

Garden Design for Beginners

~RHS Chelsea Flower Show: Inspiration for your Garden~

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*~RHS Chelsea Flower Show:
Inspiration for your Garden~*

Part of the Garden Master eBook series

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Garden Master eBooks



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GoTo4 Gardening

Welcome to the second eBook in our **Garden Master eBook** series.

Here at **GoTo4Gardening**, we aim to make the very latest gardening advice, information, and news easier to access than it ever has been before.

We aim to be an online community that will bring gardeners together and help you to make a real difference in your community.

Breaking down social barriers

Gardening is one of life's greatest pleasures. After all, there is something really quite wonderful about watching your garden grow! After realising that, in today's diverse society, shared interests and hobbies bring people together and break down social barriers. We decided to launch **GoTo4Gardening** as a gardening website that will really make a difference.

We want the website to bring together all levels of society, from all social and ethnic backgrounds, who would otherwise never interact with each other, over the thing that they are most passionate about; gardening.

Our website as well as being a mine of gardening information, has sections such as "Our Community", where people can get together to start and manage projects such as cleaning up their local park, or helping elderly or disabled members of the community with their heavier gardening chores. In our free Classified section, gardeners can buy and sell both new and used garden equipment. Our members' forum is a place for members to discuss gardening issues and post comments.

The 'go to' guide for all of your gardening needs

Armed with a first-hand insight into the world of gardening and a passion for the great outdoors, we have created a resource that will allow you to access the very latest gardening advice, interesting articles, and even insider inputs from a host of outdoor experts.

From seeking advice about the black spots on your roses to selling your lawnmower, our unique platform aims to help you make the most of your garden.

Connecting a community of gardeners

Our online forum provides users with the opportunity to connect and engage with a community of gardening enthusiasts. As we all know, in the world of gardening there's a lot you can learn from your fellow gardeners!

Get involved, expand upon your gardening knowledge, and pick up plenty of hints, tips, and advice along the way.

Buy and sell your gardening equipment online

What's more, you can also buy and sell using our online facility. From plants and pots to gardening equipment, if you are looking to sell, you're in the right place!

Everything you will ever need to know to grow your garden

The possibilities are truly endless when it comes to creating an outdoor environment that you love to spend time in. If you're looking for inspiration or simply advice and tips on how to grow great plants, our gardening resource is fully equipped with everything you need to grow a happy garden.

The myth of the ‘green thumb’: you *can* garden!

Don’t know where to start? No green blood in your veins? Can’t keep ‘even’ a houseplant alive? Of course, you can’t actually be born with green fingers, but is it something that some people have and some people do not? Here at GoTo4 Gardening, we think that anyone can garden!

One of the most common reasons people give for not working in their garden is that they don’t have a ‘green thumb’; this is a myth! With a bit of advice and keeping things simple to start, anyone can garden – and garden well!

If you want to follow instructions, then the chance is you probably will; this is how gardening works to begin with! Read, read, read, then purchase some plants that will suit your garden, look after them, and they will probably do OK. Gardening is a developed skill and for most people this skill is self-taught. Gardening can quite often be a case of trial and error but this is, or at least should be, a process to be enjoyed.

Design and experiment! Once you have a little experience under your belt, then now is the time to experiment. Trial new plants and see how they grow in your garden. With gardening, you will never know all there is to know. Even the most knowledgeable of gardeners and the most experienced garden designers are always learning to improve their trade. We are all in this together. We really do believe that successful garden design can be achieved by anyone!

[Register today](#) for hints, tips, blogs, articles, and eBooks from the experts. Gain access to our forums and talk to other gardeners; join our community today!

Five essential elements of successful garden design

In garden design, there are five basic elements that are required for a garden to be an aesthetically pleasing design: colour, form, line, scale, and texture. The creative use of features and plants creates a wonderful garden that will serve its design brief and will make looking at, and being in a pleasure.

In this eBook, we will look at three great gardens that were produced at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2016. We will use these five points to consider how the beginner garden designer can emulate the designs for themselves.

1. Colour

The use of colour is essential in garden design. The careful colour choices of plants and feature combinations will make or break your design. The use of similar colours creates tranquility, and different colours show contrast. Cool and warm colours can change the mood of the person who views or walks through the garden. It is safe to say that colour choice is one of, if not the, most important design aspect to get right!

