Mirror OFFERS

Blanche Coupland's best buys to make your garden great

Dwarf Azalea Pink Spider

A compact bushy evergreen shrub, perfect for growing in pots on the patio

The Ultimate Patio Plant

This compact, bushy evergreen will fill your garden with colour all year round. It is particularly perfect for a smaller garden or in pots to brighten up the patio. Azalea Pink Spider produces amazing, large pink spider-like flowers with a white edge and attractive contrasting dark foliage in spring to summer. Height 60cm. Spread 60cm. Pot grown plants supplied.

Delivery within 14 days.

You can order one Azalea Pink Spider for £9.99, or buy two for just £19.98 and get one FREE.

Call **0843 922 5000** (quoting SM34665)
or visit **MirrorGardenOffers.co.uk**

ALTERNATIVELY COMPLETE THE COUPON IN BLOCK CAPITALS AND SEND IT TO:
Mirror Azalea Pink Spider SM34665, PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY

TITLE INITIAL SURNAME
ADDRESS
POST CODE
DOB EMAIL
TEL NO
NAME ON CARD SIGNATURE

PLEASE SEND ME	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
			£
			£
		P&P	
		TOTAL	£

I enclose a cheque/PO for the amount of £ made payable to MGN SM34665 (name and address on the back please) or debit my credit/debit card for the sum of £
CARD NO. MAESTRO ISS+ NOS
VALID / EXPIRY / MAESTRO ISSUE 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

Pretty weeds have got me in real bind

What's the best way to get rid of bindweed? Vera via email
DAVID: Bindweed is a rapidly spreading vine with white trumpet flowers that can be a real pest. The best way to get rid of it is with persistent digging to remove as much of the root system as possible and then pulling out any new shoots. This should kill it within two years. If you can't wait, a systemic weedkiller sprayed on to the leaves will kill it quickly. Just protect your other plants.

Do bedding plants get very hungry?

How often should I feed my summer bedding plants? Val, Worcester
DAVID: They usually benefit from a once-weekly feed with a high-potash, low-nitrogen fertiliser. This helps to feed and prolong blooms without encouraging too much bushy leaf and stem growth. Feed plants throughout the growing season. Make sure they are well hydrated first – if soil is dry, it can burn roots and hinder water and nutrient uptake.

TIP *of the week*

Stand houseplants on a saucer filled with gravel, and water them from the top, so the roots don't sit in water and rot. It also creates a great micro-climate. Orchids really love this trick.

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

While we're enjoying the heat wave, our gardens are getting thirsty – how and when you water your plants is vital to their growth and survival

There's nothing quite like a lush garden and the recent heatwave has sent everything soaring skywards.

But over the course of even a single hot day, soil can dry out fast and leave your plants gasping for water and wilting. Successive dry days without water will soon kill off all but the hardiest specimens, so it's important t o water regularly and cleverly to make the most of it.

DIRECT YOUR EFFORTS

Different plants need different amounts of water and knowing which ones are which will help you to water the plants that need it most.

Pots and hanging baskets dry out more quickly than beds and borders, so if you only have a spare five minutes focus on these. When it's very hot, containers will need watering once or twice a day. To water, aim your watering can or hosepipe at the soil beneath the leaves, fill the container until the water rises above the soil, then let it soak through and repeat.

This makes sure all the compost in the pot has been watered properly.

Plants that have been in your garden for more than two years will need less watering because they have roots deep enough to access ground water. New plants are still working to grow deep roots and are more at risk in dry conditions.

> **Slowly drench soil so the water will sink down to plant roots**

Focus your efforts on these, giving new plants a good soaking at least two to three times a week.

WATER DEEPLY

It's very important to make sure you water plants deeply. Wetting just the top layer of soil will encourage shallow roots, leaving plants in danger during dry spells. Don't assume that plants are well-watered after rain, either.

In very hot weather, rain may wet only the top soil and evaporate without making it down to plant roots. Sprinklers may also leave soil dry under the surface.

A better way is to use a hose and slowly drench the soil so that the water will sink down to plant roots. Soak the soil for a few minutes, allow the water to sink in, then return for another go a few minutes later.

Hoses can be awkward to use and lug about in the garden, but I've recently discovered the expandable YOYO hosepipe by FITT.

It expands to twice its length when in use, meaning it can reach a long way, but goes back to being small and lightweight, making it easy to store (**yoyoextendablehose.co.uk**).

Another way to water deeply is to build up a small soil wall around plants and fill it up with water. The wall keeps the water from running off

DRY SPELL Purple Agapanthus are hardy

Community is

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