

# FULLERS

## DREAM GARDEN

*Magazine*

April 2024





# Welcome,

## Spring Has Sprung Finally . . .

Say goodbye to winter as your garden comes to life.

Spring is an important time of year. Especially for the bees who are busy with pollination for your plants, vegetables and flowers. They are working constantly to ensure you get a huge harvest this year. In this issue, we give you a list of 5 flowering plants which can help create a welcoming garden for bees.

Spring is also the perfect time for lawn care as it's the time of year when your lawn is growing most actively. It's also the time that your garden demands the most attention to bring you a burst of green in the coming months. To help you create a lush lawn check out the 5 tips for your spring lawn care.

This month we reveal an easy DIY garden project to get kids gardening. And finally, a delicious asparagus soup recipe.

When you've been thinking about creating your dream garden or even just enhancing it slightly, simply give our amazing team a call.

Enjoy your Spring!



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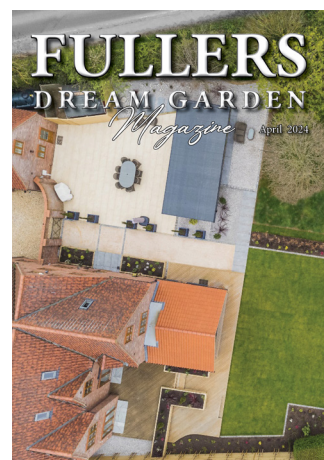
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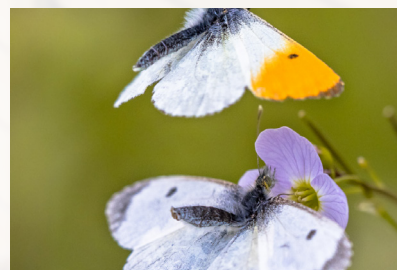
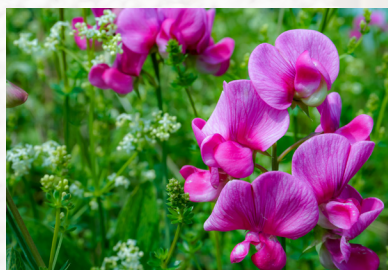
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# Things To Do In The Garden This Month

- Keep weeds under control.
- Mow your lawn (lowering the blades gradually).
- Dig in a layer of compost into your beds.
- Deadhead daffodils but leave the foliage intact allowing it to die back naturally, so they will bloom again next year.
- Sow hardy annuals and herb seeds.
- Feed hungry shrubs and roses.
- Keep bird baths and bird feeders topped up to encourage birds to your garden.
- Plant out perennials in groups of three, five or seven.
- Protect fruit blossom from late frosts.
- Divide bamboos and waterlilies.
- Create you hanging baskets
- Carry out maintenance of pond pumps and filters

## Did You Know?

In the initial Roman calendar April was the second month of the year until January and February were added in 700 BC. April is named after Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, and was initially named Aprilis, meaning “to open.”

The name Aprilis, then fits April, because in so many places in the northern hemisphere April is the month when trees and flowers begin to bloom and go on to flower.



# What Looks Good This Month

## OUR FAVOURITE PLANTS FROM THE GARDEN



### CEANOTHUS

A mature Ceanothus in full flower is an impressive sight, clothed in characteristic blue flowers that are in abundance this month through to early summer. Size and habit vary greatly from spreading cultivars growing just 1m in height to shrub specimens growing almost 6m!



### RIBES 'PULBOROUGH SCARLET'

A deciduous, spring-flowering shrub with pendent clusters of dark red, tubular flowers which smother the bush in April. This flowering currant is compact and upright in habit making it ideal for where border space is limited or for growing as an informal, flowering hedge.

### PRUNUS 'KANZAN'

This tree produces a profuse display of showy dark pink flowers in the spring. The foliage appears as a rusty red colour. The leaves which are fairly large, turn to brilliant oranges and coppery reds in the autumn time.







## PRIMULA VERIS

The cowslip, *Primula veris*, is one of the most striking native primula species. It has fresh green rosettes of crinkly oval leaves from which several flower stems are produced, each crowned by a one-sided cluster of long, funnel shaped blooms which are rich yellow and sweetly fragrant.

## AJUGA REPTANS ‘CATLIN’S GIANT’

Ajuga are a fantastic evergreen ground cover plant with handsome large, glossy purple leaves. Bright blue flowers bloom on short stems, forming upright spikes which are very attractive to bees. It's perfect for moist soils around a pond or in a bog border.



