



HENLEY METAL GARDEN BENCH
Now £79.99 plus £9.95 p&p

The bench has been powder coated to protect it from the elements, making sure that it can withstand even the harshest of weather.

Measures L127 x W60 x H85cm. Weighs 14kg. Home 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.

G2702 Black
G2703 Bronze



WALL MOUNTED CLOCK WITH METAL STAG
Now £19.99 plus £3.95 p&p

Fahrenheit. Simply mount to your preferred wall or fence using the sturdy built-in mount (screws not supplied), and watch time pass while you are enjoying long lazy days in the garden. Constructed from powder-coated steel for durability, this clock makes a beautiful, elegant addition to any garden or conservatory. Dimensions: L28.2 x W8.5 x H53.5cm. Weight: 0.89kg. 1x 1.5V AA required (not included).

G4121 Clock with metal stag

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Gardening club

with DAVID DOMONEY

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Q&A



Getting the best out of your perennials

When should I begin to divide my summer-flowering perennials? **Dylan, East Sheen, London** Ideally, you should do this before the last frost as it is always best if the plant is not active. Lift plants out gently with a fork and shake away any excess soil so you can divide the root mass cleanly into two. Water in well to ensure healthy growth in the years to come.



Keep your dogwood under close control

Do I need to prune back my dogwood if it has ornamental stems? **John, Preston** Yes, March is a good time to be pruning back even ornamental woody growth. If *Cornus sibirica* stems are not cut down from time to time, their colour lessens. Cut back the old stems near ground level to encourage new growth to provide a pop of colour next winter.

TIP of the week

Peas are always sweeter when they are first picked because, with time, the natural sugars turn to starch.

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

It's spring prep time so take your cue from the weather, start scattering seeds and you will soon see the world outside waking up

March in the garden is ready, set, sow. And the more seeds you can get in the ground, the more you will see bursting into life during the growing season. Let's take a look at how you can get a hop, skip and a jump on sowing seeds for spring.

Ways to propagate

Growing from seed is an inexpensive way to grow – and hugely satisfying.

Packet seeds are specially prepared to germinate. They're disease-free and create super seedlets, so I always recommend buying them rather than gathering your own.

Large seeds can be sown by hand. Place them on their side at the right spacing distance and then cover over with soil to the correct depth. Each packet will give specific instructions.

You can buy a special tool called a dibber that creates the indent in the soil to help you along the way, or use a pencil. My top tip is to save your old wine corks and stick these at the right spacing requirements along a 30cm ruler to create five indents at once.

If you've got small seeds, a scatter approach means good coverage but

Plant a large number of seeds to raise your chance of success

isn't quite as accurate. Hold the packet and tap the side with your finger as you run it along the soil for more precise dispensing.

When sowing seeds, you are usually working with planting a large number to increase the chances of success so it's also really important to label them at this stage.

Make a move

Small seeds are grown in seed trays, as these are easy to fill and ensure that watering remains consistent.

Eventually, these will be pricked out or transplanted into larger pots. You can do this with a nifty tool called a widgee, for mess-free transference.

These young seedlings may not be ready for planting outside. But at this point, their root systems have developed enough to need a larger pot to spread out into, as they require more access to water and nutrients.

If you are reusing old pots, wash them thoroughly. It is important not to spread diseases that may be lurking from previous growth.

Ins and outs

At this time of year, the biggest risk to young plants out in the garden is frost. So plants can also be started under

SOW GOOD
Blast of colour through spring and summer



GROW SO FAST Using seed trays

protection in order to get a jump on growing for spring interest or harvest.

You may decide to grow under a cloche or in cold frames to protect them outside. But these methods aren't foolproof, so pay attention to young and tender growth. Early

Lucky Stars

SHINING EXAMPLE
Star Primary's garden



growing their own school dinner

With Cultivation Street 2020 up and running, school gardens across the country are getting ready for spring – and kids from Star Primary are already sowing seeds in their greenhouse.

The school has an urban garden where technology is used to inspire students to engage with nature.

Having transformed what was once a Tarmac plot, the area at the school, in Canning Town, East London, is now a thriving growing space.

There are raised beds for fruit and veg, a greenhouse, chicken coop, bird

feeders, insect hotels and a sensory garden. Teachers believe it is vital for pupils to grow fruit and veg from seed to better understand where their food comes from.

They also reference the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that all youngsters should have the right to relax, play and take part in a range of activities.

Students from all

year groups are given time to enjoy the garden as well as contribute to the weeding and watering.

And once all the fresh food has been harvested, it is cooked and served in the school's cafeteria.

To register your school or community garden for the Cultivation Street 2020 competition, supported by Miracle-Gro®, visit cultivationstreet.com.



OFFER of the week

The easy-to-grow *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Vanille Fraise' is ideal for novice gardeners.

The conical flowers emerge pure white and mature to raspberry during the summer, then red.

It will grow to a height of 1.5m and flower from July to October. 9cm pot plants supplied.

Buy one *Hydrangea* 'Vanille Fraise' for £9.99, or order two for £19.98 and get another FREE.

Delivery within 14 days.

To order by debit/credit card call **0843 922 5000** quoting **SMTG115** or send a cheque (using blue or black ink), made payable to 'Garden Offers' to: Mirror *Hydrangea* 'Vanille Fraise' Offer (SMTG115), PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY. Alternatively, visit mirrorgardenoffers.co.uk.



GADGET



These corner drainpipe trellises are perfect for hiding ugly downpipes and beautifying your home.

Made from 8mm steel rod, they come in either matt black or a rusty patina and have a weatherproof, finish plus a 10-year guarantee.

Supplied in one part, you simply screw them to walls. They cost £59 from harrodhorticultural.com.

cooler climate and, as long as there is no risk of frost, these can be positioned outside in beds about 30cm apart.

Meanwhile, get summer bedding plants on the go in the greenhouse. Sweet peas are a lovely flowering plant.

Annuals can be sown from late January, ready to plant out in April and flower throughout summer. Perennial sweet peas, which return each year, can be planted in spring.

Control and care

With seeds, it's about recognising they are just starting out so give them the best chance – they need access to good soil, light and water. When first planted or when fruiting or flowering, plants require extra water.

Take your cue from the weather as each year is different. When you get the first sign of spring in the air, outside growing conditions swing in your favour and you can make the most of growing outside to optimise space in the greenhouse for other things.

Now I have sown the seeds, you can get growing for spring.