

CHOOSING YOUR PLANTS!

BEGINNERS GUIDE TO GARDENING



HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR PLANTS

Choosing the plants for your garden is the most important and exciting step in creating a new garden. The right plants can transform your garden immediately. Unfortunately, it's not as simple as just going out and buying plants you like the look of (although what you like does have a major impact on what you buy) but you also have to consider other areas like; understanding the space you have, to the garden aspect and different soil types. From colourful patio plants to flowers that can cope with a range of weather conditions, this lesson guides you in considering key areas of your garden. Along with a few ideas for different plants.

In a previous lesson we went over understanding the size of your garden, and this will play a key role in choosing what plants to add to your garden. Before purchasing a plant, do some research into the ultimate size of the plant. You should also consider the size of any garden beds and borders, along with containers, as this will impact what plants you purchase.



PLANTS FOR CONDITIONS

Dry & Sunny

If your garden is in a sunny or dry area, there are many different plants you can add to your garden. Some of our favourites include alliums, iris, lilies, tulips, petunias, dianthus, salvia, clematis, wisteria, dwarf pampas grass, lavender, buddleja and hibiscus.

Shaded

There are lots of plants that grow well in shade, including mahonia, viburnum and sarcococca. Clematis, honeysuckle and hydrangea petiolaris are also good options. Bulbs like English bluebells, snowdrops and some varieties of cyclamen are good for damp shade. These plants also work for north-facing gardens that are in shade for most of the day.



Ground Cover

Ground cover plants are normally low-developing plants that structure appealing hills or covers. They quickly cover the bare soil and cover the ground. They are often low-maintenance and evergreen. Some plants include hardy geraniums, flower carpet roses, lavender and ferns.

Clay & Chalk Soils

Clay soils can be hard to work with if you are a beginner, often needing to be improved by adding your own compost and organic mulch. But some plants do grow well in well-draining clay soils, including hydrangeas, viburnum, roses, buddleja, and fuchsia. Plants for chalk soils include Buxus, hydrangea, clematis, and dianthus.

Ericaceous plants

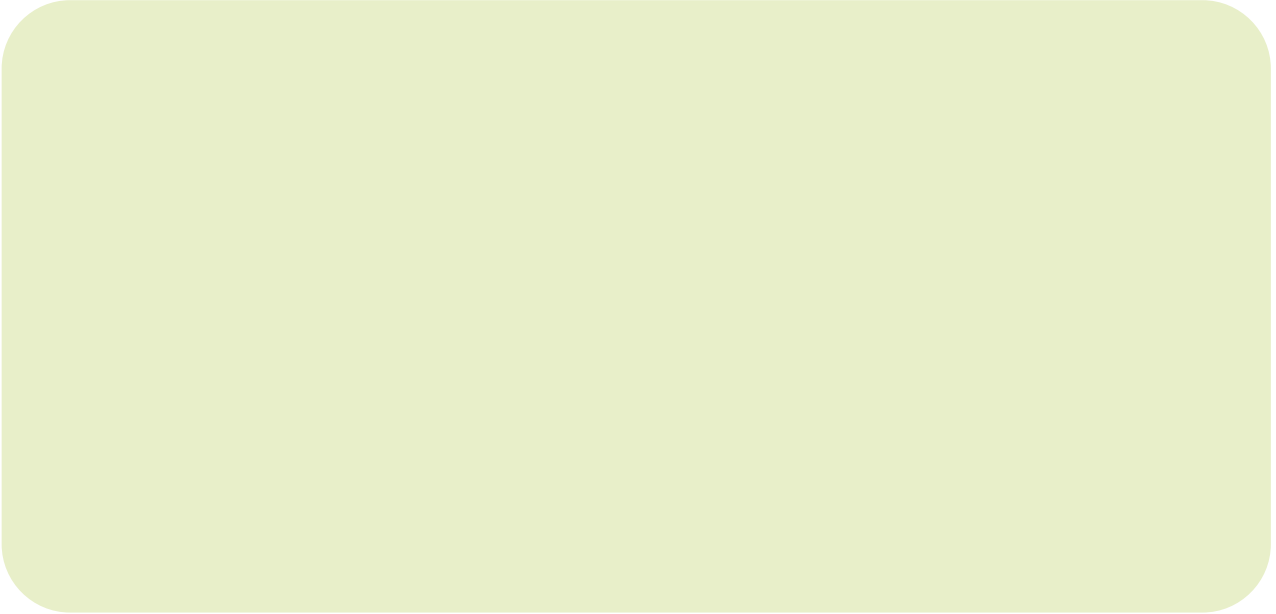
Some plants require being planted with ericaceous soil or in more acidic soils. These plants include rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, Japanese maples (Acer), magnolias and heathers.



ACTIVITY


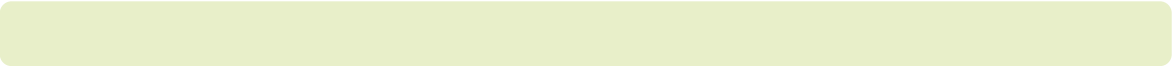


Garden Conditions

Note down any garden conditions you have and how much space you have to work with



Plants to add

Using the lesson content and your own research, choose the top 5 plants that will work with your garden conditions

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	