



Gardening for the Time of Your Life....

The Concept behind the Hillier Chelsea Garden 2009

How you garden undoubtedly changes according to your time of life. The size of your plot, the amount of time you have, your level of knowledge and how much money you have to spend will all influence the type of garden you create. So will your interest in different plants; we all have our favourites and these change over the years.

The Hillier Garden at Chelsea this year seeks to reflect the journey of the British Gardener from starter home and garden at **First Base** to the final resting place **Pushing up the Daisies** in a series of six interlinking gardens. **'Gardening for the Time of Your Life'** leads the visitor through the practicalities of **Surviving Suburbia** to educational but attractive ideas in **Coping with Kids** and then on to the sheer indulgence of rich, deep borders in **Grand Designs** before **Losing the Plot**, as our gardener downsizes and creates a beautiful, but lower maintenance planting scheme.

Andrew McIndoe's design at the heart of Chelsea's Great Pavilion weaves all six stages of our gardener's life together in a tapestry of colour and texture. Each and every step of the gardening life will be packed with great **fail-safe planting recommendations** and fantastic **design ideas**.



First Base

Your first garden is an exciting prospect, but in reality it needs to look good, cope with neglect and be a place where you can entertain your friends on summer evenings. Evergreen foliage should be the basis of your planting scheme; this preserves your garden as a green space throughout the year. Silver foliage and light colours give an illusion of space, and simplicity is the secret of success: **a limited plant palette well arranged**.

Surviving Suburbia

You want privacy and your own little oasis; you want outdoor living, but without vast investment because the house comes first. Careful positioning of a light, airy tree or two and some fast growing screening shrubs will hide the neighbours and give you the bones of the garden to build upon. Growing plants in containers overcomes poor soil conditions near to the house and it will enable you to take some of the garden with you when you move.



Coping with Kids

You can encourage wildlife by introducing nectar laden flowers and berry bearing shrubs. Water can be made safer with the introduction of a covered barrel pond or a pool under a decorative grill. Interesting aromatic plants such as rosemary, eucalyptus, lavender and mint bush provide a stimulating **sensory experience**. Clump-forming bamboos add movement and sound when stirred by the breeze and make the perfect outdoor hideaway.

Grand Designs

Your grand designs era allows you the **freedom to indulge in your passion for plants**. You do not have to be as selective about what you plant but you have to think about how you put the plants together and how they will mature. Those making the transition from a small space to a large garden often find it difficult to adjust to the scale. You need to make planting areas large enough and go for big, bold features and start to use the space.



Losing the Plot

Eventually the garden you have created may require more energy and attention than you can put into it. You either have to modify for lower maintenance, or move on and downsize. This is really **the golden age of gardening**. You have the knowledge, you have the time - all you need to do is choose wisely and be determined to make a fresh start.

Pushing Up the Daisies

The final stage in every gardener's life, alas, but can be a blooming tribute to a life well gardened!

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Four Hillier Plant Releases for Chelsea 2009



***Cordyline australis* 'Southern Splendour'**

The colour of *Cordyline australis* 'Southern Splendour' is truly amazing. The upright sword-like leaves are striped **grey-green with rich pink margins**. As the plant matures, its habit and growth rate is slow and it will rarely grow above 1.2m in five years with a spread of about one metre. We expect it to be even more popular than *Cordyline australis* 'Torbay Dazzler'.

Team it up with purple heucheras or contrast it with the soft grey foliage of santolina and helichrysum. It is simply **sensational with purple sage** and would make a wonderful centrepiece rising from the centre of a pot of lilac and pink impatiens.

Expect to pay around £15 for a superb plant in a 3 litre pot that will create instant impact on a patio or as a focal point anywhere in the garden.



***Cordyline australis* 'Sunrise'**

Cordyline australis 'Sunrise' is another pink cordyline but with quite a different personality. This is a softer, more tactile subject with **gently arching leaves** reminiscent of a phormium. The colour is truly electric: hardly any green is visible in the leaves so strikingly striped with **fuchsia pink and bronze**. It is as slow growing as 'Southern Splendour' and makes a lovely container plant for a patio where its leaves can be gently stirred by the breeze.

Expect to pay £15 for a 3 litre plant. Height 1.2m over 5 years

Cordylines are drought resistant plants - **ideal for gardeners who occasionally forget to water their pots**. Grow them in large containers, with good drainage, filled with John Innes No.3 potting compost. *Cordylines* make wonderful subjects for coastal gardens.



