

Shrubs and Perennials

(plants that last more than one season).

- Prepare a planting hole before you take a plant out of its pot. Dig the hole about twice the size of the pot and fork over the bottom.
- Tap the plant out of its pot and tease out a few of the roots.
- Place it in the hole ensuring that the top of the rootball is at soil level.
- Fill in the surrounding hole, firm in the soil and water.

Bulbs

(for flowers that last more than one season)

- If you want flowers in spring, plant bulbs in autumn. For summer flowers, plant bulbs in spring.
- Plant several bulbs at a depth three to five times their height in one large hole to save time, ensuring they do not touch.
- In wet soil, a handful of grit in the bottom of the hole will improve drainage; in dry soil a layer of compost or bulb fibre will help retain moisture.

Looking after your plants

Water your plants regularly during the first year ensuring they don't dry out. It's better to water thoroughly from time to time rather than little and often. Avoid the heat of the day. Sprinkle soil with fertiliser each spring.

Your sunny spot in winter

Create winter colour with evergreens such as Lavender, Bay and Rosemary and bedding plants such as Polyanthus, Primroses and Winter Pansies.

More sun loving plants

Anthemis varieties: Herbaceous perennial.

Aster novae-angliae varieties (Michaelmas Daisy).
Herbaceous perennial.

Aubrieta varieties. Border plant.

Caryopteris x clandonensis. Shrub.

Fritillaria imperialis (Crown Imperial). Bulb.

Genista lydia (Broom). Shrub.

Herbs – many varieties

Potentilla fruticosa varieties. Shrub.

Santolina chamaecyparissus (Cotton Lavender). Shrub.

And many more...come and see our selection of plants at the Garden Centre.

If you require any further information, please ask our outdoor plant advisors who will be very happy to help.

Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

Chessington Garden Centre

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Chessington

Plants for Sunny Spots



Care & Advice Sheet

No. 23

Inspiration for your Home & Garden

Some plants love sun more than others. To get the best of the sunny spots in your garden, choose your plants carefully. Many plants that love the sun often have thick, silvery coloured leaves with little hairs that act as insulation. Numerous flowers are well-suited to a dry sunny site, giving you the opportunity to create all kinds of dazzling displays. Don't forget to select a few varieties that release scent for those warm summer evenings!

Preparation

It's not hard to create the right conditions, although obviously it will take a little longer to prepare the ground for a larger bed than a small spot. Ideally, soil should be around 60cm(2') deep and loosely packed for plant roots to penetrate.

- Weed thoroughly. Using a hoe saves time and effort.
- Dig over with fork. If your soil feels heavy, its especially important to loosen it up before planting.
- To help retain moisture and improve heavy soils, add plenty of organic material, such as garden compost or planting compost, all available from our garden centre.
- The addition of water-retaining gel granules will help retain moisture.

Which Plants to Buy

All you need to do is choose a good mixture of shrubs, herbaceous perennials (plants that usually die back in winter and grow again the following year) and bedding plants.

Lavenders are perfect for sunny conditions. Oriental Poppies add a dash of colour and annual bedding plants such as Alyssum, Begonias and Lobelia are great for the front of the flower bed. It's especially easy and cost effective to grow plants from seed on a sunny site.

Any of the following should flourish in most soils in full sun:

Rosa Golden Showers: Climbing rose, fragrant golden yellow flowers all summer. Glossy green foliage 3m x 2.5m

Lavatera 'Barnsley' (Mallow): Flowers June–October. Red, white and pink flowers in profusion. (15–25cm).

Cistus x purpureus (Rock Rose): Shrub. Bright rose–pink flowers during summer with evergreen foliage. (1.5m).

Allium giganteum (ornamental onion): Bulb. Purple globes during summer followed by seed heads that can be cut and dried. (1.5m).

Penstemon varieties: Herbaceous perennial. Flowers all summer in a wide range of colours. Evergreen if sheltered. (20–60cm)

Dianthus (Pink): Border plant. Pink, red or white flowers during summer with silver–green leaves. (25–45cm).

Euphorbia characias (Spurge): Herbaceous perennial. Elegant spikes of lime green flowers and evergreen flowers and evergreen foliage. Poisonous. (1.5m).

Lavandula angustifolia 'Hidcote' (Lavender): Shrub. Deep blue spikes of flowers ideal for drying. Silver – green aromatic foliage. (45cm).

Helianthemum varieties (Rock Rose): Wide variety of colours available. Evergreen. (10–20cm)

How to Plant

Consider how tall the plants will grow – you don't want tall plants swamping small ones. Think about flowering times and the colour and shape of leaves. Aim to create colour and texture throughout the year and throughout your site.

- Do not plant when soil is very dry, water-logged or frozen.
- Water plants thoroughly (soak in a bucket of water for about an hour) before planting.
- After planting, sprinkle a general fertiliser or bonemeal lightly around the plants and water again thoroughly.

Bedding Plants

(plants last one season).

- Dig a hole bigger than the roots of the plant and water the hole. Tap the plant out of its pot, disturbing the roots as little as possible. Gently push into the hole firming the soil around it.
- Plant just below the depth the plant was grown in its original container.
- Plant so that they will just touch each other when fully grown. A rule of thumb is plant shorter types 10–15cm apart, and taller varieties 20–30cm apart.