

club



with DAVID DOMONEY

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Let us spray



WATER LOG
 Give your plants a proper soaking

OFFER of the week

A superb RHS Award of Garden Merit Winner, *Daphne tangutica* is new for 2018 and is guaranteed to brighten up any garden.

A medium-sized evergreen shrub, producing fragrant white/pink flowers from late spring into early summer. Supplied as 9cm pot plants. Order this premium, not-to-be-missed variety now.

You can buy one for £14.99 or order three for the price of two, only £29.98

To order by debit/credit card call **0843 922 5000** quoting **SM34666** or send a cheque made payable to **SM34666** to Mirror *Daphne tangutica* Offer (SM34666) PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY or visit www.mirrorgardenoffers.co.uk.

GADGET

and gives it time to seep in slowly. You could also sink an upside-down plastic bottle (with the lid and base taken off) into the soil. Fill this up with water and it will slowly sink deep into the soil where it is needed most.

Time of day is also important. If you water plants in midday sun, water can

evaporate and leaves can get burned. Instead, water in the morning or the evening when it is cooler.

REDUCE WATERING NEED

If you want to water plants less often, put a mulch around them. This is a loose covering of material, like

slate chips, gravel or bark. By covering the top layer of soil, they stop water evaporating and keep soil wet for longer. As an added plus, they also limit weed growth.

For plants in pots, using larger pots and adding hydration crystals from the garden centre will keep them wetter

for longer, as will moving them into the shade on very hot days. Self-watering hanging baskets with a water reservoir in the bottom is a good option too.

Instead of watering the lawn all the time, keep it looking fresh and green by mowing less closely and less often.

This helps the grass to keep more water inside its longer blades. Less work for you, less work for your lawn.

DROUGHT-RESISTANT PLANTS

If you don't have much time to water, choose plants that are happy in dry conditions. Agapanthus (African lily) doesn't need much water and has lovely purple flowers in summer.

Spikey yucca (Spanish bayonet) plants are also very drought resistant. Herbs like rosemary, lavender and sage are also good for this.

Visit my site at daviddomoney.com/conserving-water for more details on what you can do in your own garden.

Putting these watering tips together will keep your garden healthy, hydrated and looking fantastic throughout the summer months.

These potato-growing pots from Elho are super-clever.

The ingenious design, featuring an inner and outer pot, allows you to check the progress of your crop - and even harvest them without disturbing the plant.

They're 33cm and made from recycled plastic so they're ideal for patios or balconies. The outer pot has drainage holes to stop water-logging and keep fungus and diseases at bay. I found these for £9.99 each webbsdirect.co.uk.

bowled over by project on the green...

Cultivation Street 2019 is still going strong so make sure you enter for your chance to win a share of the £20,500 in prizes we are giving away to winners and runners-up.

The Friends of Highfield Park, in South Shore, Blackpool, Lancs, are in the running for community garden of the year. They started by transforming a old bowling green into a community garden and have many more big plans.

Karen Pennington, 60, secretary of the Friends of Highfield Park, said: "We started the garden club back in 2014



when the council wanted to close two bowling greens. We persuaded them to only close one if we could raise enough funds to transform the other into a community park and garden.

"Our next project is to turn an area of the park into a wildflower meadow to attract more wildlife. We have sown wildflower seeds, planted bulbs and created bat boxes and bug hotels. Park

visitors enjoy talking to the community gardeners and also tell them how much they appreciate the work they do.

"I've seen the benefits of gardening both in myself and other volunteers, who are mostly in their 70s and 80s - the garden helps us to keep fit!"

"We also work closely with the local children's nurseries - it enables the children to learn about the plants, wildlife and they love being outside."

■ If you're involved in a gardening scheme enter at cultivationstreet.com. Follow Cultivation Street on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or go to cultivationstreet.com for details and Ts&Cs.