## VINCA MINOR

*Vinca minor*, the “dwarf periwinkle”, is one of the most delightful ground covering plants. With its evergreen foliage it covers even large areas and forms beautiful, blue-violet flowers. You can enjoy this wonderful flower from spring to the end of the summer.



# This Month's Plant Profile

## AMELANCHIER ARBOREA ROBIN HILL

Amelanchier arborea 'Robin Hill', also known as the Juneberry, Serviceberry or Snowy Mespilus, is the perfect garden tree. One of the best varieties of Amelanchier, it is ideal for small gardens, as it only grows to less than 10 metres.

Juneberry trees have the significant benefit of providing interest at all points of the year; starting in spring, the profuse white star-like flowers emerge plentifully, covering the Amelanchier from top to bottom. The foliage follows the blossom, emerging as a coppery colour which turns to bright green by late spring. The eye-catching berries ripen to a rosy red in June to be followed by wonderful late summer and autumn foliage of glowing orange and red. The berries are also edible and attract garden birds. Amelanchier arborea 'Robin Hill' performs best in moist, well drained, lime free soil but is capable of thriving in most soil types. This small tree is an absolute treasure and is suitable for a huge number of planting schemes; from urban street tree planting to residential gardens and parks. 'Robin Hill' always makes a lovely specimen tree for the lawn, or would add spring, summer and autumn interest to a mixed border.

Being such a small tree of ultimate size, it can be planted much closer to buildings than most trees, making it particularly useful in gardens where space is at a premium. Certainly, if you opt to plant a Amelanchier, you will be delighted with its reliable performance.





## ALLIARIA PETIOLATE

## GARLIC MUSTARD



Not only useful for orange-tip butterflies, but also a great herb to add to soups, dressings, casseroles or sauces. Known as hedge garlic, its leaves have a mild, peppery garlic flavour, although confusingly this herb belongs to the cabbage family. Its other common name-Jack by the hedge- comes from its garlic-like aroma. It was previously said that the devil's breath smelt of garlic and Jack is an old English name for the devil.

## RIBES SANGUINEUM

Ribes, or flowering currant which is more familiar with many, is a magnificent sight in Spring. Pendant clusters of dark red, tubular flowers smother the bush in Spring, adding a much needed injection of colour in the garden from a long gloomy winter. If space is limited, this currant is ideal as an informal border where its upright, compact habit performs without fuss.

Flowering may not be considered special, but even the humblest plant can be underrated. Need a neat, fast growing shrub to fill a lonely corner? This is the one. Growing at a rate of approximately 18 inches a year, that's not to be sniffed at! But, if its hearty attitude worries you, a simple haircut can keep it to a size that suits.

Like most brightly coloured flowers, they prefer to be in the warmth of the sun, in any well drained soil. If you're in need of an informal hedge, this flowering currant is readily used as a flowering boundary.

Easily kept to size, its flowers are great for pollinators. Its showy clusters of flowers are followed in autumn by blue/black currant like fruits with a white bloom which are suitable for us to eat. Its classic leaves, synonymous with a currant, have a strong, familiar scent when crushed. Pretty yet undemanding.





# Creatures and Critters



## YOUR GUIDE TO ENCOURAGING AND CARING FOR WILDLIFE IN YOUR GARDEN

Look out for beautifully coloured butterflies in spring as they search for the year's first flowers to feed from. Plants will begin to flower because of an increase in day length and warmth so, once you have plenty of butterflies about, you know that fairer weather has returned at last.

The exquisite orange-tip butterfly only appears between now and June in meadows, woods, riverbanks and roadside verges. Common and widespread, with paper white wings tipped with bright orange, the males are unmistakable. The females are white with black wing tips, both with mottled grey wings underneath. Plant plenty of wild-flowers in your garden to provide a food source. Growing cuckoo flower and garlic mustard will increase the chances of them laying their eggs there. Perfect if you have a woodland area!

Usually the latest of our three swallow species to arrive, the house martin is not a difficult bird to identify. Like other swallows, it catches insects in mid-air, but is also known for its muddy nests under the eaves of houses. With house martins amber listed due to their population decline, it is inappropriate to prevent them nesting. Their droppings however, can be a problem. The simplest way to overcome this is to fix a shelf about 250 mm wide about two metres below the nest to catch the droppings.





