

Half-Price Trailing Surfinia

Create colourful hanging basket displays this summer



Premium Trailing Basket Surfinia
Our range of bestselling Surfinia are a must have for any summer display. They are rampant trailing plants which produce an avalanche of colourful single flowers throughout summer, well into autumn. Our selection will look great planted alone or mixed and will trail 80-100cm. Perfect for hanging baskets. UK-grown 3cm diameter plug plants supplied.
Free delivery within 14 days.

You can buy six of one variety for only £8.99 and choose from:

- A. 6 Trailing Surfinia Blue
- B. 6 Trailing Surfinia White
- C. 6 Trailing Surfinia Purple
- D. 6 Trailing Surfinia Red
- E. 6 Trailing Surfinia Victoria Yellow
- F. 6 Trailing Surfinia Hot Pink

18 Trailing Surfinia Collection - 3 each of A-F for only £17.98 - 12+6 FREE.

30 Trailing Surfinia Collection - 5 each of A-F for only £22.47 - HALF PRICE.

Call **0843 922 5000** (quoting SM33501) 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 Trailing Surfinia Offer (SM33501), PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY

TITLE	INITIAL	SURNAME	PLEASE SEND ME	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
ADDRESS POST CODE			A. 6 TRAILING SURFINIA BLUE	12	£8.99	£107.88
			B. 6 TRAILING SURFINIA WHITE	12	£8.99	£107.88
			C. 6 TRAILING SURFINIA PURPLE	12	£8.99	£107.88
			D. 6 TRAILING SURFINIA RED	12	£8.99	£107.88
			E. 6 TRAILING SURFINIA VICTORIA YELLOW	12	£8.99	£107.88
			F. 6 TRAILING SURFINIA HOT PINK	12	£8.99	£107.88
DOB			18 TRAILING SURFINIA COLLECTION - 3 EACH OF A-F		£17.98	£17.98
			30 TRAILING SURFINIA COLLECTION - 5 EACH OF A-F		£22.47	£22.47
TEL NO (for queries only)			TOTAL £			
NAME ON CARD			SIGNATURE			

I enclose a cheque/PO for the amount of £ made payable to MGN SM33501 (name and address on the back please) or debit my credit/debit card for the sum of £

CARD NO. MAESTRO 16+ NOS

VALID EXPIRY MAESTRO ISSUE NO.

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Gardening club

with DAVID DOMONEY

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Q&A

Sugar gives flowers real staying powers

» Which cut flowers last the longest? I'm tired of changing them all the time. Stewart, Hedge End, Hants. **DAVID:** Try carnations, chrysanthemums and astroemeria. Add a little sugar to your vase to feed them and a few drops of lemon juice to keep water fresh. Change the water every two days and remove wilting flowers. These tricks will help any flowers last.



Arrange hydrangea to fill a widerangea

» I need to fill an empty border space quickly. Any suggestions? Martin, Kent. **DAVID:** Try hydrangea or spirea japonica. They are fast-growing shrubs. Now's the ideal time to plant them - and they should do the trick.

TIP of the week

Keep eggshells rather than throwing them away. Crush into small pieces and drop into a bucket of water then use to water plants. They will add plenty of calcium and minerals.

GET IN TOUCH
For loads more hints and tips on gardening visit daviddomoney.com or follow me on Facebook at @DavidDomoneyTV or on Twitter @daviddomoney

Gardeners would give the earth to have plant-friendly soil. Fret not, there are several ways to boost yours and get some spectacular results

SOIL is the foundation of all gardening. You might say it's the one thing you really cannot do without. So to grow things better in your garden simply boost your soil. The good news is, all soils can be improved and you can make a gorgeous garden out of any of them. But before you do anything else, it's vital to find out what type of soil you have in your garden.

There are five main types. To test yours, grab a handful of soil and squeeze it between your fingers. How it feels should tell you what it is.

SANDY soils feel gritty and dry, with lots of coarse sand particles when damp. It won't stick together to form a ball in your hand.

Water quickly drains away in sandy soils, often taking the nutrients with it. To combat this, sandy soil will need plenty of added nutrients and moisture and you will want to add plenty of farmyard manure and fertiliser too.

On the positive side, sandy soils warm up quickly in spring and are an easy type to cultivate.

CLAY soil feels smooth, sticky and heavy when moist. It can easily be rolled into a ball shape in your hand and may shine when smoothed. It is

“Don't despair if your soil type is not ideal ...you can improve it

lumpy and sticky when wet and sets like concrete when dry. Clay soils have terrible drainage and are slow to warm in the spring. They will need a lot of work and the addition of plenty of organic matter like compost to break up their solid structure.

But, if managed well, clay will become easier to work with and also richer in nutrients than some other soil types.

SILTY soil is a mixture of sand and clay properties and far less common than other types.