2. Form

The choice of the shape of a plant or object is its form. The form can help to create drama in your garden; sudden wild-looking planting alongside low and clipped plants will challenge the eye and the mind. Formal gardens are likely to make good use of form, especially the use of clipped hedging. When one thinks of a natural looking garden, free-flowing plants, and their forms will play a big part in the design. Objects to have their part to play when it comes to different forms in a garden; pots, sundials, and even greenhouses, for example.

3. Line

Lines can be found all through a garden design, and they don't have to be straight! Around a bed, along a path, or in the method of planting; lines are everywhere. Lines have a real effect on the flow of

the garden, so make sure you are using them to their full potential. Think about how the eye will be drawn along the line and what you will see at the end of the line. Straight lines and angles create a formal appearance, and curved lines can be used to create a more natural look. Lines are not just on the ground either. Use plants, hardscaping, and objects to create vertical lines too. You can pull the eye to the landscape with the use of tall trees, for example.

4. Scale

The scale is a very important element of garden design, but you can also create the illusion of scale with planting and hardscaping. The scale must be balanced to be effective though. This means that when you are choosing the plants or objects for your garden, you need to consider the size of the space and how the size of the object will effect it.

5. Texture

Traditionally, texture has been created with the use of plants. Contemporary garden designers are now utilizing the textures that are found in hardscaping, gravels and chippings, and objects to add texture to their designs. When using plants to create texture, it is important to remember that the many different parts of the plant help to create different textures. Consider how the plant will look through the seasons and it's changing shape and textures when you are planning your planting scheme.

Five top tips to consider when planning your garden's design: goal-orientated design

1. Decide what you want to do in your garden.

Do you want a garden for your children to play football in or one that will accommodate as many people as possible for BBQ parties? Do you want a garden to show off your favourite plants, or one that will help you to produce as much fruit and vegetables as is possible? A quality garden design that is planned around how you want to live will change your life! You must understand the space you have and how you want to use it.

2. Design from the inside out

Your garden should be designed to suit you and your needs, not for the Joneses next door! Visualise how you might walk through it, not how you might look at it from a distance. How will you use it?

3. Each part of the design should be to achieve a goal, 'form follows function.'

If you design your garden so that you can relax in it with your family, but landscape it in such a way that means a table and chairs do not fit, then you have not achieved this step!

4. The design comes first, plants and hardscaping follow.

Unless your whole garden design is based on one statement plant that you have already bought, you must work on your design before anything else. If you visit a garden centre or nursery for inspiration, do not be tempted into purchasing plants too soon!

5. Flow from house to garden.

As an extension of your house, your garden is an additional living space. A quality garden design will make the house and garden seem like one.

What is the difference between a perennial and an annual?

Among the most common terms that are bandied about in gardening are perennials, annuals, shrubs, and trees. What do they mean?

Perennials

- Soft-stemmed
- Live year on year, dying back in the winter and re-growing in spring or summer the following year.
- Value for money as they will live and flower for several years after planting.
- Relatively short flowering period.
- Examples: Hostas, Irises, and Daylilies.
- Bloom for a period of time rather than an entire season.

Annuals

- Soft-stemmed
- Live for one season. (Some plants may be used as annuals in cooler climates but grow more like perennials in warmer climates)
- Colourful flowers, flower all season.
- Cheaper than most other plants
- Flower all season
- Examples: Busy Lizzies, (bedding) Geraniums, Petunias.

Two other important terms to understand:

Evergreen: plants that keep their needles or leaves year-round

Deciduous: plants that lose their needles or leaves in the autumn

Plant names and their nursery tags; a little knowledge goes a long way!

Species and cultivar

All plants have a Latin name. Many will also have a common name. The most common oak trees that can be found in many parks and cities around the UK, for example, have the Latin name *Quercus robur*.

You do not need to be about to read or speak Latin to be a great garden designer though, so don't worry!

When you see a plant's name, there will usually be two Latin names in italics, and quite often a third name in English. The Latin is the species, and the English is the cultivar. The easiest way to explain this is to think about dogs.

- A Great Dane and a Dachshund are both *Canis Familiaris* – the species
- The cultivar here would be 'Great Dane' or 'Dachshund'. Cultivars are the same species but can look very different!

