, including the row of chusan palms. This part of the

garden also contains the Orangery (now renamed the Camellia House), which serves coffee and snacks, the Swan Pond, which is home to goldfishes and newts, and the Lemon House.

The River Garden

In contrast, the River Garden is a wild, wooded area. Green throughout the year, during spring it is full of colour as the magnolia trees bloom. During summer the giant rhubarb reaches its peak in growth, getting so big they make an unusual umbrella when caught in the rain. This area is home to some rare species including the handkerchief tree, grown from seeds smuggled back from Australia by Alys Luttrell in her purse in the 1920s.

Bridges cross the River Avil, which runs through the garden and lead to walks on the wider estate. And at the end of the garden is the working watermill, which produces over six tonnes of flour a year.

Don't miss the yew bank – there have been yews on this bank dating back to the 18th



Parts of the garden
are sub-tropical



Bridges cross the River Avil, which runs through the garden

'The castle boasts spectacular views'



century when the original drive – The New Way – was commissioned in 1720 by Dorothy Luttrell. In those days, it was very fashionable to create areas of light and shade within a garden and yews were perfect for shade. However, over the years, the yews grew too large and they are now coppiced and kept within bounds.

The highest point in the Dunster landscape is the keep – originally the Upper Ward of the Norman Fortress of Dunster. In 1721, at the request of Dorothy Luttrell, the area was levelled and turned into a bowling green.

Above: Chusan palms thrive in the micro-climate. **Right:** The working watermill still produces flour today



Dunster Castle Visitor Information



Address: Dunster, near Minehead, Somerset, TA24 6SL

Opening Times: The garden is open every day from 10am-5pm. From the 4 March, the castle is open from 11am-5pm

Contact Details: Telephone: 01643 821314.

Email: dunstercastle@nationaltrust.org.uk

Website: nationaltrust.org.uk/dunster-castle

Current Prices: Garden only: Adult £8, Child £4, Family £20. Whole property: Adult £11, Child £5.50, Family £27.50

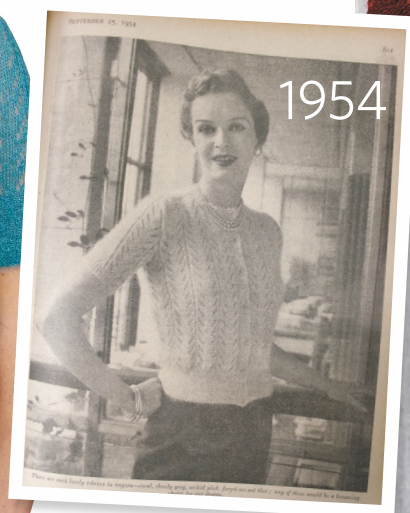
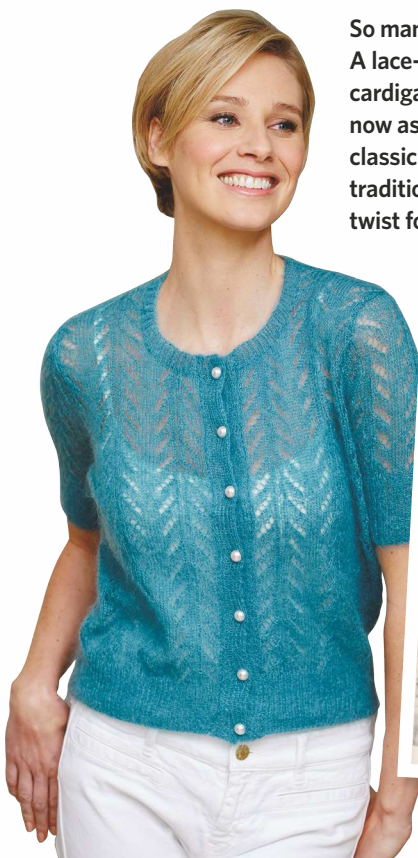
Journey Through Our Archives

The
knitting
NETWORK

Since our first issue in 1911, we've printed the most wonderful knitting and crochet patterns. Our bound volumes are a treasury of ideas that continue to inspire – and we have exciting news: The Knitting Network website store is the new home for Woman's Weekly patterns and the perfect place to order quality yarns...