***Heuchera* 'Tiramisu'**

Available in garden centres from June 2009, this showy heuchera is a hybrid of *Heuchera villosa* raised originally in France. It has the unique ability to change colour with the season. Its foliage flushes **brick red** in spring and autumn, the colour radiating from the midrib of every leaf and fading to pale green by the edges. In summer, the red colouration disappears, and the foliage turns to **chartreuse with a silver veil** over the leaf surface. It has a compact habit, is excellent in containers and carries small creamy flowers in midsummer. £8



***Gaura lindheimeri* 'Rosyjane'**

Hillier are delighted to be the **only nursery** to offer pot-grown plants of this fabulous new gaura from early summer 2009. Launched by Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants at Chelsea 2008 this is the first gaura to display bicoloured flowers - **white with a picotee edge of cerise-pink** on 75cm branched stems – produced freely throughout the summer. This lovely border perennial from the popular Siskiyou strain is sure to be a winner and can be found a place in any garden in a situation in full sun. Gauras make wonderful light foreground plants, their airy see-through quality adding depth and texture to the border. Expect to pay around £6 for a plant in bud or flower from leading UK garden centres.

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Gardening for the Time of Your Life....

The Plants & Landscaping Materials

The Hillier Chelsea Collection of Plants



The Hillier Chelsea Live magazine and the Hillier online shop www.hillier.co.uk will be promoting the Hillier Chelsea Collection of Plants, including established ornamental Chelsea favourites such as *Acer palmatum* 'Emerald Lace' (pictured left) and popular newcomers such as *Phormium* 'All Black' (pictured centre), alongside the dwarf white mulberry *Morus alba* 'Issai' (pictured right) which is perfect for growing on the patio and produces delicious mulberries from a very early age.

Hillier Hampshire-grown Feature Plants – NEW FOR 2009

Also featured on the Hillier exhibit is a selection of Chelsea-sized **Feature Plants**, more mature shrub specimens. Grown on the Hillier nurseries in Hampshire, these **10L and 30L** specimens not only represent a **significant plant mile saving** over imports, they also are not in soil resembling concrete and so will establish quickly and well in the garden. There are over 190 different varieties available in the Hillier Feature Plant range. Please see the Hillier Wholesale Nurseries Plant List 2008-9.

Organicstone

Organicstone always rise to the challenge of creating practical, beautiful surfaces both to enhance the Hillier Chelsea Gardens and to carry visitors through the exhibit. This year, organicstone's innovative **stonewaves Vintage** paving will take us on the journey through a gardening life, whilst their stoneisland designs will provide focal points in some of the seven gardens, in particular an amazing creation in concrete at the heart of the Grand Designs garden.

Forest Garden

Always keen to use readily available materials in his design, Andy is using a selection of buildings and timber products from the Forest Garden range including a playhouse, garden storage ideas and raised beds.

Pots & Aggregates

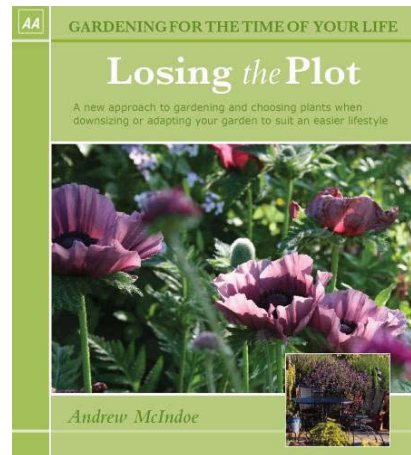
Gardening for the Time of your Life will feature pots in natural terracotta, glazed ceramics and recycled glass complemented by stone aggregates including **Eco Granite**, a bi-product of the china clay industry by Border Stone.

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Losing the Plot

the new book by Andrew McIndoe

Central to Andy's Chelsea Design for Hillier Nurseries this year will be the garden entitled '**Losing the Plot**', inspired by his new book of the same name, which sets out to explain how to downsize successfully and enjoyably.

Andrew McIndoe encourages readers not to dwell on the past, but instead embrace this period as a fresh start and the chance to indulge their horticultural passions. The book shows how to make your garden **less physically taxing** and more suitable to a lower maintenance regime, whilst a chapter on making the most of your garden gives valuable tips on creating **a place to relax** with some scope for pleasurable work.

The section on planting schemes gives advice and guidance on narrowing the choice to '**hardworking**' plants – the all-round top performers – but leaving room for those horticultural 'guilty pleasures'.

There are plant variety suggestions for Losing-the-Plotters and helpful ideas for stunning plant combinations.

Who's Losing the Plot and Why?