Photograph

The photograph on a nursery tag will usually show the plant at its peak height and condition. This is fine as long as you can appreciate that the plant may not look like that for years!

Descriptions

The nursery tag is trying to sell the plant to you. Research the plants you want to buy from more than one reference point

Hardiness

This will give an indication of how the plant will react to the colder weather. The temperature that it can survive at is an important one. For a focal point plant, you may be happy to wrap and protect it during the winter, but you may not feel this way about a whole grouping of plants!

Light

The light required by the plant will commonly be displayed as a symbol. The options given are usually full sun, part sun/part shade, and shade.

Size

The size given will indicate the width and height of the plant once it has reached maturity. This could take make years for the plant to reach this. If you are unsure, do check the growth rate.

Growth rate

This is only occasionally featured on nursery tags. As a garden designer (yes, that's you now!) you may choose to buy a small plant and let it grow. This will save you money in the long term but if it will take ten years to reach the height, was it worth it?

Applying knowledge with inspiration from the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2016

One of the main themes running through the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2016, was Tranquility. This tranquility took three forms:

- Water
- Lawns
- Pastel colour combinations. These were mostly pinks, purples, blues, and whites.

Over the next few chapters, we will look at the themes behind the gardens, some tips for growing and designing their key elements, and how anyone can emulate aspects of the garden design in their own gardens!

[Click here](#) to read a selection of articles posted to our site all about The RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Section 1: Water as a centerpiece

Theme

The garden that really shone at The RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2016 when it comes to the use of water is 'The M&G Garden 2016'. Designed by Cleve West, his inspiration was an ancient oak woodland from his childhood memories on Exmoor.

With eight Gold RHS medals under his belt, five being at Chelsea shows, West's landscaping and design skills have made him one of the top contemporary garden designers in the UK today.

'Sustainability is the cornerstone of Cleve's philosophy.'

When you look at this garden design, local materials and plants that will work with their surroundings are used. When designing your own garden, it is important to consider how it will fit within the environment that you live. Consider whether you are looking to design a garden that will compliment its surroundings as this garden does. Look at the bio-diversity and environment that exists in your area and be guided by it.

The path running through 'The M&G Garden' is a stone and gravel construction that lines the woodland's edge. The path moves through the garden with views of oaks and rocks and onwards to a smoother path. As with all great garden designs, this one too tells a story. The path represents West's journey into and through garden design. His planting choices include other trees, perennials, ferns, grasses, annuals and bulbs.

At the centre of West's garden is a sunken terrace with a pool. In contrast to the smoothness of the water and its undulating movements, creates a wonderful juxtaposition with the sharp and geometric edging of gray sandstone.

What benefits are there to be had from introducing water into your garden design?

Attracting wildlife

For most people, the opportunity to attract increased numbers of wildlife to their garden is a real plus point for water in their garden; even a small pond will make a difference! If you add water to your garden, the wildlife will come.

- **Frogs**

Frogs need ponds to lay their frogspawn and the tadpoles feed on algae in the water. You are more likely to attract frogs if you also design your water area with shelter for the frogs to hide in.

- **Birds**

Birds love water in gardens, and they will visit to bathe and drink.

- **Dragonflies**

Dragonflies are a really beautiful insect that will be attracted to your garden if there is water. They need the water to breed in, and the larvae need to attach to submerged plants to survive. If you are looking to attract dragonflies, plan your water for a sunny area with some shelter.

- **Hedgehogs**

If you want to attract hedgehogs and are planning water in your garden, do make sure that you create a slope in your water, or a plank for them to climb out on.

Adding texture and interest that just wouldn't be found with any other garden feature.

The presence of water in your garden will bring a whole new level of interest to your garden. There is nothing like water for the way in which it moves, the sound it makes, or the additional plants that can be grown around it.

How can you use water as a centerpiece in your own garden?

1. Colour

In this garden, West uses natural browns against the gray of the sandstone. Notice also the clarity of the water in the feature. While 'clear' is not strictly a colour, the appearance adds a new dimension to the garden's features.

2. Form

West beautifully combines the natural shapes found in nature with the straight edges of engineered stone. If you are not looking to create this level of difference, choose and group natural elements for their size or form.

