# **Mirror**OFFERS



#### FLOCKED-EFFECT GARDEN ORNAMENTS Now £17.99 plus £3.95 p&p

Add a cute feature to your garden with these flocked-effect owl or sheep garden ornaments from Garden Gear. Designed from polyresin to make them durable and help prevent frost damage, offering a much lighter and more durable alternative to real stone. The ornaments are freestanding and can be easily moved around your garden to make an adorable feature anywhere you like. The owl measures L20.1 x W15.7 x H22.5cm. The sheep measures L22.5 x W15 x H32cm. Please note: The flocking will shed slightly after initial unpacking.

G4015 Owl Garden Ornament G4016 Sheep Garden Ornament



#### ACACIA GARDEN BENCH Now £119.99 plus £9.95 p&p\*

Create the perfect haven to sit back and enjoy a cup of tea while admiring all your handiwork in the garden with this stunning, decorative Acacia hardwood bench from Garden Gear. The attractive design will add a sophisticated aesthetic to your outdoor area, which will give you the perfect excuse to spend more time in your garden. The bench is made from durable, long-lasting Acacia hardwood which is also water-resistant meaning it will have a longer life, each piece has also been pre-treated with oil to help prolong its life. Measures L120 x W60 x H87cm. Maximum load: 240kg. Assembly required.

\*Please note that due to the weight of this product, delivery will take between 5 and 7 days and is charged at £9.95. Due to courier limitations we are unable to deliver this product outside mainland UK, to Scottish Highlands, Isles or BFPO addresses. **G2857** Acacia Garden Bench

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### 56 SUNDAY MIRROR SUNDAY 14.07.2019

Gardening club





How often should I be atering my cacti? Phoebe N, London **DAVID:** You only need to water cacti during spring and summer and allow soil to dry out between watering. Feed them monthly in the growing season with cactus fertiliser and mist them occasionally if

they start to look shrivelled.



## Help me to sniff out the quality climbers

What climbers are best for scent? Dillis, Powys DAVID: One of the most highly scented climbers is the evergreen star jasmine, with a long flowering season throughout the summer, right up to autumn. Many honeysuckles have a rich scent and climbing or rambler roses are fragrant too.

## **TIP**of the week

When topping up the water level in your pond, put a spray attachment on your hose to aerate the water and help the pondlife to thrive in hot weather, or try a water feature to keep things moving.

## **GET IN TOUCH**

For loads more hints and tips on gardening visit onev.com or follow me on Facebook at @DavidDomonevTV or on Twitter @daviddomoney

For a moveable feast of colours, structures and fragrances, place some pots & hanging baskets around your patio - creating your unique instant Eden

hat could be better than a summer selection for that floral WOW factor. There is still time to plant up patios with hanging baskets, window poxes and pots that fit into the space you've got and give that pop of colour.

#### SIZE MATTERS

The great thing about pots is that you can choose the pot size and plant based on the area it's destined for. And a little goes a long way to transforming the look of your garden or patio.

Plus, you can move them to suit their needs all year for more sun or shade or wind protection if needed.

Suited to a snug site, Salvia × jamensis 'Raspberry Royale' is an aromatic evergreen herb with shows of raspberry-red flowers during summer through to autumn.

It does well in containers due to its Mediterranean origins. Herbaceous sage and rosemary also do well for this reason and you have the added benefit f sensational seasoning to hand.

#### FREE FLOOR SPACE

There are lots of above-floor container options to maximise space on the loor. Window boxes are particularly effective and there's the added advan-

### **Pick fragrant flowers** to exploit the baskets being at nose height

tage that you get to enjoy the display while looking out the window. For this, you will need to combine plants that have similar requirements.

If your window box is in full sun, summer bedding plants will be quite happy. For shady boxes, go for Begonia Hazel's Front Porch' or busy lizzies.

