

# Hydrangea Blue Boogie Woogie

Create a spectacular display with this low maintenance modern blue Hydrangea



BUY TWO GET  
**ONE FREE**

**Vibrant Coloured Hydrangea**  
This gorgeous Hydrangea produces big, beautiful blue flowers all summer long and into early autumn. A modern new Hydrangea, Blue Boogie Woogie creates the most spectacular bright blue flowers that are sure to demand attention in the garden and create a show-stopping display. It has a compact shrubby habit with attractive thick dark green foliage and the clusters of vivid blue flowers. Ideal for patio pots or borders. Flowers June to September. 9cm pot plants supplied.

**You can buy one for £11.99 or order two for just £23.98 and get a further one FREE.**

**Delivery within 14 days.**

Call **0843 922 5000** (calls cost 7p/min) (quoting SM34472) 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 Hydrangea Boogie Woogie SM34472, PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY**

TITLE  INITIAL  SURNAME

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NAME ON CARD  SIGNATURE

PLEASE SEND ME	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
HYDRANGEA BLUE BOOGIE WOOGIE		£11.99	£
2 HYDRANGEA BLUE BOOGIE WOOGIE + 1 FREE		£23.98	£
		P&P	FREE

I enclose a cheque/PO for the amount of £  made payable to SM34472 (name and address on the back please) or debit my credit/debit card for the sum of £

CARD NO.  MAESTRO 16+ NOS

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Alternatively send your order to: Mirror Hydrangea Blue Boogie Woogie Offer SM34472 PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY. Please include a cheque made payable to SM34472 NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE BACK PLEASE. 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 club



with DAVID DOMONEY

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## Q&A

### Dream team with a wild cottage style

What are the best plants for a cottage garden?  
**Sam, Stoke on Trent**  
**DAVID:** Roses should be planted in abundance in a cottage garden, especially fragrant shrub roses. Or use climbing or rambling varieties - try 'Madame Alfred Carrière' (pictured). Plant swathes of lupins, foxglove, delphinium and hollyhock close by in beds and borders, plus climbers such as honeysuckle and wisteria to cover fences.



### Great pyramids are on your doorstep

How can I create two pyramid-shaped hedges for the sides of my front door?  
**Juliet, Sale, Cheshire**  
**DAVID:** Buy pyramid-shaped topiary frames if you're new to this type of careful hedge pruning. Choose a dense, close-leaved shrub such as a box-leaved privet and let it grow through the frame. Use topiary hedge shears to prune using the frame as a guide. Have deep pots and organic compost and feed annually.

## TIP of the week

Make your own seed tape using strips of toilet paper brushed with a paste made from flour and a bit of water. Stick it on seeds, let it dry, then roll up your tape ready to use later.

**GET IN TOUCH**  
For loads more hints and tips on gardening visit [daviddomoney.com](http://daviddomoney.com) or follow me on Facebook at @DavidDomoneyTV or on Twitter @daviddomoney

Make the most of summer flower shows with these insider tips so you won't miss out on bargain buys, plant secrets and meeting all the celebrities

Going to a flower show is a great day out - whether you are a brilliant gardener or not. And if you do love your garden, well, you will be in heaven. With stunning floral exhibits, interactive displays to amaze and all the Pimm's you could possibly drink, there's no better day out. Flower shows are hosted up and down the country all summer, showcasing plants in their prime and offering insight, loads of great inspiration and gorgeous new plants. The RHS Hampton Court Palace event, from July 2-8, is the largest flower show in the world and is well worth a visit. But there are plenty of smaller ones taking place that are just as special, so do some research to find one close to you. And make sure you follow these top tips to help you plan and prepare for a perfect summer day out.



### CHOICE Take your pick

## Finding good parking and the best place for a cuppa is essential

First, do your homework. Flower shows can be big events spanning acres of showground, with a myriad of things to see and do. Make sure you get the best from the show by checking the events page before you travel, printing off a map and marking down all the things you don't want to miss. There are often fantastic celebrity talks and demonstrations, so scrub up on the timetables in advance so you can arrive there early and grab a decent seat. It's a great way to give yourself a break from all the shopping and walking and stop yourself getting too worn out. If you've any friends who have been before, ask their advice. Each showground has its pros and cons, so research is always a top priority, from where to park for easiest access to where the best place to have a cuppa is. It can be a bit busy... there is so much to choose from - plants, garden furniture, buildings, garden ornaments, food and country crafts. And be prepared. Dress sensibly for a day that involves plenty of walking, bearing in mind some shows make