3. Line

The water feature is placed very squarely in the centre of this garden, making it the place that the eye rests first and all the other garden elements are there as supporting features. This is not the sole option for a water feature, and there are many ways to create a feature, of any size, without it having to be the main feature in the garden.

4. Scale

The water as a centerpiece in this garden is about making a point, and as such, the bigger, the better! The stone at the bottom of the water feature are just what you might find at the bottom of a stream in Exmoor. Consider the environment in which you live and the natural features that are around you. Or, as West has done, think of the environment that you are attempting to mimic.

5. Texture

The combination of textures here creates the stunning, contemporary feel of this garden. You have the rugged stone of the bottom of the water feature and the 'wall' surrounding it, and the smooth and square-cut gray sandstone edges. The stone works, but also consider how you can create this juxtaposition with other elements from your

surroundings. Small branches and logs would work really well against a backdrop of Douglas Fir railway sleepers.

Section 2: Lawns: practical and feature

Theme

There will be many people who were very pleased to see lawns making a come back to the competition world of garden designs – at last, something a little more practical to emulate! Many designers this year had real turf in their designs. One of the most striking lawn gardens was the Chelsea Barracks Garden that won a Gold Medal. The inspiration behind this garden is the heritage of the site that the Chelsea Barracks stands on, and the landscaping and architecture of the development being built next to the Royal Hospital.

Sowing a lawn from seed

Why from Seed?

- **Cost**

When deciding whether to plant a lawn from seed or to turf, one of the factors you will consider is cost. Seed is, in general, a lot cheaper than the turf when it comes to laying a whole new lawn!

- **Choice**

There is a wide range of seed mixes that are available. This means that you are more likely to find a mix that is perfectly suited to your garden's design and environment than if you were to use turf.

- **Storage**

Once you have bought your grass seed, you can then store it until the weather and soil conditions are perfect. Turf, on the other hand, will rapidly degenerate if they are not laid within 24hrs of delivery, and preferably within 24hrs of being cut.

What are the ideal conditions to seed a lawn?

In general, the seed will germinate more quickly in mid-spring and early autumn. When sowing grass seed, you are looking for the soil to be warm, the weather to be neither too hot nor too cold, and for the ground to be moist but not too moist. (Not too much to ask, hey?!) The seed will need to have germinated and become established before the heat of the summer or the frosts of the winter.

How to choose grass seed

Depending on the requirements you place on your lawn and the environment that you are in, there are different seed mixes that are available for you to purchase. When choosing seed, think about the footfall over the lawn.

- **General-purpose seed lawn**

More often than not, general-purpose lawn seed will be a mixture of a variety of different hard-wearing grasses. This seed will be the best choice for the majority of gardens and will respond well to a reasonable level of footfall. However, be prepared to get mowing; this is usually quite a fast growing seed mix!

- **Luxury or fine lawn**

These mixes are for relatively low amounts of footfall and will be a mix of fine-leaved grasses. As well as being a slower growing seed than the general purpose, you will be able to mow at a much lower height and will enable you to achieve a very different look.

- **Shady lawn**

As the name suggests, this seed mix is for areas that are relatively shady, such as under or next to trees, shrubs, or hedges. The grasses in shady mixes are not usually hard wearing.

Quality of seed

As with most things in life, you get what you pay for when it comes to lawn seed. Choose a reputable brand and read the ingredients!

How to sow a lawn: preparation is key!

Preparation

- **Kill Weeds**

Hand weeding is best, but if you do choose to use a weed killer do not use a residual weed killer – it will kill the grass you are trying to grow!

- **Rotavate the soil.**

You can do this by hand with a garden fork, or hire a rotavator. If the land has been barren or just a bit unloved for a while, you want to be looking at around 20cm of depth.

- **Compost**

Dig in some organic matter or well-rotted manure.

- **Leave to settle**

After you have completed the above, you will need to leave for a while, preferably up to two months.

- **Level the surface**

Tread the area flat and rake in all directions to ensure the area is as flat and level as possible.

- **Fertiliser**

Apply and rake in fertiliser as per the instructions.

Sowing

- **Purchase seed**

Any reputable garden centre or nursery that sells grass seed will be able to help you decide on how much grass seed you will need to buy. If they can't then buy from them at your own risk! If you are purchasing online then following the recommendations on the box.

