



25th May 2026

Recreate the RHS Chelsea Flower Show at home with British Garden Centres

By now, you would have seen the coverage on TV of the horticultural spectacle that is the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. From beautiful, landscaped gardens to spectacular Floral Pavilion displays, Chelsea is a gardener's dream, but you can also create the sought-after look at home. Through its new Make it Bloom campaign, British Garden Centres is putting show-inspired plants directly in the hands of home gardeners, so that the ideas that inspire the world's greatest flower show can flourish in every outdoor space, from a city courtyard to a country border.

Go bold with jewel tones

Rich jewel colours run through many of the 2026 show gardens, think deep purples, blazing oranges and warm yellows of Arit Anderson's Parkinsons UK garden, or the romantic, layered palette of the Boodles Garden inspired by the Historic Royal Palaces. To capture this look at home, reach for Salvia 'Hot Lips' or 'Caradonna,' richly coloured Irises, West Country Lupins, towering Delphiniums, lush Peonies, Cosmos 'Cherry Chocolate,' Geum 'Totally Tangerine' and tissue-paper Poppies. Let strong contrasts do the work in your garden, as this Chelsea trend rewards confidence.

Naturalistic borders

Sarah Eberle's CPRE garden is inspired by the overlooked edgelands on the fringes of our towns and cities, and the naturalistic planting showcased is a defining theme of Chelsea 2026. You don't need to go fully wild to capture it. Mix Hardy Geraniums, Achillea, Scabious, Astrantia, Thalictrum and Foxgloves, and let them self-seed freely. Add Alliums and Eryngiums for sculptural seedhead interest. The border will settle in and improve with every passing season, rewarding wildlife and gardeners alike.

Drought resilient gardens

Climate resilient planting is one of the strongest threads running through Chelsea 2026, reflecting the reality of warmer, drier British summers. For beautiful, genuinely low-maintenance results, we recommend Agapanthus 'Blackjack,' English Lavender, Pittosporum, Cotinus, Olives, Sempervivums and seed-headed ornamental grasses. These are plants that look after themselves from spring through to the first frost, Chelsea style, without the Chelsea maintenance bill.



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Layered planting

The most memorable show gardens work in layers, and you can apply the same principle at home, however large or small your space. Start with a structural tree: white-stemmed *Betula*, an elegant *Acer*, a *Malus*, or the Chelsea 2026 shortlisted *Prunus Samura* 'Japanese Lanterns'. You can also build mid-height interest with *Hydrangea Paniculata*, *Lacecap* or *Quercifolia* varieties, traditional roses, *Acer palmatum* or flowering *Cornus Kousa*.

A great way to add vertical drama is with climbers. *Clematis* is a Chelsea classic, and 2026 sees the exciting launch of Raymond Evison's new varieties 'Ithemba' and 'Eliza', alongside the shortlisted 'Queen's Nurse'. *Trachelospermum* and *Wisteria* 'Amethyst Falls' are equally rewarding and create that Chelsea look. Finally, weave through the foreground of your borders with *Geranium* 'Rozanne,' *Heuchera*, shade-loving *Hostas*, *Tiarella* and fragrant oriental lilies.

Go native and wildlife friendly

This year, Chelsea is placing native and wildlife-friendly planting front and centre, as well as the growing recognition that our gardens have a role to play in supporting biodiversity. Look for plants like foxgloves, which are bumblebee magnets that self-seed year after year. *Scabious* is one of the top butterfly plants available, whilst *Alliums* are exceptional for bees and look spectacular even in seedhead form. *Salvia* and Hardy *Geraniums* complete the Chelsea picture with long flowering seasons and are highly attractive to pollinators, appealing until well into autumn.

Silver and structural plants

Something that is woven through Chelsea this year is silver-leaved plants and bold, large-leaved structural specimens. Both add a sense of considered design and year-round presence. *Pittosporum* is particularly popular in its variegated forms, bringing a cool, contemporary shimmer to mixed borders. *Hostas* are the ultimate large-leaved choice for shaded spots, while *Tree Ferns* create a dramatic, almost prehistoric backdrop. *Cotinus* rounds off the group with its large, rounded leaves and extraordinary autumn colouring. These are the plants that give a garden its backbone, ooze Chelsea appeal and make everything planted around them look better for it.



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And don't forget the gnomes!

After nearly a century in exile, gnomes are back at Chelsea. Banned by the RHS in 1927, these much-loved characters have finally been reinstated this year, proof perhaps that every garden deserves a little personality. Whether you find them charming or divisive, there's no denying they add a sense of fun and individuality to outdoor spaces.

Julian Palphramand, Head of Plants at British Garden Centres, said: "You don't need to be an expert or need a big garden to create your own Chelsea look. You just need a few good plants and somewhere to put them. Chelsea proves every year that the simplest combinations are often the most beautiful, and those are exactly the ones anyone can recreate at home."

ENDS

WORD COUNT: 778

Notes to Editors:

About the business

British Garden Centres (BGC) is the UK's largest family-owned garden centre group with 80 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 1990 with the opening of Woodthorpe Garden Centre by brothers Charles and Robert Stubbs. Since 2018, it has expanded rapidly through the acquisition of garden centres, allowing it to grow from its heartland into the business it is now, with 80 garden centres spread from Carmarthen to Ramsgate and from Wimborne to East Durham. The group has a team of over 3,500 colleagues working across the garden centres, restaurants, 2 growing nurseries, 4 distribution centres, Woodthorpe Leisure Park, and Woody's Restaurant & Bar.

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