## Say hi to me at Hampton

The RHS Hampton Court Palace Show is a fantastic one to visit, with events and displays for all ages. I'll be there, giving talks every day from July 4-7. The RHS Celebrity Theatre, supported by Everest, is also back, where I'll be joined by my friends and colleagues from the world of gardening to present a range of exciting talks and demos. You'll hear funny filming anecdotes and get loads of tips and tricks for your garden. This year's line-up also includes Julia Bradbury, Bill Oddie, Carol Klein, Pippa Greenwood, Ben Faulks - aka Mr Bloom from CBeebies - Joe Swift and Chris Beardshaw. You can check out the full timetable at [daviddomoney.com/appearances](http://daviddomoney.com/appearances). You'll also find an exciting new feature where you can go on a journey through time, with landscapes from the Cambrian and Jurassic periods through to the present day. There will be a meadow of flowers that have been around since the Cretaceous era. Don't miss it.



ROOTS Choose a show and get the family together

# It's showtime

use of grassy areas not just pathways. Wear comfy clothes and don't forget to keep checking the weather forecast so you can bring your sun hat - or rain coat and broly. If rain is predicted for a certain time in the day, arrange your visit

## Here come



runners-up get £100 each. Zoe said: "Being an ambassador means everything to me. I get to meet some amazing community groups and help them create a place where people can meet, garden and have fun. "It's even given me the boost to start a community space within the grounds of my workplace - The Little Seedlings Community Garden. This is all down to the support from my employers and Cultivation Street - the confidence to say 'we can do this'. "I now know what a difference volunteers make to our green spaces and communities. "Being outside, be it in your own

around the weather and plan trips to the marquees during that time. That way, you can make the most of outdoor features while it is dry. And pack plenty of bottled water and cereal bars to keep you going throughout the day. Arriving early will

## the Baftas for garden centre grafters

give you a first look at some of the show's best features before the crowds pour in. Plus, if you arrive early on, then you can stop for lunch at around midday, when the vendors will be quieter and the food will be nice and fresh. Once you are done, you'll be able to enjoy the trade stands at your leisure as the masses head for their grub. Take advantage of the gardening experts at the show by bringing photographs of your own garden or projects you need help with. Plant breeders will have valuable insights into the care and growing of the plants they sell, so always noise them up for tips and tricks. At food stalls, many specialist producers will be happy to let you sample goods such as cheese and honey before you buy them. So don't be shy. And when you're shopping at flower shows, don't be afraid to negotiate, especially if you are buying in bulk. Towards the end of the event, many displays themselves are sold off. So look out for those bargains - go hunting on the last day. If you are planning on doing a lot of shopping, many shows will have porters - young people with wheelbarrows - available who will be happy to help you ferry your purchases back to the car. Or there may even be a plant crèche, where they can be looked after for the day to save you lugging them around in the sun. No matter how gorgeous the plants, there is no point loading yourself up so much that you can't enjoy the show. Just a little bit of planning and preparation will ensure you enjoy it to the maximum - and maybe even save a bit of money too.



BRANCHING OUT Zoe, right, with volunteers

with the idea of making a fairy garden. The theme was to dress a wheelbarrow and I made the fairies and the store donated some alpine. I'm very pleased to say they came first." Her advice to other would-be community ambassadors is: "Contact your council as they will tell you about volunteer groups in your area and speak to local schools. "And contact residential homes. Just because someone is elderly or in a home doesn't mean they won't want to garden any more." If you are involved in a school or community gardening scheme, visit [cultivationstreet.com](http://cultivationstreet.com), for details.

## OFFER of the week

Award-winning Hydrangea Arborescens 'Annabelle' produces no end of football-sized white flowers. Each bloom reaches up to 25cm in diameter. A winner of the RHS Award of Garden Merit, it grows to only 1.5m tall, making it the perfect subject for growing in pots and containers. Supplied as 9cm pot plants. You can buy one plant for £8.99 or order four for half price - that's only £17.98. To order by debit/credit card call **0843 922 5000** quoting **SM34473** or send a cheque made payable to **SM34473** to Mirror Hydrangea Annabelle Offer (SM34473) PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY or you can visit [mirrorgardenoffers.co.uk](http://mirrorgardenoffers.co.uk)



## GADGET



### Best supporting role for stalks and stems

These clever Dproptel clips are a brilliant invention - they will save you that fiddly job of individually tying up climbing plants. And they can be reused year after year. Great in greenhouses and outside in beds and borders, they can support vines, stalks and stems, whether fruit or vegetable. The makers promise they are springy enough not to damage your plants but strong enough to cope in all conditions. I found them for £10.99 for a pack of 80 on [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)