

Gardening club

with DAVID DOMONEY

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WATERPROOF SUN SHADE SAIL

Now from **£19.99 plus £4.95 p&p**

Designed to provide shade for your garden patio furniture, children's play areas, sun loungers and hammocks so you can enjoy the sun safely.

Made from 170gsm nylon with a UPF rating of 50+, this sun shade is perfect to protect you and your family from up to 98 per cent of harmful UV rays, it is also waterproof so that you can sit and relax knowing you can stay dry during summer showers. They are designed to keep you cool whilst protecting you from the sun. To construct, simply lay the sail shade out on the floor, attach the provided cords to each D-ring and fix to a secure post, wall or tree. Each side is strapped for tension and for extra strength and durability.

Also available to purchase is a fixing kit which includes 3 x Pad Eyes, 3 x Turnbuckles and 6 x Snap hooks (3m triangle sun shade) 4 x Pad Eyes, 4 x Turnbuckles and 8 x Snap hooks (3m square sun shade). Your sun

shade sail can be fixed to solid structures such as concrete or wooden beams. These galvanised steel fixtures are extremely strong. See online for more sizes in this range.

3-Metre Triangle Waterproof Sun Shade Sail 300 x 300 x 300cm £19.99 Was £49.99

- G2819 Cream
- G2820 Sand
- G2821 Terracotta
- G2822 Green

G2835 Triangle Fixing Kit £19.99
G2837 Spare Pad Eye £4.99

3-Metre Square Waterproof Sun Shade Sail 300 x 300cm £39.99 Was £79.99

- G2827 Cream
- G2828 Sand
- G2829 Terracotta
- G2830 Green

G2836 Square Fixing Kit £24.99
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Our 'was' pricing refers to the original selling prices offered on our website www.cjoffers.co.uk, and in our retail store between 4th February - 5th May 2019. Calls cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Allow 7 working days for delivery. If you are not happy for any reason we will accept return of faulty/unused goods in sealed original packaging for full refund or replacement within 30 days. These goods are sold and supplied by BVG Group with whom you contract when you accept this offer.

Q&A



Create a buzz for bees with hostas

Should I remove flowers from hosta plants?

DAVID: Some gardeners recommend removing hosta flowers to encourage the plant to put its energy into producing foliage. However, the flowers are attractive and the bees love them, so I always leave mine in place.



Buy in best hitmen to eliminate slugs

What can I do about slugs eating my plants?

DAVID: There are many methods that can reduce slug damage but a simple and effective one is to encourage hedgehogs, birds, frogs and toads into the garden as bouncers.

You'll find they will eat loads of slugs.

TIP of the week

Half fill an old quiche dish with water, and use it as a saucer to keep two or three bog plants, such as sundews and Venus fly traps, happy.

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

How to make outside spaces work for a busy lifestyle, making sure you're up to date with all that's currently in vogue and easily doable

With bloomin' loads of flower festivals, including Chelsea Flower Show (May 21-25) just around the corner, it's high time to take a look at garden trends for 2019. I'll guide you on how to create a garden at the height of fashion this year.

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

A huge theme for this year is harmonising the demands of our busy, modern lives with our need to connect with nature. Functional design elements are set among clear pools, living walls and soft vegetation to make contemporary life feel like a well-rounded whole.

Create this feel by adding practical features to your garden that support your lifestyle. If you cycle the commute, consider adding bike storage. Does your modern workplace allow home working? If so, ponder building a garden office. If you cook daily, why not install an outdoor kitchen space for dining outside? From on-trend, free-standing firepits to contemporary outdoor cooking spaces with all the mod cons, there are a variety of ways to create dining spaces to suit a range of budgets.

WOODLAND WONDERS

Woodland areas are increasingly recognised as important for supporting wildlife, clearing pollution and keeping us all cooler with dappled shade in the summer. Perhaps for this reason, woodland-themed gardens will feature strongly at Chelsea this year.

While it will take time to create this look, if you get started now you can enjoy watching as it gradually turns into a flourishing small woodland area.

Begin by planting a few container-grown trees, making sure to allow room for ultimate height and spread as listed on the label.

For narrow gardens, Prunus (cherry) 'Amanogawa' is a great choice. It's pencil-thin and bears fantastic pink blossoms in spring.

Combine this with the characteristic purple foliage of Acer palmatum (Japanese maple) in a feature pot and you'll really make a statement.

For wider gardens, you can't go wrong with an apple. You can buy varieties which grow to all different sizes depending on the root stock - ask at your local garden centre.

Trees such as mountain ash, birch and hawthorn are good for a small wooded area and are brilliant for birds if grown as a standard. Water newly



MAKE A STATEMENT Vivid foliage of Japanese maples



TAKE A SEAT Plump for stone as it's low-maintenance

planted trees regularly for the first two years to encourage deep roots to form. At this point - or now if you already have established trees - you can underplant with ferns, Digitalis (foxgloves), Helleborus (hellebores) and wildflowers. These will be picked

out by dappled sunlight as it streams through your woodland canopy, creating a truly magical feel.

