



3.6V TRIMMING SHEARS
Now £34.99 plus £4.95 p&p

Style hedges and lawn edges with ease with these 3.6V cordless trimming shears by Garden Gear. Powered by a lithium-ion battery, the amazing hedge and edge trimming shears provides complete cordless freedom. The compact design is incredibly lightweight at just 0.8kg and comes with two interchangeable blades that provide up to 40 minutes of continuous operation on a full charge. The grass shear blade with an 80mm cutting width will make easy work of lawn edges, while the trimming blade will cut hedges, shrubs and bushes up to 8mm in diameter.

Comes complete with installed lithium-ion battery, charger and two blade guards for safety. These shears also come with an extension handle to help get to those harder-to-reach branches when using the hedge trimmer and helps to avoid bending and stooping when using the grass shears.

G2378 Trimming Shears with Extension Handle



PUSH LAWN MOWER
Now £44.99 plus £4.95 p&p

Ideal for the smaller garden, the fixed blades cut grass without ripping it to give a scissor-like finish, and the built-in rear roller will leave professional-looking stripes on your lawn.

It is so easy to use thanks to the large wheels, comfort grip and lightweight design. Plus, this eco-friendly mower has no potentially dangerous trailing wires, no noisy motor, and no hidden extra costs as it doesn't use petrol or electricity.

It has a generous 17-litre collection bag, 30cm cutting width and adjustable cutting height between 12mm-45mm. Measures L57 x W44 x H125cm.

DB460 Push Lawn Mower

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Gardening club

with DAVID DOMONEY

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Q&A



Stop annuals losing the power to flower

How do I get my annuals to keep flowering?
Susannah, Greenwich
DAVID: Keep deadheading plants as the old flowers fade. This encourages them to produce a fresh crop of flowers. If you wish to collect a specific plant seed at the end of the season, leave a few flowers on the plants to produce seed heads.



A watertight way of keeping plants alive

I'm going on holiday for a couple of weeks. Will my houseplants be all right?
Marjorie, via email.
DAVID: Most houseplants can survive a couple of weeks with some preparation. Water all pots before you leave. Plants in large pots will be fine in a shady room. Those in smaller pots will do best in the bath on a towel soaked in water.

TIP of the week

Keep the punnets your summer berries come in. The ones with lids can be used as a warm ventilated place to grow seedlings until they're ready to plant out.

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

Ground cover plants can add so much to your plot but it's very important to match up your choice with just the right position to reap the benefits

Planting up your garden can be done for many purposes. Climbers for wall cover, trees for height, mid-sized shrubs in borders and bedding plants for pots. A good selection will provide a lush, well-proportioned garden with year-round interest. But ground cover plants can be the icing on the cake.

KEEP COVERED

Adding ground cover to your garden has several advantages. Firstly, it's really good for the air as you can add purifying plants in a higher concentration, and this means that ambient air temperatures are also reduced.

Ground cover provides a safe haven for a wide variety of wonderful wildlife and inviting them in will increase the biodiversity in any given space.

Finally, it acts as a barrier to rain-water and risks of flood and it protects the condition of soil against eroding weather, as well as surprising weed growth—so opting for this vegetation can really enhance your landscape.

CARPET OF COLOUR

While ground growing plants, or spreaders as they're sometimes known, provide a shielding layer, they

Periwinkle's bright purple flowers float over emerald leaves

also give something beautiful to see at the front of borders.

Many different types are as attractive as they are functional. Periwinkle is a phenomenal spreader. It carpets an area with bright purple flowers that float over its dark emerald leaves.

There are also variegated leaved varieties, with a green and gold flush. Available in two forms, the Vinca major variety has larger leaves, around the size of a two-pound coin, whilst Vinca minor's are a pound coin in size.

Both grow brilliantly in shade – so if sun is at a minimum, this will work. Cotoneaster dammeri (bearberry) is a little plant that gives so much. Alongside its creeping effect it's in flower during spring and the veiny leaves are dusted with clusters of small white or pink coloured flowers.

In autumn, bright red berries emerge where there once was floral decoration – with bold bursts of colourful fruits which the birds will also enjoy as a food source.

Another beautiful plant is Hypericum calycinum (rose of Sharon) which spreads but is tidy. Upon a perfectly formed mound are bright gold star-shaped flowers with a central powder-puff of anthers. This



Grow to ground

is very tolerant of most locations but thrives in dry and sunny sites.

