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time to

DIG IN



with DAVID DOMONEY

Sow inspirational

OFFER OF THE WEEK

Allium 'Purple Sensation' is one of our most popular Allium bulbs. It is the winner of the prestigious RHS Award of Garden Merit. It produces enormous 15cm diameter globular heads made up of densely packed purple flowers that stand tall on thin stems above green leaves. It's highly attractive to butterflies and bees with its nectar-rich flowers. Top-quality 10/11cm bulbs supplied.

Buy 15 Allium 'Purple Sensation' for £9.99, or order 60 for half-price - only £19.98. Allow up to 28 days for delivery. To order by debit/credit card, call 0843 922 5000, quoting SMTG162, or send a cheque, using blue or black ink, made payable to 'Garden Offers' at Allium Purple Sensation Offer (SMTG162), PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY or visit mirrorgardenoffers.co.uk



GADGET

Take on lawn moss and thatch with this wheeled Wolf Garden scarifier rake. It's easy to use, smooth and will take some of the effort out of one of the more back-breaking jobs of the autumn. The hardened barbed blades do not require re-sharpening and are always accurate and reliable. It also helps aerate your lawn. I found it for £36.99 via worldofwolf.co.uk



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

Q&A



What can I plant to keep caterpillars off my cabbages?

I want to use companion planting to keep creatures away from my cabbage. What should I do?
Gillian, Manchester

Cabbages are appealing to white caterpillars, but you can plant nasturtiums nearby as a sacrificial crop. They attract cabbage white butterflies to lay their eggs on them to keep the crawly ones off the brassicas. Mint can be planted nearby to mask the scent of crops and repel flea beetles.



Which bulbs will light up my beds for next season?

What bulbs can I plant now for spring and summer?
James via email

For dark, dramatic colour in spring, Fritillaria persica can be planted until November. For pink-purple tones and an incredible onion-garlic scent, Allium aflatunense will be happy in a sunny spot and flowers in spring. Summer-flowering hyacinths, which you can dig in now, have bell-shaped white flowers that will bring colour and fragrance.

TIP of the week

Sow microgreen seeds in containers on your windowsill. Keep them moist and they'll be ready to harvest in a week for a burst of flavour.

HIGHLY COMMENDED
Redwood Park Academy



SECOND PLACE
St Albans CE Primary School



HIGHLY COMMENDED
Craigiebarns Primary School



Competition, this year Linwood High School in Renfrewshire, has won the £1,000 top prize and a Miracle-Gro Hamper. Linwood is in a small, tight-knit town in the West of Scotland, and its garden was created in 2014 to help pupils connect with nature.

Planting a garden builds wonder and excitement into children's daily lives

The garden is named after Craig Hepburn, a former pupil who was murdered aged 19. His parents do fundraising and support the project, which has the inspirational motto "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow".

It has become such an ingrained part of the school, spreading positivity throughout. Over the past few years, the space has become home to a large

greenhouse, six raised beds, imaginatively repurposed tyre planters and an outdoor classroom.

Told of their win, art and gardening teacher Lesley Hinde said: "I am very rarely short of words, but today was a fabulous exception."

"The saying, 'If you want to show a child a miracle, plant a garden' is so very true. It is genuinely the most positive thing you can do for a school, to build wonder and excitement into their daily lives."

Judges' verdict: The story behind the garden is just inspiring. We also loved that it was a secondary school showing such enthusiasm. It's sometimes hard to keep children engaged as they grow older and become teenagers, but the

dedication and hard work has really shone through in this entry.

Runners-up
Second place, £750 and a Miracle-Gro Hamper, St Albans CE (Aided) Primary School, Hampshire; third place, £500 and a Miracle-Gro Hamper, Damers First School, Dorset. Two highly commended schools, each receiving £250, are Craigiebarns Primary School, Dundee, Scotland, and Redwood Park Academy, Cosham, Portsmouth, Hants.

Gro Your Best Winners
This category looks for what it says in the title - and this year's winners have done just that. The public vote and £500 winner is Craigiebarns Primary School, whose pupils used their



THIRD PLACE
Damers First School



HARD AT WORK
Pupils at Craigiebarns



JUDGES' CHOICE
Gardd Gymunedol Llannerchymedd Community Garden

Youngsters show how they have enthusiasm in spades for creating prize-winning garden spaces



WINNER
Linwood High School

Pictures: PHIL DYE