

1 PLANT VERTICALLY

"Vertical planting is the future for urban gardens, where you have less space and more care for the environment. It's a complex mix of ornamental and productive plants, and a lush alternative to breeze blocks, fencing or a hedge. It can include soft fruit, vegetables, herbs or ornamentals, such as common herbaceous perennials, periwinkles, saxifrages, succulents and mosses," says Paul Stone, who has designed the Eden Project Garden for this year's Chelsea Flower show.

12 ways to give your garden the CHELSEA LOOK

It's Chelsea Flower Show time again, so it's a great chance to find out what the experts believe are the major trends, and what they're planting and buying. Emma Morton-Turner and Theoda Solms Iles reveal all



This year, vegetable seeds have outsold flower seeds for the first time in years and the take up of allotments has been huge

ALAN TITCHMARSH

2 GROW YOUR OWN

"There is a universal move towards people growing their own fruit and vegetables as organically as possible, whether they're using allotments or a plot at the end of the garden," says garden designer and TV presenter Diarmuid Gavin. "Even Michelle Obama has started a new White House vegetable garden, the first in over 50 years."

HOW TO GET STARTED

Visit thompson-morgan.com for every conceivable seed, then invest in a good book bursting with info and tips. We like:
 + *Allotment Month By Month* by Alan Buckingham (Dorling Kindersley, £16.99).
 + *Home Grown: A Practical Guide To Self-sufficiency And Living The Good Life* by The Soil Association (Gaia, £9.99).
 + *Alan Titchmarsh How To Garden: Vegetables And Herbs* (BBC Books, £6.99).

3 SIT IN THE SHADE

Sail shades are big news this year. Not only do they look great and keep you shaded without any annoying poles, but they are made of hard-wearing fabric, which means you can leave them out all year long. Just brush them with a mild detergent when they get grubby. This sail, from £695, is sold as a kit and is available from funkyblindcompany.co.uk; 01189-328852.



4 FEEL THE HEAT

"My Brazier patio heater throws out plenty of heat and is a real treat to sit around at night," says *Gardeners' World* presenter, Joe Swift. "It can also double up as a BBQ. It's my must-have garden accessory for this year." We love this Fire Pit, £189, from marksandspencer.com.



5 KEEP IT WELL WATERED

"Every garden should have a water butt (to collect rainwater from the roof of any house, garage or shed). It will reduce the need to use a hose pipe and keep everything looking luscious throughout the sunshine," says Diarmuid Gavin.
 + A water butt is not only great for the environment, but looks good in your garden, too! Try the barrel water butts from crocus.co.uk; 0844-5572233.

6 KEEP FLOWERS FUN

Easy-to-grow flowers are the top of many gardeners' agenda this summer, as they give immense joy. Writer and broadcaster Sarah Raven recommends Dahlia "Rip City", which is incredibly luscious and beautiful, and a tip-top performer. >>



Dahlia "Rip City"

garden inspiration



8 HAVE COLOUR CONFIDENCE

There are two big colour themes at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. The first will follow the calming trends of last year with plenty of soft greens and whites, with the addition of silvery colours. The second is a more rich and vibrant palette, with purples and clarets, like Tulip "Queen of the Night", Scabiosa "Chile Black", Aquilegia "Black Barlow" and Aquilegia "Ruby Port".



Anemone Hupehensis
"Whirlwind"



Scabiosa "Chile Black"



9 ADD THE ELEMENT OF WATER

It's never been easier to give your garden the soft, trickling and relaxing sound of water. Whether it's a barrel pond, a fountain or a simple slate stack, it will enhance any outdoor space. For a great range, visit B&Q's website, diy.com.

7 CREATE A ROOM

"Like an interior designer, I consider the texture, style, colour and atmosphere of my gardens, and how people might interact with the space as an extension of their inside living area," says Luciano Giubbilei, who's designing a garden at Chelsea for Laurent-Perrier Champagne. "I start with the architectural features of the building and ensure that the garden layout reflects the proportions of the house. In this way, the two spaces are unified."



10 ATTRACT WILDLIFE TO YOUR GARDEN

"I think every garden can benefit from a herb patch," says Ian Dexter, who's designing the Marshalls garden at Chelsea. "Apart from tasting good, they are fantastic for attracting butterflies and bees into the garden. Thyme, marjoram and hyssop are particularly successful for this." You can attract bees with this wooden bee house, £15, from coxandcox.co.uk.

11 GO ARTY

"Over the last few years, we've seen more and more artists producing incredible work for the garden, and people have begun to recognise that a garden is the perfect setting. Art is also collectable and an investment," says garden designer Andy Sturgeon. David Harber has a beautiful collection of sculptures that are definitely a piece of work to treasure. davidharbersundials.co.uk



12 CHOOSE THE RIGHT SEATING

"Every garden should have somewhere comfortable to sit, relax and maybe have a drink or a bite to eat," says Adam Frost, who is designing the QVC garden at Chelsea. **w&h**