Fashion Looks

So many vintage looks are timeless. A lace-weight, short-sleeved cardigan looks as contemporary now as it did in 1954. We offer classic patterns as well as update traditional designs with a modern twist for all skill levels.



Cute For Kids

Our baby and children's patterns include cardigans and adorable layettes. We know you love to knit for little ones, so we also have sweet hats, the best bootees and beautiful blankets.

1963



Toys

This friendly bear is over 50 years old and he has many friends in his new online home. Download the PDF or order your chosen pattern to be posted to your home.

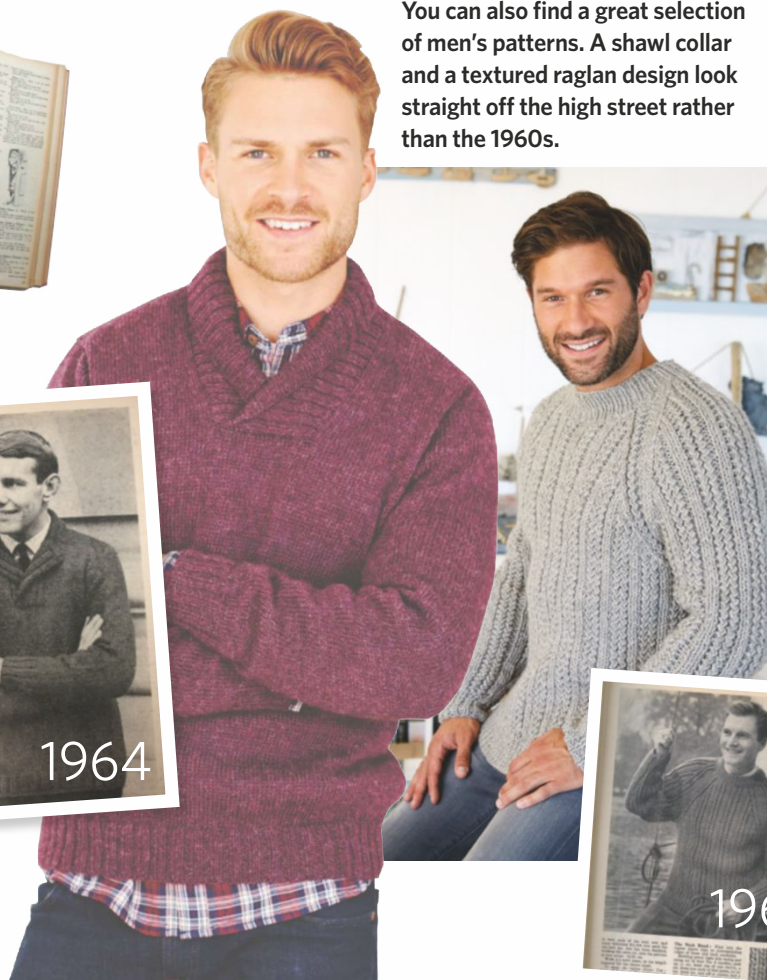


1962



For Men

You can also find a great selection of men's patterns. A shawl collar and a textured raglan design look straight off the high street rather than the 1960s.



