



4th May 2026

Transform your outdoor space into a garden paradise with British Garden Centres

Summer is the season for gathering together, enjoying long, lazy afternoons with family, impromptu evenings with friends and the simple pleasure of being outdoors. As our weather heats up, it brings thoughts of sizzling barbecues, cool drinks as the light fades, and days spent relaxing in the fresh air. Whatever the size of your garden or outdoor space, the experts at British Garden Centres have put together this guide to turn even the most modest patio into a sophisticated setting for summer socialising.

Turn up the heat

British summers can be wonderfully warm but rarely predictable, so it pays to be prepared for all eventualities. For those who prefer something with atmosphere, fire pits and outdoor chimineas are a wonderful addition to any garden party.

The [Woodlodge St Mawes Fire Bowl \(RRP £40\)](#) is a timeless piece that will fit into any garden setting. Its traditional open-bowl design is perfect for keeping the heat when the sun goes down, or for roasting a quick snack! Nothing quite beats the warming glow of kindling late in the evening, so why not invest in a chiminea for your patio? They create an instant focal point and a natural gathering place, drawing guests together as the evening draws in. Whether you have a sprawling garden or a compact patio, the dancing flames and radiant warmth will keep the mood relaxed long into the night.

Sitting pretty

Comfortable, ample seating is at the heart of any successful garden gathering. Whether you're hosting a leisurely al-fresco lunch, a relaxed evening dinner party, or simply inviting friends over for drinks, having enough seats for everyone sets the tone for a welcoming and sociable outdoor paradise this summer.

A spacious garden furniture set is an investment worth making. [The Efora Four Seat Dining Set \(RRP £799.99\)](#) is a cool, contemporary colour palette of greys and soft neutrals that work beautifully outdoors, striking the right balance between sophistication and relaxed elegance. Corner sofa sets in rattan, like the [Hickling Corner Set \(RRP £1999.99\)](#) are particularly practical for larger groups, offering generous seating in a stylish arrangement that is as comfortable as it is good-looking, perfect for families or those who love to entertain.



4th May 2026

For more intimate occasions or those who prefer an informal setting, the [Ludford Bistro Set \(RRP £349.99\)](#) in acacia wood creates a wonderfully relaxed mood. Small bistro sets are especially suited to slow, alfresco dining, lending a tranquil, organic feel to evening meals under the open sky.

Summer styling

Scatter cushions are one of the easiest ways to refresh your outdoor space. The [Outdoor Cushions](#) range from British Garden Centres, making it easy to mix and match for your garden paradise. Coming in a good spread of colours from teal, berry and grey to orange, yellow, fuchsia, marsala and pistache, so there is something bold or a bit more understated, there's something that'll work.

If you fancy a bit more personality, we have cushions that go a step further with printed designs like Tropical Palm, Poppy and Reef, great if you're going for more of a tropical or garden party feel.

Mouthwatering treats

No British summer gathering is truly complete without the smell of something delicious cooking outdoors.

Barbecuing is one of the great pleasures of the summer, sociable, informal and capable of giving you mouthwatering results. A classic [charcoal barbecue](#) is a reliable choice for feeding a crowd, delivering that unmistakable smoky flavour that simply can't be replicated indoors.

For those who want to take their outdoor cooking to the next level, our collection of [gas barbecues](#) are a revelation. Heating up in minutes and retaining heat with remarkable efficiency, you become the chef, grilling, searing, baking and smoking food deemed fit for your garden paradise.

For those with smaller spaces or more intimate gatherings in mind, a compact [pizza oven](#) is a brilliant solution. Portable, easy to use and surprisingly capable, it means you can enjoy the pleasures of Mediterranean cooking on even the most modest balcony or patio.

Let there be light

As the sun begins to dip, the right lighting can transform your garden into something truly magical. Strings of [solar lights](#) draped through trees or along fences create an instant, effortless atmosphere, while [solar stake lights](#) along



4th May 2026

paths and borders add both practicality and a warm, welcoming glow. The beauty of solar-powered options is that they require no wiring and can remain outdoors all year round.

[Decorative lanterns](#) are another wonderful way to add ambience as dusk falls. Whether clustered on a table, hung from a branch or placed along steps and pathways, they create intimate pools of light after sunset. With enough well-placed outdoor lighting, there's no need to retreat indoors when darkness arrives; the garden can remain a paradise right through the evening.

Plants

Before your guests arrive, adding some summer plants will make your garden look its absolute best. Freshly cut grass, neatly pruned shrubs and deadheaded flowers make an enormous difference to the overall impression, creating a cared-for, inviting paradise for family, friends, or just yourself.

Summer is the season of colour and fragrance, and a selection of well-chosen flowering plants like achillea, sunflowers, lupins, iris, lilies, phlox and salvia will fill the air with scent and catch the eye with their vibrant colour.

Grouping pots of varying heights and sizes in corners of the patio is a wonderfully effective way to create impact without a great deal of effort. Classical glazed planters work especially well when tied together with a repeating colour scheme or a single plant as a focal point. For something a little more exotic, terracotta bowls planted with succulents make striking, low-maintenance features, while larger decorative pots overflowing with cut flowers create a kaleidoscope of colour.

Julian Palphramand, Head of Plants at British Garden Centres, said: "Your garden is your own piece of the great outdoors. However big or small it is, with the right plants, furniture and accessories, it can become a beautiful garden paradise. Whether you're entertaining a crowd or simply enjoying a quiet evening outside, we want to help you create a space they're proud of and love spending time in."

ENDS

WORD COUNT: 1034

Notes to Editors:

About the business:



4th May 2026

British Garden Centres (BGC) is the UK's largest family-owned garden centre group with 79 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 with the acquisition of 50 garden centres, allowing it to grow from its heartland to the business it is now, with 79 garden centres spread from Carmarthen to Ramsgate, 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.

Social Media

Facebook: British Garden Centres

Twitter: @BGCentres

Instagram: @BritishGardenCentres

Website: www.britishgardencentres.com

Contact

Cassie King - PR Officer

cking@britishgardencentres.com