Hanging baskets provide a heady greeting for visitors. Choose fragrant lowers to exploit the fact they're at nose height. Striking 'Sunpurple' petunias, 'Moonlight' violas or decorative pelargoniums work well, or mix it up and grow strawberries in baskets ready to harvest by late summer. And make your selection based on colour.

Choosing shades from the opposite side of the colour wheel will provide contrast to the display. Deep purples can offset crisp white perfectly, so look to incorporate Nicotiana Perfume Deep Purple' next to delicate daisies for a dramatic result.

With pots, you need to spend extra time conditioning soil and checking moisture levels throughout the year. Start with a general-purpose liquid

feed a month or so after planting and continue throughout summer. But the smaller the container, the



quicker it dries out, limiting the soil's resources. So deadheading focuses energy on new growth.

#### POTS AND PLANTERS

Make your way to your local garden centre and you'll be greeted with hundreds of options when it comes



to choose plants with wildlife in mind. maintenance grower providing feature plant, they can work well. year-round nectar sources for wildlife. Self-fertile variety 'Tophat' will only plant and positioning

mirror.co.uk

The Cultivation Street competition awards the best community and school gardens in the UK.

an important part of their identity. A fantastic example is at Redwood Park Academy in Portsmouth, where a team transformed an underused space into a full-time teaching area for five

schools in the Solent Academies Trust. Students who use it have complex learning difficulties, physical disabilities or other additional needs.

Ed Bond, horticulture teacher at Redwood Park Academy, explained:

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## with DAVID DOMONEY

lishment. Blueberry trees are decked flower spikes during early summer. Mat-forming Lysimachia nummu- in delicate flowers and these miniature laria (creeping jenny) is a hardy, low- trees like modestly-sized pots so, for a

Flowering shrubs and trees are great grow to two feet or so. Alternatively, in pots and come spring will decorate Hebe 'Pink Elephant' boasts cream and wrong, because choice plants will suit

#### WHAT TO EXPECT

It's all about getting the right soil, Pick for aspect and you can't go far

spaces to suit all kinds of needs

These gardens are created to reflect changes they want to see, so design is

pots, drainpipes for planting potatoes.

"The garden boasts a total of 22 raised beds built at various heights. "This enables them to be workable

from the wheelchairs, standers or chairs of young people of all ages."

Sometimes there isn't an obvious solution to a challenge, this is where Ed and his team get creative.

"Where necessary we have adapted tools or developed our own unusual solutions - using giant funnels for filling visit cultivationstreet.com.

We know that there is always a suitable task for everyone in the garden." Packed with an abundance of

seasonal fruit and veg, this garden perfectly depicts how students can take on a major role in the design, build and maintenance of any green space.

This care and consideration goes miles towards teaching them valuable life skills and positive interaction with nature and living things.

If you would like more information about the Cultivation Street competition, sponsored by Calliope®,

atropurpurea 'Black Cat' loves full sun and can really work as a striking addition to feature pots but won't do well mixed with ericaceous plants because it prefers an alkaline soil.

Don't forget to consider the exposure of your land, too.

Use dense hedges to keep delicate plants better protected or determine which of your front or back garden is more sheltered so that tender plants can use the house as a wind break.

One idea is to plant up containers based on a preferred habit. Jasmine and clematis are two top climbers and their foliage effortlessly lends decoration to otherwise neglected corners.

Otherwise, a large fixed planter is great long-term addition to your garden – look to something like Passiflora (passionflower) 'Amethyst' which loves climbing up garden walls, to use the features in your garden to your advantage.

However you pot up plants this year, try something new and it'll put a smile on your face each time you see it.



READERS often ask me about humane ways to repel next door's cat and stop them killing birds, digging up flower beds and leaving their mess behind. This infra-red activated alarm omits a blast of ultrasonic sound when set off by a passing cat (or fox). Battery-operated, it can be eft outside in any conditions and moved as necessary. It is humane and will scare unwanted cats away. found it via amazon.co.uk for £17.99