- **Sowing**

If you need to sow a large area, then divide up the seed to make sure all areas are equally covered. Seed sowers are available, but make sure that it is calibrated correctly. Many garden centres will have sowers available for hire.

- **Rake**

Gently rake the newly seeded area to help with the even spread of the seed.

- **Water**

In general, you will only need to water the seed if it remains dry for a couple of days. In which case, use a very gentle sprinkle of water. Repeat until the seed has established or the rain starts!

Laying a lawn from turf

Why turf?

- **Speed**

If you want to create the instant wow factor in your garden, then a turf lawn will help you to create just that.

- **Space restrictions**

If it is not possible to keep everyone from trampling over your lawn for a few weeks, then turf is your answer. People and pets will only need to be kept from a newly turfed area for a few days.

Turf may be quick to lay, but preparing to lay requires the same preparation as for sowing seed.

When to lay turf

The optimum time to lay turf is in the autumn before your garden will be too wet or frosty. Spring is also a possibility, but you face your new lawn being subjected to the heat of summer which will stress the roots.

Turf purchasing tips

- **Size and thicknesses**

Turf is sold in a range of sizes and thicknesses. Have a good conversation with the company that you purchase it from to make sure you understand all of the different types that are available so that you can make an informed decision.

- **Check the dimensions again!**

How to lay turf: preparation is key!

Preparation

- **Kill Weeds**

Hand weeding is best, but if you do choose to use a weed killer do not use a residual weed killer – it will kill the grass you are trying to grow!

- **Rotavate the soil.**

You can do this by hand with a garden fork, or hire a rotovator. If the land has been barren or just a bit unloved for a while, you want to be looking at around 20cm of depth.

- **Compost**

Dig in some organic matter or well-rotted manure.

- **Leave to settle**

After you have completed the above, you will need to leave for a while, preferably up to two months.

- **Level the surface**

Tread the area flat and rake in all directions to ensure the area is as flat and level as possible.

- **Fertiliser**

Apply and rake in fertiliser as per the instructions.

Laying turf

- **Begin at one side**

Start at the further corner of your garden or area and unroll the turf.

- **Avoid foot indentations**

With a little planning, you should not need to walk across your new lawn. Have some boards available just in case!

- **Lie of the grass**

Examine the turf to see if the grass is laying more naturally facing in one direction than another. While the grass should quickly grow together, the whole point of turf is that it is instant lawn! Take a few minutes of your time to get it perfect.

- **Sand**

Sand is a very useful accessory when it comes to laying turf. Keep a container of it to hand and use it under individual pieces of turf if it needs to be raised a little.

- **Tamper**

After you have laid your turf, gently firm it with either a roller or boards.

- **Joints**

Laying complete, use a mix of soil and sand to fill any minor gaps.

- **Leave it alone!**

Once you have finished, leave the turf well alone to allow it to root.

How to use a lawn as both a feature and a practical element of your garden

1. Colour

This may seem a strange point to cover when talking about lawns – yes, lawns are green! However, consider how you can use the colour of the lawn to accentuate other colours you are featuring in your garden. Plant white flowers close to the lawn's edge to go for a dramatic look. Use blues and purples to help the lawn and the rest of the garden merge. Or simply plant a lawn because it is green and enjoy it!

2. Form

One of the most important things to consider before you even start to think about the design of your garden is: 'what story do I want to tell?' It's perfectly all right to answer that you just want an area that your friends and family can stand on when they join you for a BBQ! Other than that, the message could be one of peaceful curves or dramatic angles. The beauty of a lawn is that you can lay and cut it to suit your story and your requirements.

3. Line

Lawns do not have to be all about straight edges and lines. Think creatively when you are planning your lawn. If it is not destined to be a football pitch, then it can have curved edges, or disappear through taller plants and trees in your garden to draw the eye through your garden.

4. Scale

As with line, think about what you are looking to achieve with your lawn. If you want to create the feeling of space in your garden, shape the lawn to give the illusion of a longer garden.

5. Texture

Use different grass seeds to create different textures. You could mix in wild flower seed to create a meadow for example. Think about the

type of grass seed you are using. If you want to create a finer look, choose a grass seed that will tolerate a lower grade cut.

