

G THE ENGLISH GARDEN

WIN
£2,000
of GARDEN
FURNITURE

NOVEMBER 2005

FOR EVERYONE WHO LOVES BEAUTIFUL GARDENS

£3.20 A\$7.95

BRIGHT IDEAS

Andy Sturgeon on
how to light the
autumn garden

Creating
a modern look with
water



Your garden: plan it... plant it... enjoy it...

- Ursula Buchan's **JOBS TO DO** now
- Buy birch trees and health giving **BLUEBERRIES**
- Helen Yemm puts her **CHICKENS** to work in the garden





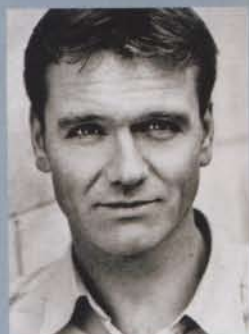
1



2



3



GARDEN DESIGNER
ANDY STURGEON WON
A GOLD MEDAL FOR HIS
GARDEN AT THE 2005 RHS
CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

ABOVE Soft lighting adds charm and atmosphere to your garden. 1 Garden Architecture's LED lights change colour for different effects. 2 R K Alliston's pretty glass tea light holders glow delightfully. 3 Paper Chinese lanterns, for an eastern appeal. 4 Moonlight Design's subtle LED lighting for steps.

TOP, RIGHT: JERRY HANFORD/DESIGN; JAMES ALDRIDGE; RIGHT: IZ EDDISON/THE GARDEN COLLECTION

May the light be with you

Give your garden instant glamour and romance with Andy Sturgeon's guide to easy, alternative lighting

It may be horticultural heresy to say it but, in the garden, lighting has become almost as important as plants. However, wiring up your garden with electricity and complying with recently introduced legislation means you have to dig pretty deep into your pockets. Luckily, there are some less expensive alternatives, which in some cases even offer better results.

Candles are obviously the oldest light source there is and garden flares were the first readily available garden candle - 2ft long coloured wands that poured molten wax all over your lawn and plants. Thankfully, there are now better options. **Tea lights** are unbelievably cheap to buy in bulk bags, and there are more holders to choose from than you would think possible. ▶

lighting special

One of my favourites is the paper **Chinese lantern** or, as an alternative, the little wooden lanterns available from Frances Hilary. The twinkly effect of hanging tea lights in trees, lining a path or placing them along the top of a wall takes your garden into fairytale territory. Most of the DIY chains also sell **chunky garden candles**, which are just as attractive as any you buy for indoors, and these give a good amount of light when grouped together in twos and threes on a table, sheltered from the breeze by glass hurricanes.

However, despite there being nothing more romantic, the time it takes to light individual candles could be something of a passion killer, and the wind is your enemy. **Oil lamps** could be the solution. There are those on a bamboo stick that you shove into the ground among the planting or more decorative, almost medieval looking, copper and brass torches that can even be wall mounted. Citronella keeps the mosses away but does create black smoke, so beware.

Of course, there is still the hassle factor and we are by nature lazy creatures, so the **gas versions** can be a better option, each one housing a compact butane cylinder with electronic ignition. You can put them round the garden and light them in minutes. It doesn't get much easier, but it does get more stylish.

Outdoor **firetables** are made from stone with a central burner filled with an alcohol based gel fuel. There is no mess, no fuss and no fumes, and apart from the beautiful flickering light this is a proper piece of furniture which will take your patio or balcony into the style überleague. For a more compact solution along the same lines, **patio gel burners** give a similarly clean and modern effect.

But electricity need not be difficult. Technological advances in tiny LEDs have given us discreet, **low voltage lights** for patios, steps and decking. Mains powered, they are easily installed, with help from a qualified electrician, for a permanent solution. Or try solar powered brick lights that you slot straight into your paving, glowing spheres that float on your pond and - for the more adventurous - *Star Wars* style **battery powered light sabres**.

For a temporary solution there are always lights that can be plugged into outdoor sockets or extension leads protected by circuit breakers. **White fairy lights** weaving through the branches of a tree and rope lights snaking around the trunk create a magical effect and they often have numerous pulsing, flashing and dimming functions; just what you need for instant atmosphere.



5



6



7



8



9



10



11

STOCKISTS Useful contacts for featured products, prices and for similar lighting ideas

CAPITAL GARDENS (candles; gel burners) +44 (0)20 8348 5054. www.capitalgardens.co.uk **THE CONRAN SHOP** (light sabres) +44 (0)20 7591 8706. www.conran.com **CROCUS** (floating globes; low voltage) 0870 7871414. www.crocus.co.uk **DIRECT GARDEN PRODUCTS** (solar) 0800 6521028. www.directgardenproducts.co.uk **EXOTIC & ORIENTAL** (paper lanterns) +44 (0)1229 832439. www.exoticandoriental.co.uk **FIRETABLE** (firetables) 0870 8553397. www.firetable.com **FRANCES HILARY** (wooden lanterns) 0870 1202299. www.franceshilary.com **GARDEN ARCHITECTURE** (LED fittings) +44 (0)20 7385 1020. www.galighting.co.uk **THE GARDEN FACTORY** (LED brick and solar lights) 0870 7526666. www.thegardenfactory.co.uk **GARDEN LIGHTING CO** (low voltage) +44 (0)1706 227525. www.gardenlighting.co.uk **THE HOME AND GARDENER CO** (oil lamps) +44 (0)1508 480976. www.homeandgardener.co.uk **MOONLIGHT DESIGN** (LED fittings) +44 (0)20 8925 8639. www.moonlightdesign.co.uk **OBJECTS OF DESIGN** (electric lanterns) +44 (0)1488 71236. www.objects-of-design.com **R K ALLISTON** (tea light holders) 0845 1305577. www.rkalliston.com **THE URBAN GARDEN** (gas lamps) 0870 0423586. www.theurbangarden.co.uk **WATERWELL** (LED fittings) +44 (0)20 8742 8855. www.waterwell.co.uk

5 & 6 Traditional versus modern: buy chunky garden candles or choose a stylish gel burner from Capital Gardens. 7 Glass holders to light a path, by R K Alliston. 8 Crocus' floating solar globes. 9 Dramatic gas torches from The Urban Garden. 10 Low voltage Fisherman's Lights from Crocus. 11 Frances Hilary's wooden lanterns.