

SUE FISHER “MAKING THE MOST OF A SMALL GARDEN”

Design tips

- Plan the garden with some areas hidden from view, to create an air of mystery. Even a tucked-away seat is very effective.
- Make the garden look larger than it actually is by designing borders with long, sweeping curves. With straight-edged borders, use plants to soften and conceal the edges. Mirrors or *trompe l'oeil* features are great illusory devices.
- Separate the garden into different areas using screens such as trellis. Vertical gardening using trellis screens, arches, arbours, pergolas & obelisks is an excellent way to cram more plants into a small space too.
- Conceal boundary walls & fences with plants so it's not obvious where your plot finishes and your neighbor's one begins.
- Make a feature out of anything that can't be moved, like sheds, walls or slopes.
- Scale down water features to fit the available space.
- Choose plants for year-round interest and of a size to match the available space.
- Containers of all sizes can add extra colour anywhere and can be used to 'ring the changes'

Key plants illustrated in the talk

Aucuba japonica Crotonifolia (spotted laurel)	Hakonechloa macra Aureola (Japanese golden grass)
Begonia 'Big'	Hedera colchica Dentata Variegata (ivy)
Buddleja davidii (butterfly bush): 'Buzz' series	Hedera colchica Sulphur Heart or Paddy's Pride
Buxus sempervirens (box)	Helleborus orientalis (Lenten rose)
Chinese red birch (Betula albo sinensis)	Heuchera varieties
Choisya ternata Sundance	Humulus lupulus Aureus (golden hop)
Clematis: Jackmanii, Clematis viticella, Patio hybrids	Hydrangea seemannii
Cornus alba Aurea (dogwood)	Jasminum nudiflorum (winter jasmine)
Cotinus coggygria Royal Purple (smoke bush)	Lathyrus odoratus (sweet pea)
Cynara cardunculus (cardoon)	Lavatera olbia Rosea (tree mallow)
Daphne bholua	Libertia Gold LaceLoropetalum chinense Fire Dance
Eucomis bicolor (pineapple flower)	Lonicera nitida Baggessen's Gold
Euonymus europaeus Red Cascade (spindle bush)	Phormium Jester (New Zealand flax)
Euphorbia characias subsp. wulfeni	Prunus serrula (Tibetan cherry)
Foeniculum vulgare Purpureum	Sarcococca hookeriana var. digyna (Christmas box)
Griselinia littoralis Variegata	Tropaeolum speciosum (flame flower)
	Viburnum opulus Compactum
	Wisteria sinensis

Sue's books on small space gardening include *Growing Up the Wall: how to grow all kinds of edible crops on walls, roofs and in small spaces* (Green Books, price £9.95) and *Essential Plants for Small Gardens*. Sue writes for *Gardeners' World* magazine.

