

Italian Cypress Tree

Create a spectacular focal point with these superb compact evergreens



Inspiring Italian Evergreen
Cupressus Sempervirens Totem, also known lovingly as the Italian Cypress, is a superb addition to our 2019 range of evergreen conifers.

They can grow to over 8m tall, making them a real impact plant, when their dark green foliage will certainly catch the eye. Supplied at 60-80cm tall in 14cm pots. Order now to avoid disappointment.
Free delivery within 14 days.

Only £8.99 each or if you buy two for £17.98 we will send you a further one free.

For a larger display, as illustrated, you can buy 6 for £29.94, saving £24.

Call **0843 922 5000** (calls cost 7p/min) (quoting SM38089) or visit **MirrorGardenOffers.co.uk**

ALTERNATIVELY COMPLETE THE COUPON IN BLOCK CAPITALS AND SEND IT TO:
Cupressus sempervirens Totem Offer SM38089, PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY

TITLE [] INITIAL [] SURNAME []	PLEASE SEND ME	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
ADDRESS []	1 CUPRESSUS SEMPERVIRENS TOTEM	[]	£8.99	[] £
POST CODE []	2 CUPRESSUS SEMPERVIRENS TOTEM + 1 FREE	[]	£17.98	[] £
DOB [] EMAIL []	6 CUPRESSUS SEMPERVIRENS TOTEM	[]	£29.94	[] £
TEL NO (for queries only) []			P&P FREE	TOTAL [] £
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I enclose a cheque/PO for the amount of £ [] made payable to 'Garden Offers', please use blue or black ink. (Name and address on the back please) or debit my credit/debit card for the sum of £ []

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Q&A



Staking your claim on easy tomatoes

Can I avoid the hassle of staking tomatoes?
David A, Cirencester, Glos
DAVID: Bush tomato varieties have been modified to produce abundant fruits on compact plants that don't require staking or pinching out of side shoots. So they are really hassle-free.
If you sow them indoors now, you will have delicious homegrown toms by July.



Dig out secrets to happy, healthy soil

How can I improve soil around garden plants?
Bill, Stanmore, North London
DAVID: Improving soil around established plants needs to be done without deep digging, which can damage roots. The perfect solution is to apply a generous layer of organic mulch to your soil, such as bark chippings, compost or well-rotted manure. Micro-organisms will break it down over time and release nutrients for your plants.

TIP of the week

Recycle your old Tic Tac boxes to store individual seed varieties, placing them in a cool, dark place for later use.

GET IN TOUCH

For loads more hints and tips on gardening visit daviddomoney.com or follow me on Facebook at @DavidDomoneyTV or on Twitter @daviddomoney

Here comes spring... and with it, a chance to get planting. Because nothing beats the simple pleasure of watching seeds burst into life

March is the month when allotments and veggie patches across the country come alive, with longer daylight hours creating perfect planting conditions.
All seeds really need is moisture, warmth and light – let nature do its thing. Beginners can start with something as easy as watercress, which happily grows on a damp piece of cotton wool or kitchen paper.
Sowing your own also means more diverse plants. Think purple-sprouting broccoli or curiously purple carrots.

SIZING UP SEEDS

Much like the plants they are destined to grow into, seeds come in an assortment of sizes.
Fine seeds, such as tomatoes, can be thinly scattered straight from the packet or mixed with dry sand in the palm of your hand before sprinkling the lot on to the soil.
They have lower germination rates than large ones, so sowing them like this saves you ending up with an empty individual pot.
Larger seeds, like cucumbers and pumpkins, have a flat seed structure

Children love large, easy-to-hold sunflower seeds

and are sown on their sides, enabling the first shoot to conserve energy and grow straight towards the surface.
For precise seed orientation like this, use your good fingers and sow one at a time.
Children particularly love large, easy-to-hold sunflower seeds. Generally, seeds are planted at a depth of two times their width, so kids will enjoy getting involved, working out how deep to place them.

SOWING INDOORS

Before getting started, it is worth investing in new seed trays as this will keep seedlings clear of diseases harboured in old trays from the previous year.
If you are worried about waste, small pots made from biodegradable wood fibre are a fantastic option.
Sowing seeds individually into these will mean you can simply plant the whole thing, minimising disturbance to the roots of young plants when potting on.
Start sowing indoors by sourcing compost that is specifically formulated for growing from seed – it's written on the bag.
This finely milled compost will allow young roots to grow easily and