REGISTER FOR OUR NEWSLETTER AT

theknittingnetwork.co.uk

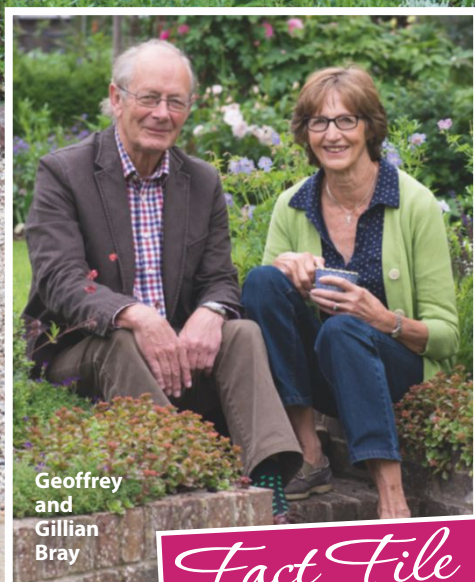
FULL OF NEWS,
OFFERS AND TIPS



A Dynamic Duo

Take one sloping expanse of grass, add Gillian Bray's eye for colour as well as husband Geoffrey's love of wall building, and you have the perfect partnership for a dreamy His & Hers garden

The cohesive planting complements the geometry of the hard landscaping that links each of the terraced areas



Geoffrey
and
Gillian
Bray

Fact File

Gardeners:

Geoffrey and Gillian Bray

Location: Clare, Suffolk

Landscaped: From 2008

Special Features:

A largely walled 50ft x 230ft (15m x 70m) sloping rear garden in which a path links the terraced areas created on different levels, each with a distinct character. There is a herb garden, lawn with revolving summerhouse, pergola, formal pond and vegetable garden. On a side plot, there is a ¼-acre meadow.

Aspect: Northwest-facing

Problems Overcome:

Terracing the sloping plot involved excavating footings for retaining walls, and moving tonnes of soil.

Inspired by:

Beth Chatto's garden and Penelope Hobhouse's book *Colour in Your Garden*. ▶



A patio seating area is screened from the driveway with a trellis clad in the fragrant rose, 'Blush Rambler'



Dutch Iris
'Silvery Beauty'



Rosa 'Blush
Rambler'



'Geoffrey started'



There are various approaches to designing a garden, most involving some sort of masterplan, but Gillian and Geoffrey Bray took a different path. 'Whilst Geoffrey marked out a kitchen garden at the far end of the garden, I planned out different areas between the house and pergola: we met in the middle where there was some space left and, after a lot of deliberation and some sketches, we decided on a formal pond,' explains Gillian.

Despite its unorthodox beginnings, the finished garden is delightfully stereotypical of a husband-and-wife gardening duo. For whilst Gillian's area is full of flowering plants, Geoffrey, a retired management consultant, maintains an immaculately ordered vegetable garden at the furthest end of the plot. 'Geoffrey started work on the kitchen garden before we even moved in, laying brick paths through the well-worked loam,' recalls Gillian.



Joints in the paved courtyard are planted with thymes, and edged with alliums, sisyrinchiums, lavender and the highly fragrant pink *Rosa 'Jenny's Rose'*

One of the first areas created was Geoffrey's immaculate vegetable garden, set out as geometric beds separated by brick pathways ▼

work on the kitchen garden before we even moved in'



Starting at the patio seating area by the house, a sloping gravel path provides an elegant transition to two lawned terraces, bordered by soft sweeps of planting

Seeing Potential

It is almost a decade now since the couple bought the three-bedroom Tudor house in the village of Clare, Suffolk, won over by all the space. 'We were supposed to be down sizing, but the meadow sold the house to me,' says Gillian. The quarter-acre meadow is tucked away on the northern side, creating an L-shaped plot. At the time, the main garden was side-to-side grass stretching from the house, most of the way up to the kitchen garden. 'I could see great potential though,' she says.

Originally, the plot sloped from top to bottom, so the couple terraced it, creating interconnecting level areas that are linked. 'Geoffrey loves building walls, so he was more than happy to take on the terracing, with our eldest son helping with some demolition work and removal of stones.'



All in all, Geoffrey built four retaining walls, creating five different terraced areas. The first, immediately outside the house, is used as an outdoor dining area and leads up to a herb garden. On the next level up, there's a lawn and, tucked away in a sunny corner, a brick patio with a table and chairs. 'It's screened from the driveway by wooden trellis which is smothered in cascading clusters of rose 'Blush Rambler' by midsummer,' adds Gillian. Three steps lead to the next level, where there's a revolving summerhouse and broad lawn. Beyond lies a brick pergola flanking a formal pond. A honeysuckle arch leads to the kitchen garden, where a break in an old wall reveals the meadow.

