

Coffee With Andy Sturgeon

f SHARE

t TWEET

G+ GOOGLE PLUS

p PIN



Andy: With patience, a lot easier than people might think. As a gardener myself, in my early career I chose not to use any chemicals to kill weeds and insects after I learned what actually went into them and what other harm they were doing. Artificial fertilizers only feed the plant, not the soil and in the long run this doesn't support itself. It is all about balance with the eco system and having a garden settle in with all the beneficial insects countering the ones causing the problems. Feeding the soil organically (use seaweed based fertilizer to feed lawns instead of oil-based nitrogen) is logical. It just takes a bit more time but the long-term results are far more satisfying.



Paul: What garden trends are you seeing and how are people using their gardens these days?

Andy: Since the mid 90's well-designed gardens have joined the list with kitchens and bathrooms when home owners are thinking of up-dating. Gardens are becoming smaller and with busier life styles people have less time to garden. My designs reflect this, using outdoor spaces as extensions of living spaces for many months of the year. Fireplaces, fire pits and other entertaining elements are being incorporated.

Planting trees has always been a trend for me and is still one of the first elements I discuss with a client.

Paul: With so many things to take in at the Chelsea Flower Show, do you have any advice on how people visiting should make best use of their trip, for people who want to think about designing their own gardens?

Andy: If you only come away with two inspirational things then it was worth the visit! Maybe a style of furniture you were not thinking of which could be more comfortable and modern, seeing plants being used in a more architectural way that would make a pleasing composition all year round or simply discovering plants for a specific need that relates to your garden. The drought tolerant garden I have designed still has flowers and color. Many parts of England have warmer, drier summers and plants that traditionally are seen in warmer Mediterranean climates can actually work well here.



Paul Robbins

Paul Robbins is based in Gloucestershire where he runs his garden design and Cotswold travel business. Working in England and across the United States his portfolio ranges from private homes to oases for boutique hotels and restaurants.

<http://www.britishgardencompany.com>