

Gardening club

with DAVID DOMONEY



SAVE £20
Was £49.99

GARDEN LIFE

HEDGEHOG HOUSE
Now £29.99 plus £4.95 p&p

Help keep hedgehogs safe with this house, which uses a predator baffle guard to protect them from foxes, badgers and other potential threats.

The pitched roof helps water runoff, and it is covered with a waterproof felt for durability and to ensure they are safe and comfortable in their new habitat. Position out of direct sunlight and winds, preferably in a dry area such as under shrubs or behind sheds. These

are areas that hedgehogs would naturally choose to take shelter, so this will increase the chances of them inhabiting the house.

Use the included guide to learn more about the species and how to protect and care for them. Knowing information such as to not give them milk as it makes them ill, will help keep your hedgehogs healthy and happy. It is advisable that you treat the wood before assembling to extend its life. Measures L40 x W40 x H19cm.

G2579 Hedgehog House



SAVE £26
Was £44.99

GARDEN Gear

GARDEN KNEELER
Now £18.99 plus £3.95 p&p

Put an end to damp, sore, grass-stained knees, and take the strain out of gardening with this two-in-one folding garden kneeler and seat, which is great to use while you are tending to your flowerbeds or tidying up lawn edges.

It features a handy pouch with three pockets to keep garden tools to hand, and you can simply flip the kneeler over for a comfortable seat on which you can either

relax or continue to garden at a comfortable working height.

The durable frame is constructed from high-quality steel and the kneeling pad has a deep layer of polypropylene foam for complete comfort. It folds in seconds for easy storage and transportation and weighs only 2.7kg. Use it indoors to assist with DIY jobs, cleaning or as extra foldable seating. Measures H49 x W59 x L27cm when in use, and H12 x W59 x L27cm when folded.

G0999 Garden Kneeler

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Q&A



Happy Kermit with a cleaning permit

When is it safe to clean my pond without disturbing frogs? **Maria via email DAVID:** It's best to wait until the end of September before cleaning out ponds with resident frogs. That way, the height of breeding season has past and they have not begun hibernating yet.



The grass is always leaner for summer

My lawn is sparse even with regular mows. What's wrong? **James, Nuneaton DAVID:** It may be feeling the full force of the sun. As your lawn growth slows in late summer, it's best to raise the cutting height slightly to help grass resist the wear and lack of moisture you get.

TIP of the week

Start saving seeds from trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, vegetables and herbs. They germinate best if harvested when ripe and sown straight away. Use your old Tic-Tac boxes to store them.

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

Be prepared for the nights closing in with these bright ideas for your outdoor spaces that will create a real dazzle - and stop you stumbling in the dark

GARDEN lighting is not just about security and being able to see. It also brings a sense of joy and wonder and helps to open up your outdoor spaces for extra fun with friends and family.

These are the best ways to bring a little light to your life and brighten your garden at night.

MAKE A SWITCH

There are three main approaches for external lighting. First, permanent lights fitted by an electrician. Second, low-voltage lighting you can install yourself. Or the easiest option - solar.

Practical lighting installed for round-the-clock access to the garage or to help you see down the garden path is best bought from a DIY shop so it is fit for purpose and built to last.

At the click of a switch, this will give you electricity outside and can be a life-saver, especially in the winter to prevent stumbling around in the dark.

These permanent additions are wired into the mains, so that's why you need a pro to get them going. But they tend to be brighter and so better suited for practical use.

If there is a patch of your plot that

Put off burglars but make sure you don't put off wildlife

you struggle to navigate in the dark, then invest in some free-standing lamps or wall fixture lighting wired to the mains.

SHINE ON

You can soon shine a spotlight on security worries with outdoor lighting. Again, these are best properly installed to your mains.

At the back of the house, flood lights work well and can come with movement sensors to save energy.

Research suggests that burglars are soon put off by evidence of occupancy, such as lights, so it can function as a deterrent too. But you don't want to put off wildlife in the process.

So do not position them too close to any feeding stations or they will be constantly flashing when birds fly in, which will get on your nerves too.

Use security lighting around entrances to keep side entries lit and highlight potential trip hazards.

GOOD MOODS

Lighting for ambience is really worth your while. Even some subtle spotlights around the garden can open it up for more get-togethers.