GROUNDING GREENERY

Ivy has so much to give as a ground cover plant, but once it takes grip it takes over. So, if you can let it go it'll

work. As ground cover, it protects bare ground from frost and lets birds and woodland wildlife forage for food.

Hedera colchica 'Dentata Variegata' is an evergreen climber with creamy margined leaves that house small yellow autumnal flowers followed by black berries in winter.

Creeping juniper will give you an evergreen effect and the variety

'Wiltonii' is a wide-spreading conifer that forms a blue-grey tinged mat of foliage all year round.

Else, Juniperus communis 'Repanda' creates a low-lying carpet of green needle-like leaves that hug to the ground and are dark green and slightly fragrant in nature. 'Blue Star' is another variety that has a lot to offer.

It's not a spreader but is compact

and densely growing – plus its detailed foliage and subtle scent makes it a worthwhile choice for adding ornate interest to baron spots in borders.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

Plants that grow for a purpose like this can be more than just practical additions to your growing space.

Salvia (sage), for instance, covers

quickly but also has flavour for cooking into pasta and stuffing. Position in a well-lit, well-drained spot and you can enjoy its ornamental offerings.

The deep green leathery leaf of Viburnum davidii is worth a second look. This has robust foliage that works well as underplanting.

Small unassuming flowers provide colour in spring, while its unusual looking blue-black berries are present throughout autumn and winter.

Euonymus fortune has evergreen interest for every occasion because you can opt for one of two colour possibilities. Variety 'Emerald 'n' gold' has variegated leaves, meaning that the leaf is two or more shades with coloured zones or patterns.

This variety has buttery yellow margins and is a climber – so if it reaches a fence it'll happily grow up it. Whereas 'Emerald Gaiety' has a cool white margin and is bushy as it grows, but both have foliage which becomes charmingly tinged pink during winter.

Ground cover plants are the full package and have lots to offer. Pick the right one for your spot and growing needs and it'll spread plenty of perks.

Kids grow to love veg when they cultivate it



VEGGIE PASSION Louise Canfield

In an age of technology and convenience, we risk becoming disconnected from our food sources.

School and community gardens work hard to teach young people how their food is produced and show them how easy it is to grow crops themselves.

Teachers and volunteers up and down the country say this can encourage children to try new foods, especially fruits and vegetables.

Louise Canfield, Events team Member from Aylett Nurseries in Hertfordshire, loves growing vegetables and works hard to share her



enthusiasm with schools and community gardens in their local area. By advising them on how fun and rewarding growing your own vegetables can be, Louise is helping to inspire the next generation of growers. She said: "We usually suggest starting with crops that will provide quick results with ease, such as cress, radishes and runner beans, this gets

children engaged. Crops such as purple carrots and yellow runner beans are great fun and colourful additions to the vegetable patch and herbs give sensory learning and cooking, so we encourage schools to give these a try too."

Louise added: "We get them to think about what they can do with their produce: make a meal for their family or take it to school in their lunch box?"

Cultivation Street rewards schools and community gardens who make a difference in their area. For more on our annual competition, sponsored by Callope®, visit cultivationstreet.com

OFFER of the week

Our colourful mixture of Agastache is guaranteed to add a cottage garden style to your borders this summer.

It will produce a fantastic range of vibrant flower spikes that are attractive to butterflies and bees over aromatic foliage, growing to a height of 40-50cm.

Supplied with this offer are giant 7cm diameter module plants. Buy 3 Agastache Kudos Mixed for £9.99 or order 6 for £19.98 and receive 3 free. Delivery within 14 days.

To order by debit/credit card call 0843 922 5000 quoting SMTG053 or send a cheque made payable, using blue or black ink, to 'Garden Offers' to Agastache Kudos Mixed Offer (SMTG053) PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY or visit mirrorgardenoffers.co.uk



GADGET



These Garden Gear cordless, battery-operated trimming shears are ideal for cutting smaller shrubs and lawn edges. They're compact and lightweight enough to use single-handed with an impressive battery life after charging. They'll certainly take some of the strain out of trimming feature-shrubs and smaller trees. Though I'd advise heavier duty kit for larger hedges and shrubs. These were £34.99. thompson-morgan.com