SPRINKLE OF FUN
Sow your frost-hardy plants now



GROWING STRONG
Drink time

has the right balance of nutrients for good health.
Plant into ready-moistened soil to prevent seeds from being disturbed by watering after sowing. Use water from the tap, not rain, to keep disease at bay while plants are young.
Cover your containers with clear polythene to retain warmth and moisture and pop in a bright, warm position. Misting regularly will help

keep compost moist without damaging delicate shoots.
TENDER LOVING CARE
Whether you are growing flowers for a pretty picture or veggies for delicious dining, the principles of seed planting are the same.
Tender flowers such as Salvia splendens – scarlet-flowered sage – can be started off indoors this month

before being moved outside later. Frost-hardy plants, on the other hand, such as sempervivum – houseleek – and papaver – poppy – can be planted directly in the garden.
Once all danger of frost has passed, transition your tender plants outside by introducing them to outside temperatures gradually – this is called hardening off.
Pop them out in a shady, sheltered

spot for a couple of hours to start with and slowly ramp up the exposure over a couple of weeks.
This allows leaves to develop a thicker outer coating that will protect them from the great outdoors.
TRANSPLANT ACTION
Seedlings that are growing together in groups need pricking out. For this, gently separate them and then plant

into 9cm pots when they have got four to six leaves – this will stop roots from becoming entangled. Seeds sown individually can be left until their roots fill their pots before potting on.
A pointed hand tool called a dibber can be used to loosen compost around roots before gently lifting seedlings out to prevent damage to delicate stems.
Carefully firm down and water in using a fine rose attachment on your watering can.
It waters in a fine shower so will not unsettle the plants in the soil.

SOWING OUTDOORS

Sowing straight outdoors is handy if you don't have space to grow seeds indoors, but you will need to wait until mid-spring.
Once the weather is warm enough, the secret to success is preparing your seedbed properly.
It needs to be weed-free and have a crumbly texture to allow young roots to push through easily.
Simply dig over the soil so that it is loose to a spade's depth, rake over to smooth the surface and give it a few days to settle before getting started.
There it is – everything you need to be a mean, green, sowing machine.

Inspiring little seedlings to love nature...



GET A WRIGGLE ON Garden games

Our Cultivation Street competition has launched for 2019!
With our fantastic sponsors Calliope, we are offering nearly £20,000 in prizes for the best school and community gardens across the country.
In addition to the competition, our campaign encourages people of all ages and backgrounds to get outside and enjoy the great outdoors.
Alison Pike from Tiny Trowels in Bromsgrove, Worcs, is one of last year's community garden winners. And she knows all about the rewards of inspiring children to get out and grow. She says: "Children really love classes that centre

around wildlife, whether that is bird spotting or bug hunting.
"Tasting the fruits of their labour is also high up on the list of favourite sessions, especially when the strawberries are in season. It is great to see children engaging with nature and understanding more about the world."
Check out cultivationstreet.com for simple activities and ideas on how to get little ones involved, from colouring

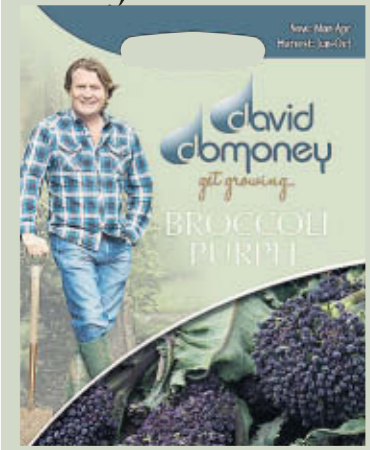
sheets to muddy projects. And getting kids into gardening is easy.
Alison says: "If they are very young, make sure you've got an area where they can dig. Children love to search for worms and digging can lead to all sorts of imaginative play.
"Also, if your garden is big enough, give them their own little patch of ground where they can grow what they like. They may choose to grow fruits or vegetables, decide to build a fairy garden or perhaps a Jurassic landscape where their toy dinosaurs can live."
Follow Cultivation Street on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

OFFER of the week

Bold and beautiful Begonia semperflorens Organdy Mixed is grown from F1 seed – the best quality seed on the market.
This colourful mix produces wonderful shades of red, pink and white, and packs a punch in the summer patio or border display.
Expect flowers from June to September. UK-grown maxi plug plants supplied. Delivery is within 28 days.
You can buy 33 for £11.99 or order 132 for **HALF PRICE**, £23.98.
To order by debit/credit card call **0843 922 5000** quoting **SMTG008** or send a cheque, using blue or black ink, made payable to 'Mirror Garden' to Begonia Organdy Mixed Offer (SMTG008), PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY or visit mirrorgardenoffers.co.uk



SEEDS of the week



Mix up your daily dose of greens with this pretty, purple-sprouting broccoli.
It will produce deliciously tender shoots that you will want to pile on your plate. Packed full of goodies including vitamin C and A, they jazz up dinners and are easy to grow.
Sow them now and seedlings should appear in one to three weeks.
Wait until April to May for planting out, in order to avoid late frosts, and they will be ready to harvest in October for salads or stir-fries.
Available from mr-fothergills.co.uk