# SPRING LAWN CARE

Spring is the time when your lawn is growing most actively. It's also the time that your garden demands the most attention to bring you a burst of green in the coming months. There are plenty of things that should be on a gardener's to-do list around this time to keep the garden growing in shape.

## Did You Know?

- Lawns can produce 3 times more oxygen than trees!
  - Grass's weight comprises of 75% water
- Well maintained grass, along with properly maintained landscape, can increase the property value by 15%

**Here are some tips before you get started:**

### 1. MOWING

Before the lawn grows out of control, you will need to mow it. Mow the grass in early spring, making sure the mowing height is set high. Don't cut more than one-third of the grass blades at a time, otherwise it will become stressed. As the blades grow bigger, you can mow it at a suitable frequency throughout the rest of the spring and summer to keep the lawn in good shape.

### 2. FEEDING

Spring is also the prime time for feeding your lawn. Since the grass is actively growing at this time, it needs its nutrients to grow healthy. Choose a balanced granular feed and apply it at the recommended rate to keep the garden growing vigorously. Healthy grass will also compete well against weeds and pests.

### 3. WEEDING

Weeds are also growing actively during the warm months. You can either weed the lawn by hand or use a liquid lawn weed killer. These products are designed to kill broad-leaved weeds while keeping your grass unharmed.

### 4. DEAL WITH MOSS

Moss is a common problem in poorly-drained lawns and spring is a good time to deal with it. Moss-killer products are often sufficient to tackle the problem.



### 5. OVER-SEEDING

If you have empty or scarce patches in the lawn, over-seeding in early spring can help. Break up and rake the surface before sowing the grass seeds at half the recommended rate. Rake again to move the seeds below the surface. Sprinkle water over the area frequently and the seeds will germinate in a few days. Soon, the empty patches will be blanketed by fresh grass.





# BEE FRIENDLY PLANTING

Bees and other pollinators are very important for your garden. Other than creating an atmosphere buzzing with life, bees are crucial to achieving a healthy garden. Bees pollinate vegetables, fruit trees and ornamental plants, ultimately enhancing your garden's productivity. Busy bees are constantly at work to make sure we get a big harvest each season.



## Did You Know?

1. 90% of wild plants and 75% of food crops rely on animal pollination.
2. Bees pollinate three-quarters of the UK's wild-flowers.
3. 20,000 species of bees face extinction

As important as bees are to us, bees also rely on our gardens for food and shelter. Certain plants are especially attractive to bees, providing them with pollen, nectar and a nesting habitat. Here's a list of flowering plants that can help create a welcoming garden for bees.

### PUSSY WILLOW

These early blooming ornamentals aren't just a beautiful sight in the garden, but also an important food source to the hungry bees. As the colony of bees emerge in early spring, pussy willows will make sure they have enough to eat even when other nectar sources are scarce. Bumblebees, chocolate mining bees and Clarke's mining bees are all fans of the pussy willow.



### MAHONIA

Mahonia offers plenty of nectar and pollen to the bees. These tough flowering shrubs come in many different forms, some of which are scented. It's a winter flowering plant and especially useful if you have winter active bumblebees in your

garden. The clusters of yellow flowers are typically followed by purple berries, a food source for birds.

### LAVENDER

Bees love lavenders. Ideal for growing in garden beds and pots, lavenders should be at the top of your list if you want to attract more bees to your garden. Grow lavender in light, airy soil that has good drainage. They won't grow well in heavy soil that has the tendency to stay wet for long periods.

### APPLES

Apples and crabapples give spring flowers and bees are an important pollinators for these. Besides attracting bees to your garden, you'll see an increase in apple production when assisted by bees.

### HONEYSUCKLE

Honeysuckle is a prolific bloomer and an important source of nectar and pollen to the bees. Blooming in autumn, honeysuckle is regularly visited by Garden bumblebee and Carder bumblebee.



# Garden Showcase of the Month

We get to work on some amazing projects and we thought we would share them with you. They can hopefully provide you with inspiration for your own dream garden.



## ENTERTAINING SPACE

Project Year: 2023

Location: Frieston, Lincolnshire



This property sits within a large garden with amazing countryside views. The clients wanted to create a more formal lawn area, improve the decking area with raised beds, and enhance their seating area.

