
RHS HAMPTON COURT PALACE FLOWER SHOW

8 - 13 JULY 2014

Quiet Mark Treehouse & Garden by John Lewis

GET THE LOOK GUIDE

It is one of the largest ever garden features at Hampton Court Palace. The design is based on supersized structures, including some of the highest trees ever seen at the show!

It required 300 tonnes of consolidated soil just for the landscaping!

The Treehouse & Garden was designed for Quiet Mark, a charity that aims to reduce man-made noise levels in our day-to-day lives.

It also marks the launch of a new range of low-noise electrical appliances by Retailer of the Year 2013, John Lewis.



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The focus is on creating an oasis of naturalistic planting in a woodland environment that allows visitors to escape the noisy urban world.

Welcome to a place where peace and tranquillity reign, and where the sounds of nature and wildlife can be enjoyed to the full.

I'll show you the plants and features needed to recreate this stunning wildlife garden at home.

TREES, SHRUBS & PLANTS

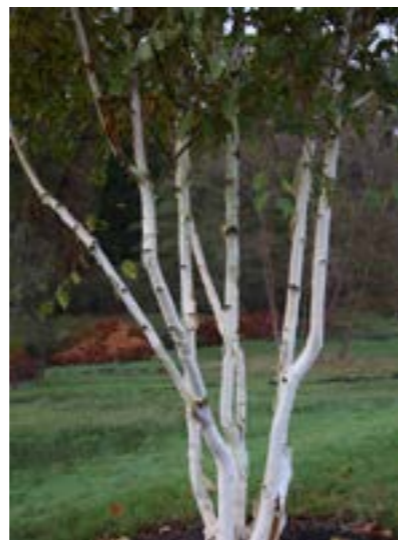


Betula pendula Multi Stem silver birch tree and Betula utilis var. jacquemontii (Himalayan birch)

Tall trees are important because they help to scale the height of the building and complement the dramatic landscaping.

The multi-stemmed varieties give volume at ground level as well as a leafy canopy above.

Beautiful silver bark has great colour and structure in winter, to make sure you always have a garden view from the treehouse. Plus the leaves make a shimmering sound in the wind.



Acer campestre

This is sometimes called a field maple. It's a grand and regal tree with large green leaves and a bushy crown. It adds leafy deciduous foliage to the garden.

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Nepeta Summer Magic

A long-flowering catmint with compact growth. It has strong spikes of flowers with tiny, delicate petals in a lavender colour. Great for gentle colour and darker green foliage.



Verbena bonariensis

Also known as Argentinean vervain. Its robust stems bear tiny purple flowers. A great woodland plant, bringing a delicate and ornate angle to contrast the size and scale of the trees.



Viburnum opulus

This is a fantastic woodland plant with spherical flower heads in summer and red berries in autumn. Giving the birds plenty to eat is an easy way to attract them to your garden! It has a lovely fragrance and deep green foliage.



Amelanchier lamarckii

Also known as the snowy mespilus, this is a deciduous shrub with snowy white flowers. It also has rich autumn colour and red to purple berries which are popular food for garden birds.



Cornus alba sibirica

Also known as Siberian dogwood. A great shrub for woody interest with vibrant red stems. It bears tiny white flowers in spring and contrasts nicely with the silver birch branches.



Cornus stolonifera flaviramea

Good shrub for a woodland garden, with yellow stems. It is perfect for texture and its lighter, yellow-green colour also lifts the planting scheme.

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Polystichum setiferum dahlem

Also known as a soft shield fern, this is the epitome of woodland gardening. It has great foliage with textured, feathery green leaves. It is great for beds and borders, as well as low-maintenance planting under trees and shrubs.



Dryopteris filix-mas

Another strong fern for woodland planting. Foliage is especially important in woody gardens, which suffer from poor soil as the trees absorb all the nutrients. This is ideal for covering bare, shady soil.



Hemerocallis Catherine Woodbury

This plant has strong strap-like leaves and is also known as a daylily. Its delicate colours belie its huge funnel flower heads, which have yellow centres that fade out to pink petals.



Cynara cardunculus

This can also be called a cardoon or artichoke thistle. It is a tall, robust plant with large jagged leaves and strong stems. It bears globular purple flower heads that bring height and an architectural angle to the garden design.



Rhodanthemum Casablanca

Also known as the Atlas Daisy. A great herbaceous plant with textured grey-green foliage. It has white daisy flowers with a dark eye in the centre that add a fresher angle to the woodland theme.



Veronica Red Fox

A tall, striking plant with strong red flower spikes. It brings a great height dimension to the planting to complement the trees, and provides rich red colour.

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Brunnera Jack Frost

Large, heart-shaped leaves offer great foliage in a silvery colour, with deep green edges and veins. It makes good ground cover and grows well in the shade of trees – or treehouses!



Crocosmia masoniorum

Sometimes called a Giant Montbretia, it has long pointed leaves and arching stems with sprays of vibrant orange flowers. It is bright and showy and brings a fun angle to the calm theme of the garden.



Digitalis Dalmation Peach

Foxglove with delicate peachy trumpets that give a traditional English garden feel to beds and borders. They are great for colour as well as attracting bees and other pollinators.



Achillea The Beacon

Fern-like green foliage with tall, flat heads of tiny pinky-red flowers. They add a strong vertical dimension to the planting and a warm flower colour.



Anemone Andrea Atkinson

Bushy flowering plant with dark green leaves. It has delicate white blooms with yellow centres and grows with a clumping habit that makes it great for flowering ground cover.



Liatris spicata 'Kobold'

Sometimes called a button snakewort. It has narrow, grass-like foliage and purplish-pink flower spikes. It adds more vertical planting to the garden design, and a rich, woodland flower colour.

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GARDEN FEATURES



Bug and bee hotel

Insect hotels offer hollow spaces for bugs and solitary bees to create a home. They can be made with anything, from bamboo canes and drilled logs to rolled up pampas grass leaves and pockets of seeds.

If you make your own, ensure the back is blocked off to prevent the hollow tubes becoming a wind tunnel!

These were handmade using only recycled objects, including tins and a miniature chest of drawers.

Rain Chain

A great cheap water feature where the rain runs down the metal rings. It catches the dappled light coming through the trees. It is also low-noise because it needs no motor, so you can just enjoy the trickling sound.



Winding path

Large gardens are perfect for these. A winding path is better than a straight one, which can divide the space and make it seem smaller. A path allows visitors to wander through the garden and experience all the different plants and spaces.

It works especially well in a quiet garden, as it takes visitors on a journey through the outdoor space, where they can get lost among the sounds of nature.

Meadow turf

The wildflower meadow turf adds a relaxed, rural feel to the planting. It's an easy way to include a variety of flowers in the garden, and perfect for growing on steep inclines. Plus it is perfect for pollinators like bees!

Wild meadow turf is also low-maintenance because it does not need mowing like a lawn, which also cuts down on garden noise levels.



The garden's centrepiece, the treehouse, will be donated to the Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice in Sussex after the show. The hospice cares for children and young people with life-limiting and life-threatening illnesses. They were unable to build their own treehouse because of budget constraints, and we are delighted to be making such a gift.



John Lewis