It has a silky, soapy feel. It won't roll into a ball, but you can squeeze it into a little sausage shape.

It is easily compacted and can suffer from poor drainage.

The soil is rich in nutrients, however, and can be a very good fertile soil with the addition of organic matter to bind the fine particles.

CHALKY soil is full of lumps of chalk and pale in colour. It is usually stony, which can make digging difficult. It is also low in nutrients, so will need extra organic matter and fertiliser. It drains easily but can get very dry in summer, so you will need to give it a lot of extra water. It has a high lime content, which means it is



alkaline and won't support ericaceous (acid-loving) plants like heather, rhododendrons and azaleas.

LOAMY soil feels exactly how soil should – smooth, not too sticky or

Heart and soil

WHEEL DO IT
Barrowfuls of compost can boost your soil

too dry. When made into a ball, it feels partly sticky and partly gritty and will crumble easily.

Loamy soils are the gardener's best friend because they are well balanced. This means they have a good structure and drain well, yet they retain enough moisture for the plants and are high in nutrients.

If you have this type of soil, you won't need to do much to it, but don't forget to add organic matter or

nutrient levels will diminish. Bear in mind that these types refer to the predominant characteristics of your soil, but there can be huge variation.

PARTICLES

Your soil may be slightly sandy or a loamy clay. If you want a better idea of the ratios of particles in your soil, put some in a sealable jar with water and shake it vigorously.

Let the soil settle overnight. In the

morning you'll see distinct layers: sand at the bottom, clay on top and silt in between. Chalky soil will turn the water a pale grey colour.

Don't despair if your soil type is not ideal – you can improve it. There are many different types of organic matter you can use.

Shop-bought compost is easy but expensive. It's best used on new plants and in containers to give your garden a head start. To reduce costs, just add

a handful to the hole when planting something new in a border.

Home-made compost is a cheaper alternative. You can use most kitchen and garden waste.

It takes time to produce, but it will save you money in the long run.

Many gardeners consider farmyard manure to be the best organic matter for the garden. It's full of nutrients and has a great structure. Make sure to buy a well-rotted variety.

There are also a range of special soil conditioners available in garden centres to treat specific problems.

They can help with drainage and air circulation in the soil. Be careful to always follow the pack instructions.

Whichever you choose, the organic matter should be dug well into the soil – approximately half a wheelbarrow load per square metre.

Dig your soil over to at least a spade's depth and, if you have poor soil, add a good fertiliser such as blood, fish and bone. Consistency is key with soil improvers – add them little and often.

Your soil won't change overnight, but over time you can improve it dramatically.

OFFER of the week

Fill your borders and patio pots with amazing colour from our half-price bonanza of essential bedding plants. Each exciting mixture will give you a spectacular show of flowers all summer.

Supplied as maxi plugs, they are versatile and easy to grow and can be potted on or planted straight out after all risk of frost has passed. Order our collection of 132 bedding plants for half-price, only £23.98 (RRP £47.96). You will receive 33 each of Geranium F1 Century Mixed, Impatiens World Beater Mixed, Begonia Organdy Mixed (illustrated) and Petunia Frenzy Mixed. Pre-order now for delivery in March.

To order by debit/credit card call **0843 922 5000** quoting **SM33504** or send a cheque payable to **MGN SM33504** to Mirror Bedding Plants Offer (**SM33504**), PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY or visit mirrorgardenoffers.co.uk



GADGET



It's not a gadget as such but Seasol seaweed concentrate from Mr Fothergill's will give your vegetables and plants – both indoors and outdoors – a great growing boost. Derived from a blend of the best brown kelps from around the world, it contains micronutrients and trace elements vital to plants and veg. Used regularly, the concentrate will help provide excellent chemical-free plant nourishment. Just add to the can when you're watering. It costs £7.99 from www.mr-fothergills.co.uk

Charity for the

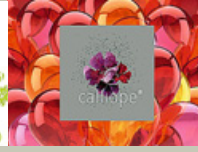


WAY TO GROW Charity aids homeless

homeless helps feed the community for free

WE'VE got an amazing £20,500 to give away as prizes in our brilliant Cultivation 2018 competition sponsored by Calliope® Flowers. So if you are involved in a school or community gardening scheme, make sure you enter your project for a chance of a prize. You can find details of the categories and how to enter at www.cultivationstreet.com

One of the brilliant projects vying for our community gardening award is



Petrus Incredible Edible Rochdale (PIER). It is a registered charity founded in 2013 to support the homeless in Rochdale, Rossendale, Heywood, Middleton and Oldham offering advice, support, accommodation and a range

of activities including gardening. It has an allotment and raised beds that groups can use on their own or at supported education sessions.

Rachael Bennion, 35, PIER Engagement and Development Worker, said: "Produce from the allotment is distributed to the wider community for free." Follow Cultivation Street on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter or see www.cultivationstreet.com contest terms and conditions.