Continued overleaf

The walled meadow garden with ox-eye daisies and grasses can be viewed from the rotating summerhouse

Laying the Path

When the couple moved in, a path running the full length of the plot was on the sunny, south-facing side. 'It seemed such a waste because this side is ideal for sun-loving plants and seating areas, so we re-established a path on the opposite, shadier side,' explains Gillian. First though, Geoffrey dug a trench from top to bottom, burying a water pipe and an electricity cable leading to the greenhouse. 'Then we laid the path over the cable, but I rather wish now that

the path meandered because, although a straight path is more practical, it has the effect of hurrying you through the garden,' she says.

As a later addition, they built steps leading up from the two lawned areas, to encourage lingering amongst the flowers. 'Geoffrey likes straight lines whilst I prefer curved, so we have both. It was a similar story with my parents — my mother had wonderfully green fingers and I learned a lot from her.'

The Summerhouse

The middle of the plot is home to the pergola and a revolving summerhouse that is sited under a laburnum tree where the plot is wider. Built in 1933, the summerhouse originally belonged to Geoffrey's mother. 'It's been in three of our three previous gardens, but I don't think it will move again,' says Gillian. Despite its age, the summerhouse still revolves, a lovely place to relax and look out over the garden. 'On hot days, we can twiddle it right round so that it faces the meadow, because it's cooler.' This part of East Anglia is one of the driest parts of the country, so Gillian grows a lot of drought-resistant plants such as salvias, lavender, herbs and hardy geraniums.

The Meadow



The garden has been divided up using trellis panels, a pergola and arch so that it cannot all be seen at once

Clematis
'Guernsey Cream', a large-flowered hybrid clothes one of the brick pillars of the pergola





The rotating summerhouse is surrounded by mixed borders, including catmint and *Rosa* 'Gertrude Jekyll'

'I like soft pinks, purples and blues around the summerhouse because they are more relaxing for a seating area'

Must-have Roses

Above the summerhouse is the brick pergola. 'I wanted structure and height running across the garden, to give a greater sense of width and break up the plot so that we can't see from one end to the other in a glance,' explains Gillian. Climbers are trained up the brick pillars — honeysuckle, the large-flowered white *Clematis* 'Guernsey Cream' and *Rosa* 'Gertrude Jekyll', positioned

near the summerhouse for its fabulous scent. 'When we moved here, I said I wouldn't grow roses because I get so cross with them,' admits Gillian. 'They get black spot, or bugs eat them, and the ramblers are prickly and horrid to prune. But then you visit someone else's garden and it reminds you how beautiful they are, and you just have to have them.'

A serene colour palette is provided by *Rosa* 'Phyllis Bide', *Eleagnus* 'Quicksilver' and evening primroses



Repeat-flowering rose 'Gertrude Jekyll'

Gillian's Tips

Growing climbing roses

✿ Roses have three basic needs — a sunny position, feeding, correct pruning and rich soil that is well-drained and neither too acidic nor alkaline ...

✿ When training a climbing rose up a pergola, keep guiding the shoots round the uprights and secure with twine, keeping them as horizontal as possible to encourage flowering shoots.

✿ In spring, feed with Vitax Organic Rose Food, a slow release fertiliser that improves resistance to disease. Mulch with a rich mix of compost and well-rotted manure.

✿ I water around the roots with diluted Jeyes fluid to cleanse the soil

and deter blackspot. Otherwise, in autumn, remove all fallen leaves around the plant and burn or bin to help prevent re-infection in spring.

✿ When choosing roses, look out for varieties bred for disease resistance, with an RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM). Check height and spread.

✿ I don't spray roses with insecticide, instead we encourage birds which will eat the greenfly.

✿ Deadhead to encourage more flowers; but leave ramblers to form hips.



