

# Gardening club



with DAVID DOMONEY



Grey

SAVE UP TO £70

**CANTILEVER PARASOL**  
Now £59.99 plus £4.95 p&p

Transform your outdoor areas into welcoming entertaining spaces with this stylish aluminium cantilever parasol. With a precision free-standing design, there is no central base, so you can place it virtually anywhere. Perfect for barbecues, shading children's play areas and positioning over a hammock, you can even place two sun loungers side by side with no obstructive pole in between.

The parasol features a high-quality aluminium pole, a large canopy that measures approximately 270cm when open, has six durable steel ribs and is made from heavy-duty polyester. The parasol opens and closes with ease thanks to the crank mechanism. Once open, the polyester canopy is water-resistant to give shelter in light showers. From tip to ground the parasol measures 245cm and is the perfect way to enjoy shade in open areas. Please note: The parasol must be weighted down. This can easily be done with paving slabs (not supplied) or with our parasol base that is available to purchase.

Also available to buy with a cover to protect your parasol from the elements. Made of durable nylon, it slips over the parasol to keep it clean and protected.

Parasol only £59.99 Was £129.99  
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## Q&A



### Saving your carrots with the swat team

Is there a way of protecting the carrots in my plot from carrot fly? **Jim, Stamford, Lincs**  
**DAVID:** Carrot fly is a pest whose maggots eat the roots of carrots and parsnips. Crops are best protected by being covered with insect-proof mesh, buried a couple of inches into the soil all around plants. You can also buy fly-resistant cultivars, like 'Fly Away' that are less susceptible to this problem.



### War on weeds hot up in your borders

How can I keep on top of annual weeds in my borders? **Susan Mary, Crayford, South East London**  
**DAVID:** The easiest solution is to hoe soil between border plants to turn up any weed roots. Do this on a hot day and the sunshine will shrivel the weeds as they lay on the soil's surface, making it a hassle-free solution to an age-old problem.

### TIP of the week

Drill drainage holes in the bottom of some old boots and use them as fun planters for the kids.

### 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



**SHEAR DELIGHT** Create a neat, blocky look or go wild



Hedgerows are green screen stars, blocking out ugly sights and sounds, while adding easy structure and style. Just shape, train or prune them to suit your needs.

Whether you are using hedges for privacy, protection from cold winds or just garden beauty, there is a plant that is perfect for you.

Fantastic for supporting hedgehogs, birds and other wildlife, hedgerows are a great garden addition and flourishing nature reserve all in one.

### FORMAL FAVOURITES

Manicured hedges carved into fancy geometric shapes, flowing archways or topiary animals can add a real sense of style to your property.

These are delightfully fun and easy to create with thick foliage varieties such as Taxus baccata - yew - or Buxus - box.

These hardy evergreens offer elegance all-year-round. Trimming once annually in mid to late summer will keep them neat and tidy, while trimming once in June and once in August will maintain crisp lines.

Yew is a timeless favourite for formal hedging. It can be trained to different heights to suit your needs. Happy in sun or shade, the only no-no

is waterlogged, compacted soil. If you have the choice, buying bare-rooted plants under 2ft tall gives the best results. These tend to establish well and grow quickly into healthy, full bushes once in position but they can be expensive and slow growing.

Hedges like this work fantastically as barriers to block out sounds or sights from your green space.

The garden is a place where you can unwind and drown out the pressures of everyday life. Thick and formal undergrowth in a front garden will filter out road emissions and invite the uplifting sounds of wildlife instead. Dense hedgerow Thuja

# On the cutting hedge

plicata 'Atrovirens' has emerald foliage that is fast growing to provide great ground cover and nesting sites.

Fagus sylvatica - beech - is another formal hedging option but is deciduous rather than evergreen.

Unfussy about growing conditions, both green and purple beech varieties thrive wherever you pop them and if you trim annually in August, will retain dry leaves throughout winter to create an attractive year-round screen.

### INFORMAL OPTIONS

If you want a more relaxed display, go for gorgeous informal hedging. A space that is less structured and

symmetrical will make way for a rustic and naturalistic arrangement. Viburnum tinus - laurustinus - is a great option for soft foliage.

It is an unfussy, hardy evergreen shrub that will thrive in any light and soil and regular trimming will keep it prosperous and looking shapely.