Select low-voltage lighting solutions



Glow your own

from a garden centre and, to ensure these can be kept out whatever the weather, check they come with waterproof sockets.

These aren't as bright as those you can turn on with a flick of the switch but are definitely brighter and last longer than solar-powered options.

Ambient lighting is a cost-effective way of granting year-long access. Get

creative with small lights placed into planted borders or position uplighters on the ground so beams of light are thrown upwards. Couple them with decorative trees for a dramatic effect.

It's also an idea to play around with coloured bulbs or filters - haunting blues, warming reds and oranges will act as a burst of colour on darker days.

Not only are these lighting choices serving an ornamental purpose, warmer hues are better for wildlife too. Bright lighting is more likely to disturb nocturnal pollinators, birds and frogs, so keep to a minimum and be smart about positioning sensors.

SOURCE THE SUN

Of course the the sun is the most readily available light source to us -

and storing its energy for use later on is extremely effective.

Nowadays you can buy security spotlights that run on solar. You can pick them up very cheaply to give a burst of light for 10-20 seconds at a time before resetting.

As these aren't powered by electricity, they are great for remote locations. I have these on the garden

path leading to the house but there is a whole host of places that benefit from having lighting at your fingertips.

Set these up on the summer house, shed or garden fencing in a place that gets lots of sun but bear in mind they may struggle to store enough solar during winter months.

Generally, the light is never going to be as bright as lighting that is wired in, but they do work well as a temporary or portable solution during summer.

LIGHTEN UP

For anyone struggling to get enough time out in the garden due to a busy schedule, lighting will free you up to carry on with jobs into the early evening and night.

Some tasks are best done when out of the heat of the day and I have found that removing slugs and snails is a job I can do when the sun has gone down.

So identify the areas of the patio or garden you need access to later on in the evening and focus first on lighting those bits up.

That's all you need to know to keep you aglow in the garden this summer.

Hands-on



KEEN Kids of St Alban's C of E Primary

lessons in nature with real legs

Gardens of all sizes give us the opportunity to get outdoors, get our hands dirty and learn new skills.

But these spaces can also have a positive impact on local wildlife and the wider eco-system.

When St Alban's C of E Primary in Hampshire was shortlisted for Cultivation Street's school gardening competition, sponsored by Calliope, the judges were bowled over. The school has spent the past 12 years developing small sections to look after mini beasts.

Julie Newman, St Alban's outdoor educator, said: "We have not made



large-scale, instant changes to our outside space but have developed small pockets of accessible garden spaces.

"Driven by their love of nature, pupils became passionate about the plight and importance of pollinators and power of our cumulative small changes.

"Living consciously is now a large part of our school life."

These wildlife havens are also a great

place for children to explore and learn.

Julie added: "We were excited to find our first thick-legged flower beetle on site, feeding in our meadow border. They're not rare but the children have been looking for them for a long time.

"Our Year 6 gardeners also found ashly mining bees this year, in one of our wild areas. These findings are, for us, a cause of celebration because they show us that our efforts are continuing to make a difference to local nature."

For more information about school and community gardening, visit cultivationstreet.com.

OFFER of the week

Daffodil Replete is a magnificent addition to displays - and its fragrance is an extra bonus.

It produces peony-shaped double flowers throughout March and April. These giant ruffled flowers have a wonderful colour combination of creamy white and apricot-pink.

Top-quality bulbs supplied. You can buy 15 Daffodil Replete for £9.99, or order 60 for £19.98, which is HALF PRICE. Delivery within 21 days.

To order by debit/credit card call 0843 922 5000 quoting SMTG055 or send a cheque, using blue or black ink, made payable to 'Garden Offers' to Daffodil Replete Offer (SMTG055) PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY or you can visit mirrorgardenoffers.co.uk



TOP APP



Plan your plot around the year on a phone...

Mr Fothergill's Garden Planner is an excellent way to manage a larger space. You can draw out your vegetable beds, add plants and move them around until you feel you've got the perfect layout.

Whether you use traditional row planting, containers, raised beds or square foot gardening, the app adapts to suit your gardening style.

It also offers video tutorials, personalised email reminders and a planting, sowing and harvesting calendar plus tons of other advice.

At mr-fothergills.co.uk/Planner you'll find it as an app for Apple iOS and Android devices for £19 a year but you can try it free for a week.