

Half-Price Giant Cascading Begonias
Create colourful basket displays this summer with our selection of Begonias

BUY 18 FOR HALF PRICE

A **B** **C** **D** **E** **F**

Top size 5cm+ diameter tubers supplied

18 Giant Double Cascading Begonia Collection - Receive 3 each of (A-F) for just £19.95, Half-Price.

Free delivery within 14 days.

Call **0843 922 5000** (calls cost 7p/min) (quoting DM39043) or visit **MirrorGardenOffers.co.uk**

ALTERNATIVELY COMPLETE THE COUPON IN BLOCK CAPITALS AND SEND IT TO: Mirror Cascading Begonias DM39043, PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY

TITLE INITIAL SURNAME PLEASE SEND ME QTY PRICE TOTAL

ADDRESS A. 3 CASCADING BEGONIA APRICOT £6.65 E

POST CODE B. 3 CASCADING BEGONIA WHITE £6.65 E

DOB EMAIL C. 3 CASCADING BEGONIA PINK £6.65 E

TEL NO (for queries only) D. 3 CASCADING BEGONIA ORANGE £6.65 E

NAME ON CARD SIGNATURE E. 3 CASCADING BEGONIA SCARLET £6.65 E

F. 3 CASCADING BEGONIA YELLOW £6.65 E

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 £

CARD NO. MAESTRO 16+ NOS.

VALID / / EXPIRY / / MAESTRO ISSUE NO.

Calls cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge. These goods are sold and supplied by J. Parker Dutch Bulbs (Wholesale) Ltd. with whom you contract when you accept this offer.

Gardening club



with DAVID DOMONEY

features@sundaymirror.co.uk
daviddomoney.com
@daviddomoney
/daviddomoneytv



Q&A

Your all you can eat fresh salad buffet

Can I get a second crop of leaves from my spring greens? **Marcia, via email DAVID:** For cut-and-come-again spring greens, snip the leaves just at their base to leave a stump when harvesting, starting with older outer leaves and working inwards. When you have cut all of the leaves, cut a cross in the top of the stalk and new growth will emerge.



Spray of hope to stop little suckers

How do I stop greenfly attacking my roses? **Jo, North London DAVID:** Greenfly are common garden pests that suck sap from a plant and weaken its growth. They are usually found in clusters on young shoots. Get rid of them by filling a spray bottle with washing up liquid and water, which coats the insect and will eliminate them.

TIP of the week

Male cucumber flowers, without a swelling at the base, produce blossoms but no fruit. These flowers can be deep fried and eaten.

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**

With a little prep and sunshine, you can start the countdown to delicious, juicy tomatoes on the vine and summer salads bursting with flavour

As the world's favourite fruit, tomatoes have a lot to offer. These beloved berry-red beauties are easy to grow, making them the go-to for beginners. So here are my top tips to get your tomato plants producing bountiful crops all season long.

KNOW YOUR FRUIT

Growing from seed can be really easy and it's a great way to save money. But if you have forgotten to plant tomato seeds in time, never fear. Get down to the garden centre for your pick of ready-grown young plants.

Tomatoes come in two basic kinds – vine, or indeterminate, ones can grow up to 6ft tall and need pruning and support. Bush, or determinate, tomatoes are compact and need little or no support or pruning.

Check labels to see what you're looking at. Bush tomatoes are very fuss-free productive plants and are perfect for beginner gardeners.

TOUGHEN UP

Whether buying young plants or nurturing your own seedlings, tomatoes should be ready to plant outside into their final positions once

they are producing their first flowers. Since indoor-grown plants are used to a cushy life of warmth and shelter, when it is time to plant out, it is best to introduce them to outdoor conditions gradually – hardening off.

Place plants in a sheltered spot outside on a warm day for one hour before returning indoors. Repeat daily for two weeks, slowly lengthening time and exposure to direct sunlight and wind. This will help plants to toughen up before going outside. They will then be ready to fend for themselves overnight as long as night-time temperatures stay at 10°C or above.

Plants also need six to eight hours



Ground control for major toms

of sun a day to ripen fruits. Identify the garden's sun trap and pop plants there for plentiful crops of delicious toms with maximum flavour.

