



28th July 2025

How to ensure your garden thrives while you're on your summer holiday

A summer holiday is often the highlight of the year, but for every gardener, it can also mean worrying about your garden, plants and lawn whilst you are away. The expert team at British Garden Centres has put together a guide to ensure your garden is not only surviving but positively flourishing and remains healthy and full of life while you're away.

Preparing your plants

Before heading off, take some time to water your beds, borders, and containers thoroughly. With many hosepipe bans across the country, we advise people to be conscious of water use and use a watering can, rainwater or grey water. Deep watering encourages strong root systems, which will help your plants withstand periods of dryness while you're gone. For extra peace of mind, move pots into clusters in shaded, sheltered areas, reducing exposure to harsh sun and creating a microclimate that helps retain moisture. If you have a greenhouse, be sure to ventilate it and open panes to avoid overheating, if our warm weather continues.

Slow release feed

One of the simplest steps you can take is to apply a slow-release feed or controlled-release fertiliser. These feeds provide a steady and reliable supply of nutrients for your plants, ensuring strong growth and maintained colour throughout your absence. Unlike liquid feeds that must be applied weekly, slow-release fertilisers can keep both garden beds and containers nourished for weeks, even months. They are easy to use, just mix the granules or pellets into the soil or compost, following the product's instructions, and the nutrients are released gradually over time, supporting your plants exactly when they need it most, whilst you are on your holiday.

Don't let the pests bite

Summer holidays can sometimes coincide with an increase in garden pest activity, particularly ants. Ants can disturb the roots and leaves of your plants and can also encourage aphid populations. Before you leave, inspect your garden and address any nests with an appropriate ant powder. Sprinkle ant powder at nest entrances and along visible trails, following label instructions to ensure safe and effective control whilst you are away.



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Conserving water

In addition to deep watering your plants with a watering can in advance, we advise laying down mulch, such as bark chips, straw or compost around the base of your plants. Mulching helps lock in moisture and also regulates soil temperature, an essential buffer against the summer heatwaves we have been having. For those with a larger garden, make sure your water butt is ready to go if rain is predicted. This will provide you with essential supplies during the hosepipe ban and for when you get back.

Quick garden maintenance

Just before you leave, take a walk around your garden and check for any quick jobs you can do before your holiday. Weed your flower beds and borders to reduce competition for water, prune back any vigorous growth, and deadhead spent blooms to encourage continuous flowering. If you have trusted friends or neighbours nearby, it's always helpful to enlist their help by leaving instructions on any special plants or areas that require extra attention.

When you return

Once you arrive home, check each part of your garden carefully and water any dry areas and look for signs of pest activity. If needed, give everything a little tidy and a pick-me-up with a liquid feed to encourage continued growth through late summer.

Julian Palphramand, Head of Plants at British Garden Centres, said: "At British Garden Centres, we believe holidays should be restful for you and stress-free for your garden. With the right slow-release feeds and a little planning ahead, you can travel knowing your outdoor space is in good hands."

ENDS:

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Notes to Editors:

About the business:

British Garden Centres (BGC) is the UK's largest family-owned garden centre group with 73 centres around the country. The group is owned and led by The Stubbs family, who also own and operate Woodthorpe Leisure Park in Lincolnshire.

BGC was launched in 1987 with the opening of Woodthorpe Garden Centre funded by brothers Charles and Robert Stubbs. Since 2018, it has expanded rapidly with the acquisition of 50 garden centres, allowing it to grow from its heartland to the business it is now, with 73 garden centres spread from Carmarthen to Ramsgate, Wimborne to East Durham.

The group has a team of 2,700 colleagues working across the garden centres, restaurants, 2 growing nurseries, 4 distribution centres and Woodthorpe Leisure Park and Woody's Restaurant & Bar.

Social Media



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Facebook: British Garden Centres
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Website: www.britishgardencentres.com

Cassie King

PR Officer

cking@britishgardencentres.com

07875 337290