A recent survey of over 50s*, carried out for the AA, shows that travel, grandchildren and other hobbies such as going to the gym, cycling and playing golf now all rate more highly than maintaining the garden. Even eating out, reading and watching television rank higher.

The survey revealed that over half are finding that maintaining their garden is becoming increasingly difficult. One in four 50-59 years olds cite time as the biggest problem factor **while 55 percent of over 60s put it down to the physical demands** required to maintain their garden to previous levels.

With over 80 percent of respondents maintaining gardens themselves, the study discovered that a third are now considering downsizing or getting extra help with the garden. The areas in the garden that were once football pitches and playgrounds have a different feel and need once the children have grown up, and finding **a low maintenance, aesthetically pleasing solution** is a challenge facing many maturing gardeners.

Hard Facts about Losing the Plot by Andrew McIndoe (published by AA Publishing):

Review Copies: available now

Publication Date: Chelsea Press Day Monday 19 May 2009

Price: £17.99

Hardback – 160pp – over 400 photographs – 255mm x 226mm

To order your review copy or arrange an interview with Andrew McIndoe, please contact either:

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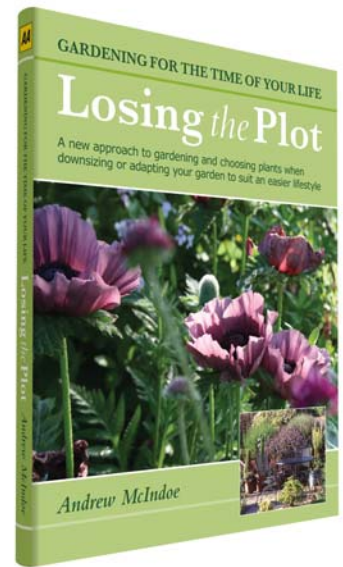
*Saga Populus Panel interviewed 13,195 adults aged 50 and over between 9th and 16th April 2009.

95% of respondents have a property with a garden

82% of respondents maintain the garden themselves

42% of respondents are finding the garden more difficult to maintain due to it being physically harder than before with 15% finding it harder due to lack of time

33% of respondents are considering downsizing or getting help to maintain their garden



Losing the Plot

how to go about it...

Leaving a garden that you have created and enjoyed to downsize to a smaller plot is difficult, and it would be all too easy to be negative about change and to hang on to the past. Instead, you should embrace this time as a fresh start and the beginning of a new era in your gardening life, argues gardening expert Andrew McIndoe. You have the knowledge, you have the experience and you still want to garden, **so here are Andrew McIndoe's top ten tips to helping you on the way to losing the plot!**

1. See this as an opportunity to start afresh with a blank canvas. Do not try to replicate your previous garden on a smaller scale – it rarely works. **Design a new garden to meet your needs.**
2. Do not attempt to dig up lots of plants and take them with you if you move. Yes, there are bound to be one or two old friends you will want to keep, but limit yourself to those that will move successfully.
3. **Make any radical changes at the outset.** Tired old paving does not improve with age, it gets worse. If you need to install or replace fences and buildings do it at the beginning before you start planting.
4. Plan or redesign your garden from where you will see it most – usually from the windows of the house. This will influence where you put features and utilities and will ensure that you can enjoy your garden throughout the year.
5. **Choose plants that work hard to earn their keep.** Subjects that have more than one season of interest and need little attention. Of course you can allow yourself a few guilty pleasures but it is those good old evergreen garden stalwarts that hold the planting scheme together.
6. **Keep an open mind** to radically different ways of gardening. You do not have to have a lawn. You do not have to grow roses. A raised bed or two might make life easier. It might be fun to grow a few vegetables in containers, even if you have never bothered with them before.
7. Make use of pots and containers and consider more permanent planting. Seasonal bedding plants need replacing twice during the year to maintain all year round interest. **Limit bulbs and bedding plants** to a few pots and group them with other permanently planted ones.
8. Consider somewhere to sit and enjoy the garden. You need a comfortable seat or set of furniture somewhere accessible and ready to use in nice weather. If you have not already got it, treat yourself. It will make morning coffee, afternoon tea or evening drinks in the garden part of your daily routine.
9. Our preference for certain plants changes over the years. If there is something you have always wanted to have a go at growing now is your chance. **A new horticultural challenge will rekindle your passion for plants.**
10. Take a firm line with gifts of plants from neighbours, friends and family. **If you do not like it, want it, or it does nothing for your garden do not plant it.** Gardens are easily filled up with well meaning offerings of rampant perennials and inferior occasion roses.

Andrew McIndoe is the author of 'Losing the Plot', the new title from AA Publishing, available at good bookstores nationwide from 18 May 2009.