



# MirrorOFFERS

Blanche Coupland's best buys to make your garden great

## Gardenia 'Crown Jewel'

A highly fragrant shrub that's ideal for growing in pots on the patio



### Heavenly Fragrant Shrub

Gardenia jasminoides 'Crown Jewel' is a sensational new dwarf hardy evergreen shrub which produces heavily scented flowers. The double, star shaped white flowers appear in early summer and continue to bloom through to the autumn amongst a dramatic backdrop of glossy forest green leaves. Ideal for growing in patio containers or in your borders.

this compact shrub is easily managed, growing to only 60cm tall, with a spread of 100-120cm. Flowers June to October. Top-quality 9cm pot plants supplied.

Free delivery within 14 days.

You can buy one Gardenia 'Crown Jewel' for only £13.99, or order two for just £26.98 and SAVE £8.

Call **0843 922 5000** (quoting SM34452) or visit **MirrorGardenOffers.co.uk**  
Call our UK-based sales team or visit our website now for hundreds of great offers

ALTERNATIVELY COMPLETE THE COUPON IN BLOCK CAPITALS AND SEND IT TO:  
Mirror Gardenia Crown Jewel SM34452, PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY

TITLE	INITIAL	SURNAME	PLEASE SEND ME	BY	PRICE	TOTAL
ADDRESS			GARDENIA 'CROWN JEWEL'	1	£13.99	1
POST CODE			2 GARDENIA 'CROWN JEWEL' - 100018	6	£26.98	6
DOB				EXP	VALID	YRS
TEL NO (or mobile)						
NAME ON CARD			SIGNATURE			

I enclose a cheque/PO for the amount of £. made payable to SM34452 (name and address on the back please) or debit my credit/debit card for the sum of £.  
CARD NO. VALID EXPY WHOLESALE 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

## Q&A



### I'd like to keep my bed above water

» What's the best time of day to water the garden, and how long should the sprinkler stay on for? **Molly, via email**  
**DAVID:** Always water during cooler parts of the day - first thing in the morning or in the early evening. This saves it evaporating before it soaks in. Put an empty cup beneath the sprinkler and you can see how much water that area has had, helping you to know when you can turn it off. The water needs to soak a good few inches into the soil.



### Wheelie easy ways of hiding ugly bins

» Is there a way to conceal my wheelie bins in the front garden? **Rick, London**  
**DAVID:** Wheelie bin storage units are a great way to hide them from view - many have green roofs for planting, helping them to blend in with the surrounding garden. Alternatively, bamboo and willow screens can be an attractive option to match the style of your garden.

## TIP of the week

Wooden pallets, wine boxes and crates, an old chest of drawers, or even the kitchen sink can all make great recycled containers for a herb garden. Just don't forget to add drainage holes.

## GET IN TOUCH

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Do yourself a flavour and give your garden a sprinkling of herb plants for a sensory explosion of textures, colours and aromas you just can't resist

Herbs are one of the most versatile plants you can grow. Most people grow them for culinary uses, snipping off sprigs to liven any number of dishes and drinks, from rosemary roast potatoes to minty mojitos.

But they're also a great aesthetic addition to your garden.

Many evergreen varieties will bring year-round colour, and some have delicate flowers alongside their recognisable green foliage.

And, of course, herbs also bring another sensory dimension to your garden with their often-strong fragrance and tactile leaves.

If that's whet your appetite, the good news is that they're incredibly easy to grow, whether in a container on your patio or integrated among other shrubs in beds and borders.

Always buy herb plants from the garden centre if you can. Avoid those sold in supermarkets - they've often been grown "soft" in a greenhouse.

This means they've been prepared to crop on your window sill, and may struggle once you plant them outside.

Garden centre herbs, by contrast, are grown especially for planting out

“**I stand my pots on wine corks to leave a gap above the patio**

in your garden. Sage, rosemary and thyme are great choices for beds and borders, where they can be interplanted as part of a larger scheme.

Containers are always a great choice for growing herbs, especially parsley, oregano and basil - so don't worry if you have a smaller space, they will thrive in pots and window boxes.

Herb wheels are great for growing multiple varieties. These take the form of the wooden-spoked wheel of an old-fashioned cart, with different herbs planted between each spoke.

You can buy these from garden centres, or quite easily make one yourself. Just don't forget to label each section so you remember what you planted where.

The most important thing when growing herbs is to find them a sunny spot, with well-drained soil.

If you're planting directly into the ground and your soil is heavy clay, you may need to add some organic manure or compost to improve it.

Some herbs, such as mint and horseradish, can grow and spread quite rapidly - so these may be better in segmented containers or individual pots to stop them taking over.

Always ensure if you're planting in



**MED FOR IT** Try oregano on pizza

## Appetite for instruction

Herbs boost any dish, and you'll be surprised how much more you use them when they're to hand.

Basil and oregano are often favoured in Italian cooking, primarily in pastas and pizza.

Mint is the usual for lamb - although rosemary is an excellent alternative. Thyme works well with chicken, especially when you add some zesty lemon as well.

Coriander, big in Asian cookery, adds a kick to stir fries.

And parsley's peppery flavour is great on many dishes - either chopped, or as a small sprig on top for a finishing flourish.

containers that they have sufficient drainage holes and crocks (some pebbles or broken bits of clay) at the bottom of the pot to prevent soil from blocking the holes.

I stand my pots on wine corks so there is a gap between the bottom of the pot and the patio, helping with



**GROWING PASSION** Kids get to work