LEAN ON ME

When tomatoes grow, the fruits get heavy, so supporting the plant helps. If you place supports around them as you plant out, you'll get the benefits without disturbing roots. For upright

bush tomatoes, simply secure loosely to a 3ft bamboo cane using garden string or reusable plastic plant clips.

Vine tomatoes need a bit more TLC. One way to support them is to fasten their central stem to a 6ft-8ft bamboo cane, adding new ties as each new set of leaves forms. A slightly more expensive but excellent modern alternative is to use a tomato ladder.



together to form an ever-extending support that holds the central stem upright and supports side shoots as they crop with no need for fastening.

GET PLUCKY

Since vine toms produce most of their fruit on their central stem, pinching out suckers – additional branches that grow between the leaves and stem – will give you a bigger crop. This focuses

their energy on producing and ripening fruit, not growing foliage.

Be careful, as bush tomato side shoots are valuable tomato-producing branches. Leaving them in place gets you a bigger harvest.

Tomatoes are 95 per cent water, meaning plants need a constant supply to produce top-quality fruits. If you've ever had tomatoes split on the vine, this is usually due to fluctuating water levels – dehydrated plants form a hard skin on developing fruits that splits when water is available again and fruits suddenly expand. Problems like this are easily solved by watering your plants regularly, ensuring soil stays moist but does not become waterlogged. Plants grown in hanging baskets and containers, which have a greater surface area, dry out much faster and will need more regular watering than those grown in the ground. Fruiting tomatoes also require a regular supply of high potash fertiliser, which helps them form fruit. Choosing one of the many fertilisers designed specifically for tomatoes and feeding from the moment your plants start producing flowers will keep them producing top quality fruits longer. Follow these top growing tips and you will be rewarded with heavy trusses of ripe tomatoes for months to come. They will be perfect for eating fresh off the vine, sprinkling with salt and oregano or on a slice of cheese for a delicious homegrown snack.

OFFER of the week

Superb hardy evergreen Gardenia 'Kleim's Hardy' produces highly fragrant flowers, unrivalled by few other shrubs.

It produces elegant white saucer-shaped flowers that will appear on attractive glossy foliage throughout summer, well into autumn. Supplied as 9cm pot plants.

Buy one Gardenia 'Kleim's Hardy' for only £9.99 or order two for £19.98 and get one **FREE**. Delivery within 14 days.

To order by debit/credit card call **0843 922 5000** quoting **SMTG024** or send a cheque made payable, using blue or black ink, to "Garden Offers" to Gardenia Kleim's Hardy Offer (SMTG024), PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY or go to **mirrorgardenoffers.co.uk**.



GADGET



This robust Kingfisher planter with a lattice trellis is ideal for growing summer-flowering climbers such as climbing petunia or sweet pea. It is made from pressure-treated fir and contains about 40 litres of soil when full. It is self-assembly but easy to put together and makes an attractive garden feature for a patio, balcony or even to hide the bins. I found it via **greenfingers.com** for £29.99.

Fab swap shop grows happy communities



Community gardens are often built on a culture of sustainable living, so things are sourced creatively.

That's what Cultivation Street is all about and we love hearing the weird and wonderful solutions gardeners have come up with to keep costs down, while promoting community spirit.

Residents of Talgarth in Wales wanted a project that would create a focal point and give residents access to fresh fruit and vegetables.

After receiving a grant in 2018, they built three planters on a small unused



piece of council land. They started a giveaway morning, where residents donated excess veg they had grown themselves. This led to most of their initial plants being provided for free.

The sharing ethos quickly became a part of the garden's charm, enabling them to transform the empty space.

Volunteers lovingly tend the donated plants to produce a range of seasonal

vegetables. These are then available for the community to pick themselves as they pass – all free of charge.

Rosie Williams, one of their members, explained: "Many people plant a packet of tomato or bean seeds and do not want all the young seedlings."

"Instead of wasting them, we've had a plant swap and now people are queuing up to donate or exchange excess seeds or plants."

Visit **cultivationstreet.com** to read more stories like this, or find out about community gardening.