



22nd December 2025

Colour, calm and conscious choices: British Garden Centres' 2026 gardening trends

Gardens across the UK are set to be more popular than ever in 2026, as people look for outdoor spaces that are beautiful, low-maintenance, and good for their wellbeing. From long flowering plants and striking foliage to sustainable houseplants, easy landscaping, and comfortable furniture, British Garden Centres have put together the key trends customers will want in their gardens to fit busy modern lives.

Longer blooms and easy-care favourites

Julian Palphramand, Head of Plants at British Garden Centres, says gardeners are still focused on plants that perform well without demanding too much time. “The biggest trend for 2026 will be plants that bloom for longer, suit a wide range of gardens, and are easy to care for. Gardeners want plants that look good, are simple to maintain, and help express personality, whether through scent, colour, or texture.”

Top performers like Erysimum and Nemesia remain customer favourites for their long flowering periods, pretty colours, and easy growing nature. Lily of the Valley (Convallaria) is also seeing a revival thanks to its nostalgic scent and vintage charm, while Echinacea continues to gain popularity for its ability to add colour late into the year.

Colour trends are also moving in step with interiors, with soft whites and gentle, airy tones inspired by Pantone’s Colour of the Year, Cloud Dancer. These light, uplifting shades are appearing in summer bedding, perennials, and flowering shrubs, helping gardeners create calm, timeless schemes that blend easily with existing planting and hard landscaping.

Bold foliage plants such as Heuchera will stay on trend, bringing texture and brightness to borders and containers throughout the seasons. As warmer, drier summers continue, Euphorbia and other drought-tolerant varieties will play an important role in creating resilient, climate-ready gardens that still feel full and vibrant.

Statement houseplants for wellbeing

Houseplants will continue to take centre stage in 2026, with homeowners seeking out rare and unusual varieties that make a statement both at home and on social media. Collectors and newcomers alike are looking for plants that feel special and add a touch of personality to shelves, desks, and living spaces.



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Andy Little, Houseplant Buyer, explains that conscious choices are now part of the conversation. “We expect to see huge demand for rare and distinctive houseplants, something fresh and exciting that collectors can show off. But sustainability is now a key focus too. Growers are increasingly using recycled materials, natural fibres in compost, and traceable, sustainable production methods.”

Alongside their visual appeal, houseplants are increasingly valued for their health and wellbeing benefits. They are being chosen to boost mood, encourage relaxation, support better air quality indoors, and help create restful corners for working, reading, or unwinding, whether in a family home or a small flat.

Landscaping and low-maintenance design

In the wider garden, simple but effective landscaping solutions remain in demand in the new year. **Danny Kirby, Group Landscape Buyer**, predicts that 2026 will see continued interest in materials that look smart and are easy to live with. “Decorative aggregates remain hugely popular. Cotswold Stone and Blue Slate top the list, giving outdoor spaces a tidy, polished look with minimal effort. They add colour and texture all year round.”

Container gardening is another big trend for 2026, offering flexibility for gardeners of all levels. With many people short on planting space, pots, troughs, and planters provide an easy way to bring greenery to patios, doorsteps, and balconies. Available in a wide range of colours, finishes, and styles, containers allow gardeners to swap displays seasonally and experiment without committing to permanent planting schemes.

Outdoor living spaces

Gardeners are now thinking beyond plants when designing their outdoor areas, turning them into places to relax, entertain, and spend time with family and friends. Furniture, structures, and accessories are playing a bigger role in shaping how gardens are used throughout the year.

Darren Craven, Group Furniture Buyer, explains that weather resilience and comfort are at the top of the list. “People are spending more time outdoors and want their spaces to work whatever the weather. Adjustable louvre-roof pergolas and solid-roof gazebos are becoming must-haves, providing shade, shelter, and year-round use.”



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Outdoor lighting and heating are also extending how gardens are enjoyed, creating cosy spaces into the evening and across the seasons. From festoon lights to repurposed outdoor string lights, subtle lighting brings warmth and atmosphere to patios and decking, while fire pits and heaters help people stay outside for longer.

When it comes to furniture, durability and colour remain key. All-weather rattan continues to be a best-seller for a timeless look, while aluminium and rope designs offer a more contemporary feel that suits modern homes. The colour palette for 2026 focuses on soft greens, sage tones, and sandy neutrals, complemented by shades of terracotta, grey, and charcoal. Accessories such as throws and scatter cushions in cheerful hues add a personal finishing touch and allow customers to refresh their space without replacing whole sets.

Soft green and sage are the colours to watch, bringing a calm, nature-inspired look to spaces dominated by paving or decking and pairing beautifully with natural textures. Together with thoughtful planting, these shades help create outdoor rooms that feel inviting, relaxed, and firmly connected to the natural world.

Amy Stubbs, Managing Director at British Garden Centres, said: “2026 will be a big year for gardening as people want their outdoor spaces to be gorgeous, practical, and good for people and the planet. British Garden Centres believe a blend of colour, calm, and conscious choice will define how customers garden and spend time outside in the year ahead.”

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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 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 61 garden centres spread from Carmarthen to Ramsgate, Wimborne to East Durham.

The group has a team of 3000 colleagues working across the garden centres, restaurants, 2 growing nurseries, 4 distribution centres, Woodthorpe Leisure Park, and Woody's Restaurant & Bar.

Social Media

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