Gillian deadheading 'Gertrude Jekyll'

The Pond Area

On an old wall behind the formal pond, there is the dainty little rambling rose 'Phyllis Bide' — its small gold-and-pink flowers contrast beautifully with the silver-leaved elaeagnus nearby.

The pond was dug out by Geoffrey, in an oblong, narrow shape that echoes that of the house. 'Having never had a pond before, I had no idea how tricky it could be,' says Gillian. 'I'd envisaged this still

reflective pool that mirrored the trees, sky and flowers, but because the water was still, it turned green with algae.' The solution lay in installing a pump, which brings a restful sound to the water. 'I love sitting there, seeing the dragonflies, newts, toads and frogs which will hopefully reduce the snail population — there are so many that it's impossible to grow hostas, which I love,' she adds.

The formal pool surrounded by gravel creates a lovely focal point, and is kept healthy with a pump



▲ Early Dutch honeysuckle, *Lonicera periclymenum* 'Belgica'

'Sometimes colours that I wouldn't put together in a painting seem to go well in a planting scheme'

Visualising Plants

Looking at the beautiful tapestry of plants, it is no surprise to discover that Gillian paints and embroiders. 'Sometimes colours that I wouldn't put together in a painting seem to go well in a planting scheme,' she notes.

When planning an area, Gillian tries to visualise the group of plants together, taking care to follow Beth

Chatto's advice of placing 'the right plant in the right place'.

'I like soft pinks, purples and blues around the summerhouse because they are more relaxing for a seating area, whereas stimulating bright colours are good by the kitchen garden where we tend to work.'

Gillian has established a good, strong structure within the garden. 'Now I can fill in with 'floaty' plants, and it won't look too chaotic,' she says.

One important reference is her garden diary of all the essential tasks, and she pins up notes in the kitchen of what needs doing each month. 'Otherwise I'd forget, and the plants would suffer,' she says. 'I love plants, and I've always had a garden — I couldn't bear to be without one. I'm out in it every day and, even if I'm not going to work in it, I just like to walk round and see what's happening.'



Evergreen honeysuckle, 'Dropmore Scarlet'



Foxglove 'Dalmatian White'

A metal arch is smothered with the evening-scented flowers of honeysuckle

Get the look

A softly winding path leads the eye through the garden, encouraging it to linger on areas of lovely planting, or drawing it forward on straight stretches. Well-designed paths are attractive features as well as serving a practical purpose, seamlessly linking different areas of the garden

Designing an informal garden path

Top Tip

Paths used for wheelbarrows, bicycles or wheelie bins should be built to a minimum width of 31 in (80cm)

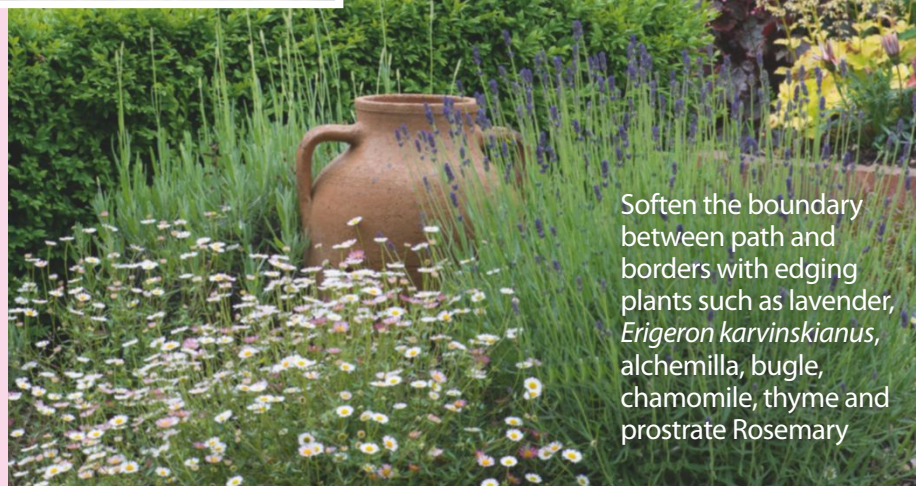
Choose materials that blend with the existing hard-landscaping and style of house and garden

◀ The width of a path has a subconscious effect, with straight narrow paths suggesting a quick passage way, whilst broad meandering paths encourage lingering, especially if widened to allow for a seat.