Variegated cultivar 'Variegatum' gives a lovely mid-green leaf trimmed with peppermint cream or opt for cultivars with colourful flowers and berries. 'Lisarose' has red buds, white flowers and glossy blue berries from autumn through to spring.

Laurustinus flowers are popular with pollinators, while their berries are

a great food source for berry-loving birds, so you will be doing the local wildlife a favour as well.

Crataegus monogyna - common hawthorn - is a superb choice for informal hedgerows. Unlike viburnum, it is deciduous, but its dense, twining twigs still offer screening even in the coldest months of the year.

Glossy leaves combine with delicate sprays of white flowers that turn to fab lipstick-red berries in autumn. Pop it anywhere in well-drained soil and it will pack a colourful punch for three seasons out of four, but it will need pruning to keep it well-formed.

Alternatively, mix and match

informal with formal hedging choices and get the best of both worlds.

Ultimately, you need to pick a hedge that works for you. For instance, you might choose to opt for shrub roses and pyracantha - firethorn - as these make brilliant burgundy deterrents due to their thorny growth.

### PLANT ME PRETTY

When it comes to ornamental hedging, you can't beat flowering foliage. Forsythia and ribes offer a flurry of flowers in spring to awaken spaces and add seasonal interest.

Planting hedging plants can either be done from bare root or container-grown specimens.

Bare root versions are cheaper because they are ground grown and only available to buy in dormant season from November to March. They are usually quicker to establish when planted from September to October, while soil is still warm to encourage root growth through winter.

If, however, you want instant impact, container-grown plants are more expensive but can be planted at any time of year. So whether you are after immediate privacy in a new home or to plug a gap in an existing hedge without waiting, pot-grown plants are a great solution.

Choosing the right hedging option now will stand you in good stead for a healthy hedge that keeps on giving as the years roll on.

## OFFER of the week

Our Geranium Century Mix is a wonderfully hardy, long flowering and low maintenance bedding favourite.

This specially selected mixture will provide you with top quality hybrids in traditional red, white, rose and coral colours.

They will flower from June to September and have a height of 30-40cm.

Supplied as UK-grown garden ready plug plants. Delivery is within 14 days.

Buy 30 Geranium Century Mixed for £17.99 or for £1 more you can double up and buy 60 plants for only £18.99.

To order by debit/credit card call **0843 922 5000** quoting SMTG038 or send a cheque made payable, using blue or black ink, to 'Garden Offers' to Geranium Century Mixed Offer (SMTG038), PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY or visit [mirrorgardenoffers.co.uk](http://mirrorgardenoffers.co.uk)



## GADGET



I know it hasn't exactly been scorching recently but things are looking up this week. Having the right kit for gardening is a must, and that includes clothing and protection from the sun.

This UV-proof garden parasol is perfect for keeping you sheltered while working in, or simply enjoying, your garden. It clips to a chair, table or even the handle of your mower to keep you in permanent shade.

And it's also rainproof! I found it via [coopersoftorford.co.uk](http://coopersoftorford.co.uk) for £15.99.

## Kind little



**TRACK STARS** Brownies get stuck in

## pixies lending a hand and trowel

Every village, town and city will have unused areas that are run down and neglected. But wonderful projects up and down the country are coming to the rescue, using community spirit and enthusiasm to turn a dull space into a mini oasis.

First Shepherdswell Brownies, near Dover, did just that. They created a community garden and were shortlisted in last year's Cultivation Street competition, sponsored by Calliope.

At one of the group's meetings, the girls chatted about how they wanted to improve their community



and this snowballed into asking local organisations if they could volunteer to turn grey spaces into green ones.

Their railway station was delighted to get involved. Putting their craft and gardening skills to good use, the brownies transformed a tired space with interesting features including a small pond and wildlife garden with a bug hotel and butterfly-friendly plants and a compost heap. They used

recycled tyres as planters and crafted a wood ring of toadstool stools and displayed their own artwork.

The group's Snowy Owl, Kate Leech, said: "Everyone loves it. The villagers are so supportive and enthusiastic about the work the girls put in and everyone says it makes you smile when you get off the train. It is a lovely welcome to the village for any traveller."

The railway garden demonstrates that community gardens don't have to be huge - and might just win you prizes in the 2019 Cultivation Street competition too. See [cultivationstreet.com](http://cultivationstreet.com) for more information on entering.