[Click here](#) to read our top tips for spring lawn care

Garden Master eBooks



Section 3: Pastels: tranquility by colour

Theme

If there was one garden that really showed off the theme of tranquility this year at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show with its pastel planting, it was The LG Smart Garden. The garden's designer was Hay Joung Hwang. The design was based on a Scandinavian lifestyle garden where bright colours are calmed with the presence of a natural planting scheme. There was a mix of herbaceous planting with multi-stemmed trees. LG are an electronics company and the garden looked to tell the story of how formal and informal, naturalism and artificialism is a metaphor for modern life. A smartphone was in use to control lighting in the garden and to ensure optimum irrigation was achieved for the show's duration.

The garden features many aspects from both Scandinavian design and Oriental culture, with a cantilevered pergola being the centerpiece of the garden. The planting focused on pastel colours that created a sense of tranquility within the garden.

Plant suggestions for your own piece of tranquility

Four of the plants that Hwang chose to feature in The LG Smart Garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2016 were *Iris* 'Beverly Sills', *Iris* 'Jane Phillips', *Digitalis* 'Glory of Roundway', and *Persicaria bistorta* 'Superba'.

Three more suggestions for plants that could perfectly fit a tranquil theme.

- ***Valeriana officinalis***

This perennial has beautiful heads of white flowers that sit at the top of narrow stems. The *Valeriana* is easy to grow and would create interest towards the back of a formal border, or as a surprise in the middle of a bed.

It will grow happily in any soil, and in sun or shade. The *Valeriana* sets seed prolifically so make sure you love it before you plant it!

- ***Orlaya grandiflora***

Another white flowering plant, the *Orlaya* has stunning white heads with lace-like flowers in the early summer. Pair it with Hwang's choice of *Iris* 'Jane Philips' for the striking colour combination.

- ***Isatis tinctoria***

This great plant is commonly known as woad. It has been grown for centuries for the blue dye that is produced from its leaves. The *Isatis* is a great choice of plant if you are looking for a plant that combines ornamental beauty with a heady scent. The heads in early summer release sweet, honey-scented yellow flowers. The *Isatis* will thrive in poor soil and in full sun. As with the *Valeriana*, do make sure that you love this plant as it will seed freely around your garden.

For weekly gardening tips [Click here](#)

How to use pastel colours to achieve tranquility in your garden

1. Colour

Choose combinations of light blues, whites, purples, and pinks to create areas of mixed colours in your garden. Hwang did not use any blocks of colour when he created this garden and it really helped to achieve a more naturalistic look.

2. Form

Hwang mixed formal, low, clipped hedging to mark out one edge of the seating area. He looked to the Oriental culture for the precision in the hedging design alongside the European wildflower feel for his design. When you look at the planted beds, the plants are not grouped by colour, size, or form; they are mixed. This mixture of planting aids the tranquil feel of the garden.

3. Line

Although the planting of the plants themselves is not formal, the beds that they are planted in as well as the objects in the garden are all of a linear design. The whole garden is designed around straight edges and objects. The straight lines of the pergola are softened with the use of a wisteria. This is a really clever planting choice as the groups of green leaves will give way to cascading blue or white bunches later in the season and will add movement to the garden.

4. Scale

The lines used in the garden, as well as the straight lines of the technology under the pergola, make the scale feel static in space and time. There is a little depth created by the changing use of flooring materials, but the overall effect is stillness, perfectly meeting the tranquility brief.

5. Texture

There is texture everywhere in this garden! The smooth table and flooring are counterpointed by the tall, spiky grasses and *Digitalis*, and the wide choice of planting adds a whole mix of textures to the garden's design. What is important to realise with this design though

is that even with the wide range of textures in the garden, the controlled lines create calm; just because a garden is full of texture doesn't mean that it feels busy and over-run.

Summary

We hope that you have enjoyed and found some useful hints and tips in this third eBook in our series, **Garden Design for Beginners: RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2016: Inspiration for your garden.**

With a little bit of research, trial and error, Here at **GoTo4 Gardening**, we think that anyone can garden!

Follow our top tips and easy to follow advice today to help you design your garden for tomorrow.

A wonderful garden is really achievable by anyone – what's stopping you?

[Register today](#) for hints, tips, blogs, articles, and eBooks from the experts. Gain access to our forums and talk to other gardeners; join our community today!