The garden can be split into zones with the first one being the seating area with an outdoor building. This is a large area which easily accommodates the large table and chairs. Between the house and the seating area we installed a CEDEC path, and some raised beds and a gabion step from the house. You can now walk easily from the house to the seating area to dine with family and friends. To create the feel of division we



used large planters. This creates a way of segregating this part of the garden without it being hemmed in, which fencing or a slatted screen would do. The use of spirals in the planters give height to the area, and you can use solar lighting in them to add ambiance in the summer evenings.

The next area is the lawn. This is edged with beds which have a variety of plants to add colour, scent and structure. The use of arches draw your eye down from the house and frame the countryside views beyond. They also match the timber used on



the property, which can be seen when you look back towards the house. To the side of the lawn area are mature trees, which give a natural woodland feel. We planted additional daffodil bulbs in this area, which will create a burst of colour each spring.

The final area is the decking. This was existing but needed to be uplifted and made into an area the clients would want to sit and enjoy. We created raised beds between steps with planting that would create colour and scent. This was the only part that was overlooked and so needed some sort of screening. We added some pleached trees to help with privacy, and these sit in front of a slatted screen fence.



This garden project was great to work on as it had a number of zones and features. It also shows how you can have an existing area, such as the decking, and with some alterations change its appearance, feel and usability.









# Ed's Thoughts!

## HOW APRIL SHOWERS CAN BENEFIT YOUR GARDEN IN THE SUMMER

### SAVE YOURSELF FROM A ROCKETING SUMMER WATER BILL BY STORING EXCESS WATER NOW

April showers are a matter of fact this month. Interestingly, one of the major causes of the often heavy downpours is the position of the jet stream during the month. While we have had more than our fair share of rain already this year, it doesn't seem likely to ease just yet.

Now the risk of frost has lessened, spring is the best time to start setting your garden up for the rest of the year. Looking forward to summer, and the likelihood of a drier season as our climate changes, collecting rainwater is vital for the health of your garden in warmer periods. It also saves your pocket from hefty water bills in a desperate attempt to quench its thirst. If every household in England collected just one water butt's worth of water a year - equating to 160 litres - this would collectively save four billion litres of fresh tap water every year. Gardens prefer rainwater anyway, as that's what they're used to.

Compared to a hose pipe or sprinkler which can use up to 1,000 litres of water an hour and cost around £1.50, using a watering can costs an equivalent of 50p per hour. Rainwater is free and it will cost a mere one off £50-60 to install a water butt. Finally, our wet British weather can be counted as a blessing!

Not only is rainwater ideal for watering the garden, but a water butt can also relieve strain from your downpipes during heavy downpours and reduce overflowing drains. If you don't have a suitable downpipe, you can easily install one on your shed. A simple and effectively free method that will save you hundreds of pounds on your annual water bill.







# Maintenance Matters

## ‘The Big Spring Clean’ . . . Just a Cliché?

Absolutely not!

Setting your garden up ready for the warmer months is one of the most satisfying outdoor tasks. Is there anything better than the feeling of uncovering your garden chairs from the shed, brushing off the dust and staging your patio, patiently waiting for the summer sun?

One of the best things you can do for your patio is to give it a good clean. Over the past few months it's been very wet and blustery. Detritus has had ample time to collect. Not only is it unsightly, but it's slippery and can ruin the integrity of your patio, ageing it quicker and causing discolouration.

Moss, dirt and algae coat the surface of the stone forming a smooth surface, resulting in a slippery surface. You can take years off your patio with a good pressure wash. It removes years of built up dirt and grime and brings back your paving's original colour and more importantly, its texture. A good pressure wash can take a few hours, it's a detailed but satisfying process. We really enjoy seeing the amazement on your face when we transform your patio from tired looking to brand new again.

If you're just looking for a quick 'spring clean' give us a call to get your garden spring ready.





# EASY DIY GARDEN PROJECTS

## GET KIDS GARDENING

### SIMPLE SWEET PEAS - FOR ALL AGES

Sowing sweet peas with the children is a wonderful fun activity for all ages. The seeds are large enough for little hands to handle, and it's a great way to while away those long summer days. There are so many varieties to choose from too, so children can have fun picking their favourite colour or name.

The fast germination time is also encouraging, starting at seven days after sowing, so you can keep your children's interest as their seeds begin to grow.

