Gardening

Q&A

Best time to bob in that Red Robin

When should I be shifting my Red Robin bush? I know that they are a bit temperamental.
Mitch, Dunstable, Beds

DAVID: Yes, photinias often do not move well. If you need to, move it when it's dormant in late autumn or early winter. Summer is the worst time as keeping leaves with damaged roots strains it. Dig as big a rootball as possible, water in well and throw in compost and granular fertiliser for good measure to help it re-establish.

Way to keep weeds out and soil rosy

I'm thinking of putting a weed fabric around my roses. Will I still be able to fertilise them? Bill, via email

DAVID: This is one of the major drawbacks to weed fabrics - they make it harder to fertilise. Over the years, they also degrade the quality of the soil. A good layer (8-10cm) of (XXXXXnot sure if this should say mulch/bark chippingsXXX)?? is usually just as effective as weed fabric, makes it easier to

TIP *of the week*

Don't throw used coffee grounds away. You can add them to the compost heap or mulch directly on to the soil around your plants. They are full of nutrients.

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Bring a touch of spring inside your home by making the most of doors, windows, porches and conservatories

There's not a garden lover out there who doesn't look forward to throwing their doors open to spring.

But as we look out to the garden, it's also a time when many of us look back at the home and think of spring cleaning and a spot of DIY.

Spring is a threshold, as we move from cold winter to warm summer, so I'd like to focus on the thresholds of your home: windows, doors, conservatories and porches.

Have your windows gathered any corner mould over the winter? Does your door need a lick of paint?

You don't have to replace wholesale to improve your home and garden experience. So let's look at the first and last thing you experience in your home – the doorways.

WELCOME

A blossoming climber arching over your front or back door will create a warm welcome and a sweet goodbye.

Choosing a fragrant climber is even better as you get hit with wonderful smells as you come and go.

They often need a little investment of time and care – pruning and training them. But they magic up the feeling of a cosy country garden, even in the heart of a city.

Location is key. Be sure to research and make sure the variety is correct for the side of the house you want to grow it on.

Plant your climber a good 30cm from the wall to give roots room to grow, and to be sure they can collect rain, which can be blocked by walls and eaves. Be aware those that attach to your wall with aerial roots usually mark the wall if removed.

Wisteria floribunda and clematis armandii are superb options for fragrant spring flowering.

Potted plants are your next stop for giving doorways a lift. A couple of well-pruned bay trees or buxus on either side of a doorway are a timeless and classy option. Both look terrific in a lollipop shape, but buxus can be pruned all sorts of interesting ways.

Our windows also come to life at this time of year, letting in more light and air and drawing us to look out at the blossoming garden.

This means it's a good time to think about dressing them inside and out.

If you have a window that doesn't get a lot of direct sunlight then an orchid is a top choice. Their exotic and bold look adds vibrancy to any room design. The trick with orchids is not to overwater them – only water when their potting mix is dry or their aerial roots start to turn silvery-grey.

They come from a rather humid

SUPERB Be the envy of your neighbours with some wonderful wisteria

HOLEY WATERED Monstera plants work well in conservatories

Tiny seedlings

GROW GETTER School team in Falkirk