Top Tip

If steps cannot be avoided, then for safety reasons the minimum tread depth should be 15 in (40cm), with a consistent fall of 6-8 in (15-20cm).

If areas of the path are in shade, and regularly covered in leaves, choose a hard landscaping material with a rough texture — such as gravel, as opposed to smooth timber



Soften the boundary between path and borders with edging plants such as lavender, *Erigeron karvinskianus*, alchemilla, bugle, chamomile, thyme and prostrate Rosemary

Top Tip

To keep a gravel path free of weeds, lay on a weedproof membrane.

The **knitting** NETWORK

The **NEW** website for **Woman's Weekly** patterns

Stay warm this spring

For 100s of quality knitting
and crochet patterns visit
theknittingnetwork.co.uk/tkn



Kids Boot Warmers For Wellies
Knitting Pattern £1.99
Code WAD015
Measurements: To fit wellies up to size 10/28



Wellington Boots Topper
Knitting Pattern £1.99
Code WAD012
Measurements: Approx. 20cm/8in high



Arm Warmers Knitting
Pattern £1.99
Code WAD031
Measurements: To fit an average adult



Hat And Fingerless Gloves
Knitting Pattern £2.99
Code WAD011
Measurements: To fit an average adult
head. Fingerless gloves: To fit an average
adult hand



Ladies Hat And Scarf Set
Knitting Patterns £2.99
Code WAD016
Measurements: Hat fits average
adult-size head.
Scarf approx 101cm / 39 3/4 in long



Womens Cable Roll Neck
Jumper Knitting Pattern £2.99
Code WLD031
Measurements: To fit bust sizes
81 (86-91) (97) (102) cm /
32 (34-36) (38) (40) in



Mens Jumper Knitting
Pattern £2.99
Code WLD072
Measurements: To fit chest sizes 91-97
(102-107) (112-117) cm / 36-38 (40-42)
(44-46) in



Womens Oversized Jumper
Knitting Pattern £3.99
Code WLD018
Measurements: To fit bust sizes 81-86
(91-97) (102-107) (112-117) cm /
32-34 (36-38) (40-42) (44-46) in

Register on **theknittingnetwork.co.uk/tkn** for our newsletter full of news, offers and tips

How to Order

The
knitting
NETWORK

DOWNLOAD YOUR DIGITAL PATTERNS NOW

Visit our website
theknittingnetwork.co.uk/tkn

You can buy, download and print a digital PDF version of
any pattern on **The Knitting Network** website, instantly.

GET YOUR PATTERNS DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR

Call **0800 024 1212** quote **LV04**
or fill in the coupon below

Each pattern will be printed on A4 card and posted to you
at an additional cost of £1.99 (first class postage).

Terms and conditions: The yarn(s) and the shade(s) quoted in these patterns were available when the designs were created. As we are unable to guarantee the availability of the yarn, where possible we have specified standard weights. However, if an alternative yarn is used, the yarn amounts may differ. For a perfect result, we recommend to always check your tension.

This offer closes on 7 April 2017 and is subject to availability to readers in the UK, offers cannot be used in conjunction with other promotions, prices are correct at the time of printing. If you do not have the facility at home to print our downloadable knitting patterns you can call or fill in the coupon attached and pay an additional £1.99 for printing and delivery. Charge only applies to patterns delivered by post. Items will be despatched within 2-5 days once payment has cleared. You'll be notified if a longer delay is expected.

All correspondence concerning this offer should be sent to **The Knitting Network Patterns, Offer LV04 Time Inc, Customer Care, 5 Churchill Place, 2nd Floor, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HU**. Or call 0800 024 1212*.