Like most peas, sweet peas grow best when their roots are allowed to grow deep. Set up several toilet paper rolls on a seed tray or a plate if you don't have one. Fill each of the rolls with compost and let your children push the seeds into the compost about an inch deep. Make sure the seed is covered with compost and keep the soil moist but not wet. Position the seed tray on a warm window sill where you can watch the seeds begin to grow.

When the roots have filled the toilet roll and the plants are approximately 10cm tall, your children can plant them out in the garden. The toilet rolls are biodegradable so you can put them straight in to the planting hole! Sweet peas are a climbing plant, so you will need to give them some support once they're planted out into the garden.

Come the summer, fragrance will fill the garden and the more you pick the flowers, the more will grow! A lovely activity that will last from the day your children sow the seeds until the end of summer. A rewarding experience for both you and your children.





# Garden to Kitchen

## This Month's Recipe

### SPRINGTIME ASPARAGUS SOUP

Harvesting asparagus is worth the wait, and wait you must if you have started a new asparagus bed. But reaping the rewards with this fabulous springtime soup is a great way to get the best from your hard-earned asparagus crop.

PREP TIME: 30 MINS

COOK TIME: 30 MINS

SERVES: 4 Slices

#### Ingredients

- 1 bunch fresh asparagus ends trimmed
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Salt and fresh ground pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 small onion chopped finely
- 1 clove garlic minced
- 3 pints of vegetable or chicken stock
- 3 large potatoes peeled and chopped
- 2 large carrots chopped
- 230g fresh spinach
- 230ml single cream



#### Method

1. Heat oven to 220 degrees c. Roast the asparagus for about 10 minutes until nicely browned
2. Set aside. After cooled cut into 1 to 2 inch pieces
3. Melt butter over medium heat in a large saucepan.
4. Add chopped onion and cook until fragrant, translucent and softened. Add garlic. Cook for a minute longer
5. Add chicken or vegetable stock to the pot. Bring to a low boil. Add potatoes and carrots.
6. Turn heat down to simmer and cook for about 15-20 minutes or until potatoes and carrots are tender.
7. Stir in single cream and fresh spinach. Cook for a few minutes more until heated through.... Enjoy!





# Monthly Puzzle

ANNUAL

DECIDUOUS

EVERGREEN

HARDY

PERENNIAL

SEEDLING

E	X	G	R	X	Z	E	R	T	P	A	H	D	B	F
F	V	E	J	U	I	S	Z	E	T	I	A	X	V	F
C	N	E	M	C	N	C	R	P	R	I	R	H	R	C
J	B	B	R	X	U	E	D	I	A	J	D	D	P	I
K	M	Y	P	G	N	P	D	K	P	Q	Y	N	M	E
B	K	X	B	N	R	G	N	I	L	D	E	E	S	G
P	L	C	I	H	F	E	L	E	J	K	H	L	T	W
F	C	A	D	D	F	A	E	B	V	A	R	I	X	K
M	L	T	Z	Z	U	M	V	N	R	S	L	V	I	B
P	B	Z	W	N	F	B	E	G	R	W	L	E	C	G
S	C	C	N	Y	S	G	M	X	X	R	V	F	F	C
D	K	A	X	K	U	A	V	U	S	M	J	I	X	Z
H	Z	A	D	E	C	I	D	U	O	U	S	I	B	R
Z	K	E	O	R	N	N	D	Q	K	D	F	L	A	X
R	G	H	F	J	X	I	B	F	E	O	X	I	D	R

**ANNUAL** - A plant that completes its life cycle (germination, flowering, seeding, dying) in one growing season.

**DECIDUOUS** - Describes plants that shed leaves at the end of the growing season and renew them at the beginning of the next.

**EVERGREEN** - Describes plants that retain most of their leaves throughout the year.

**HARDY** - Able to withstand year-round climatic conditions including frost, without protection.

**PERENNIAL** - Any plant living for at least three years (annual = 1 year, biennial = 2 years).


**SEEDLING** - A young plant that has developed from a seed.







# Contact Us


If you are looking for a landscaper who can transform your garden, get in touch with Fullers Landscaping now.

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The whole experience, from the initial design, through to the completion of our garden, has been excellent. A big thank you to all involved, the Designer, the Project Manager, the team of Landscapers & the Admin, everyone have been friendly, helpful, & nothing has been too much trouble. An excellent team who have delivered a great garden within the timescale indicated. We would have no hesitation in recommending Fullers to anyone considering landscaping their garden

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