LOW-MAINTENANCE GARDENS

At the other end of the spectrum, there is also a higher-than-ever demand for minimal-upkeep gardens. If you want a garden that looks good with little tending then low-maintenance evergreens, such as Erysimum (hardy wall-

flower), Festuca glauca (blue fescue) and Vinca (periwinkle), can help achieve this effect.

Another idea is to replace some or all of your lawn with easy-to-care-for borders so you don't need to mow so often. Alternatively, simply allow a section of grass to go wild and you'll benefit bees, butterflies and hedgehogs at the same time as yourself.

Lastly, plumping for garden furniture and features that require little upkeep

will maximise enjoyment. Stone benches, for example, or Pavestone's porcelain paving slabs will really stand the test of time.

GARDENING TECH

Many gardens at Chelsea this year will feature feats of engineering that turn technology into nature's ally. There will be garden swings that pump water



FAVE IN THE WOODS Hellebores add contrast

through filtering plants to clean pondwater, plants grown over roofs and up walls to maximise space for gardening in inner cities, and even hydroponic plants grown in specialist solutions without the need for soil.

Take a leaf out of Chelsea's book by using today's technology to your advantage. Vertical wall planting kits and stackable pots can help you grow your own in small spaces.

Biodegradable irrigation rings can help to water newly planted trees while at their most needy before dissolving into the soil, while timed irrigation systems will water plants while you're on holiday.

Gardening apps for iOS and Android can help identify plants and plan crop rotations. Others can be linked to garden lights and water features to turn them on or off easily. You can even get indoor "smart gardens" that light, water and feed plants perfectly - ideal for people on the go.

So follow these simple take-home points and you'll be at the forefront of current garden trends.

Trends of the earth

OFFER of the week

Clematis Montana 'Marjorie' is the world's first double-flowering Clematis Montana.

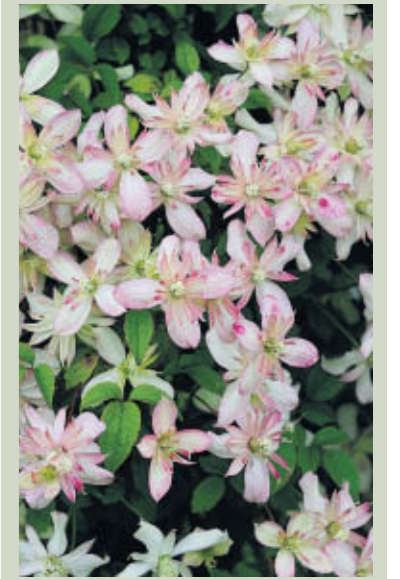
It produces magnificent pink flowers that smother the clematis in spring and a glossy green foliage that lasts until November.

And 9cm pot plants are supplied with this offer.

Buy one Clematis Marjorie for £9.99 or order four for only £19.98, **HALF PRICE.**

Delivery within 14 days.

To order by debit/credit card, call 0843 922 5000, quoting **SMTG028**, or send a cheque made payable, using blue or black ink, to 'Garden Offers' to: Mirror Clematis Marjorie Offer (**SMTG028**), PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY or visit mirrorgardenoffers.co.uk.



BUY of the week



Go ahead, make my tray, and get potting

I love this sturdy plastic potting tray. It's perfect for keeping your workbench or greenhouse tidy when you're potting up seeds.

There's plenty of room for compost, tools and pots, so you can keep everything in the same place while you're transferring your seeds from trays to pot.

I found it for a great value £12.95 via amazon.co.uk.

One school that's cultivating a greener future



GROWING PLACES Star pupils

The great outdoors plays a huge part of modern-day schooling. From countryside locations to built-up urban estates, schools are looking for green-fingered activities and ways to create imaginative spaces for younger generations to enjoy.

Star Primary School in East London designed a garden to celebrate their urban setting. The result is a fascinating combination of natural planting and inspiring outdoor learning zones.

The planted areas, which enable children to get in touch with nature,



include sensory beds, a greenhouse and wildlife. While in the more formal learning zones, children experience lessons under purpose-built gazebos.

Jacqui Jennings, Assistant Head and Eco-coordinator, says: "We encourage our children to be outdoors as much as possible. We've transformed what was a paved space into one that's now a

growing space, connecting our children with their environment.

"They can use iPads to take photos or look up information on planting or bird-identification apps. We also track the weather using our weather station app. Technology has an important role in shaping our future and, as such, we aim to use it more in our garden." This demonstrates the use of technology as a tool to connect with nature.

■ To enter your school garden into the Cultivation Street 2019 contest, visit cultivationstreet.com