* Telephone lines are open Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm, but closed on bank holidays. Calls are free of charge from all consumer landlines and mobile phones.

PLEASE FILL IN THE COUPON - Payment must be made by cheque, sent with the coupon to the address provided

To: **The Knitting Network Patterns, Offer LV04 Time Inc, Customer Care, 5 Churchill Place, 2nd Floor, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HU**

Pattern Code	Product Name	Price	Qty	Total
WAD015	Kids Boot Warmers For Wellies Knitting Pattern	£1.99		
WAD012	Wellington Boots Topper Knitting Pattern	£1.99		
WAD011	Hat And Fingerless Gloves Knitting Pattern	£2.99		
WAD031	Arm Warmers Knitting Pattern	£1.99		
WAD016	Ladies Hat And Scarf Set Knitting Patterns	£2.99		
WLD031	Womens Cable Roll Neck Jumper Knitting Pattern	£2.99		
WLD072	Mens Jumper Knitting Pattern	£2.99		
WLD018	Womens Oversized Jumper Knitting Pattern	£3.99		

By providing your details, you agree to be contacted by Time Inc. (UK) Ltd and its group companies, home of **The Knitting Network**, **Woman's Weekly** and other iconic brands. We'll only contact you about things we think you'll be interested in, like special offers and the latest updates. Please tick here if you DO NOT wish to receive these messages by email ☐ by post and/or telephone ☐.

First class
postage
TOTAL

£1.99
£

I enclose a cheque (no cash, please) made payable to **'The Knitting Network'** for the sum of

£ (please write your name and address clearly on the back of your cheque)

Mrs / Miss / Ms / Mr (delete as appropriate)

First Name

Last Name

Address

Postcode

Daytime tel no (incl code)

Email address

Just the Job!

**JOBS TO
DO IN THE
GARDEN
IN MARCH
& APRIL**

It's time to get busy outdoors, from sowing and planting, to dividing and pruning

Jobs for March



▲ Now's a good time to pot up a rose, either bought bare-root or as a containerised plant. Most roses are suitable, including shrub, climbers, patio, and ground cover as long as the pot is 18in (45cm) in diameter. Use a John Innes No3 compost and add 20% well-rotted manure or compost. Apply Mycorrhizal Fungi granules before planting.



There's still time to sow sweet peas. Chip the hard seed coats with a knife before sowing into deep pots; 5-7 seeds per 5in (13cm) pot filled with seed compost. Keep them at around 15°C (59°F)

Trim stems of cornus

grown for their colourful winter stems towards the end of March to 1in (2.5cm) from the base to encourage more colourful stems for next winter.

Finish winter pruning

of deciduous trees and shrubs. Wait until summer to prune cherries (prunus species) susceptible to silver leaf disease.

Sow seed of perennials

such as aquilegias, campanulas, nepeta and lupins into modules filled with seed compost. Place somewhere bright, out of direct sunlight and repot into 3in (7.5cm) pots when large enough to handle.

Overcrowded pond plants

can be lifted and divided. Wash away old soil then separate into two or more portions by pulling or cutting with a knife. Replant into new baskets of soil and top with gravel. Take care not to disturb eggs of frogs and toads.

Pot up dahlia tubers into 9in (23cm) pots. Place on a warm

windowsill or propagator and use the first shoots to make cuttings. Cut at the base when they reach 3in (7cm) tall and place around a large pot of compost. The parent can also be planted in May after the last frost.

Chit seed potatoes for six weeks before planting, from mid-March to early April. Space them 12-15in (30-38in) apart, or pop three per potato planter or tub, filled with quality multi-purpose compost.

Prune hybrid tea roses to 4-6in (10-15cm) and floribundas to 10-12in (25-30cm) from the base. Shrub roses can be reduced by a third. Remove all dead, diseased and crossing stems and cut to an outward facing bud.

Plant sweet peas

Sweet peas seedlings sown in autumn can be planted out now. Harden them off when 4in (10cm) tall and plant into large containers or borders which have been improved with compost or well-rotted manure. Provide twiggly supports.

Lift and divide summer-flowering perennials using a fork. Tease out individual plantlets or gently pull apart clumps to produce small divisions for replanting. Tough, fibrous rooted perennials can be prised apart using two forks inserted back to back.



◀ Don't delay, prune late summer and autumn flowering clematis to the lowest pair of buds, around 12in (30cm) from the base.

Continued overleaf

Jobs for April

Stake tall perennials as early as possible. Tie in as they grow up through the support



Feed lawns with a spring fertiliser, if necessary, apply one with a combination weed, feed and mosskiller such as Evergreen Complete 4 in 1. Wait until the moss turns black before raking out, removing thatch at the same

Divide polyanthus after flowering and replant in a 'nursery' bed to grow on. Lift and place into their final positions in autumn

time. Aerate the lawn with a fork or manual aerator. If conditions are favourable, cut the grass with the mower blades set high.

Hoe around plants regularly to keep on top of weeds, and do this on a sunny day so that the seedlings wither and die quickly.

Sow tomatoes individually into trays and prick out into 3in (7.5cm) pots when the seedlings produce true leaves. Place them in good light to keep them compact and sturdy.

Keep an eye out for aphids and squash the colonies with your finger and thumb.

Roses affected with black spot last year may succumb to



joyofflowers.co.uk

reinfection. Spray new growth now with Scotts Fungus Fighter. Apply a thick mulch to borders.

Trim lavenders now, avoid cutting into old wood.

Sow edible flowers, such as pinks (dianthus), heartsease, rocket, chives, nasturtium, pot marigold, primrose, scented geranium and violet to add interest to salads and cakes.

Lift and transplant any self-sown seedlings or pot up individually to plant out later or give away.

Sow and plant hardy annuals as the soil begins to warm up. Try poppies, cornflowers, calendulas

and Nigella, sowing thinly onto a well prepared, free-draining soil in a sunny spot. Keep down weeds by hoeing around plants on a weekly basis.

Prune straggly herbs to retain a good shape and trim sages lightly.

Transplant evergreen trees and shrubs this month and keep well watered throughout the summer to help them establish well.



Sprinkle a layer of grit around perennials susceptible to slug and snail attacks, or use a barrier such as copper Slug Rings



◀ Repot citrus plants or replace the top 2in (5cm) using John Innes No2 with grit added. Use a summer feed available from the garden centres to boost growth and help prevent fruit dropping prematurely

Don't miss the next....

Woman's
Weekly

LIVING SERIES

STILL
ONLY
£1.99!

Gardening

*Packed with suggestions,
tips and ideas that work!*

Expert
answers
to your
gardening
dilemmas



*The secrets of
successful
flower borders!*

- Beautiful peonies and how to grow them
- A cottage garden – in pots!
- Stunning gardens to enjoy... and copy!

And much, much more!

ON SALE 20th APRIL

Don't miss it!

HSL
your
chair specialists

Your chair,
designed to fit you



Buckingham Chair
in Lewis Mustard

Friendly, expert advice, in-store or at home

Come and try for yourself at one of our 58 local stores – or arrange a free home consultation if you would prefer to shop from the comfort of your own home. To book your free home consultation, simply call 01924 486900, or email home@hslchairs.com

Making
sitting
& rising
easier
since
1968

FREE
4 WEEKS
DELIVERY
UK Mainland

Available in 2 sizes



Petite and Standard

Matching 2 seater
sofas available



Petite and Standard



Please post this coupon for your FREE catalogue pack

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

Freepost Plus RTKE-LARX-YJSS, HSL (Dept. W763),
Unit 1-3, Grange Road Industrial Estate,
Grange Road, Soothill, Batley WF17 6LN

NO STAMP
REQUIRED

Request your **FREE** fabric card & catalogue today!



Your pack includes 57 real fabric and 12 real leather samples, as well as our full range of chairs

Call **01924 507050** quoting W763
or visit **www.hslchairs.com**

Calls answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week