



BEST GARDEN DESIGN

Practical Inspiration from the
Royal Horticultural Society
Chelsea Flower Show

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Foreword by Alan Titchmarsh

Outside space with something different

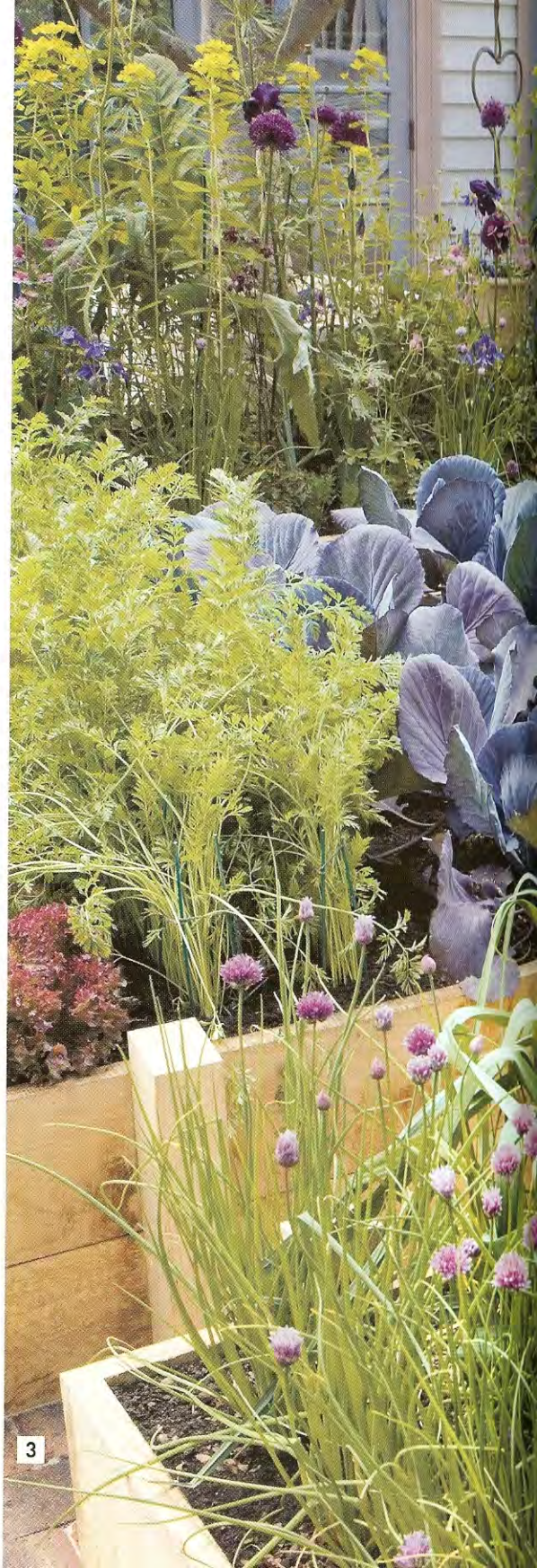
So much of gardening relates to how the individual personalises his or her outdoor space. Whether it is a certain combination of plants that reflect personal preference, or an array of materials that indicate different travels, a garden can be developed to make specific or oblique reference to the creator's desire. With this in mind, how a gardener 'decorates' the space should be considered in conjunction with any hard or soft landscaping that is needed to ensure

the desired look will still be created as the scheme nears completion. For Chelsea designers, such examples of decorative touches include bespoke sculpture, ingenious practical ideas and whimsical suggestions, and these can inspire gardeners to think harder about what could go into their garden. With a dash of creativity and confidence supported by practical skills, a range of different ideas can be achieved.



Gardening for a beautiful bounty

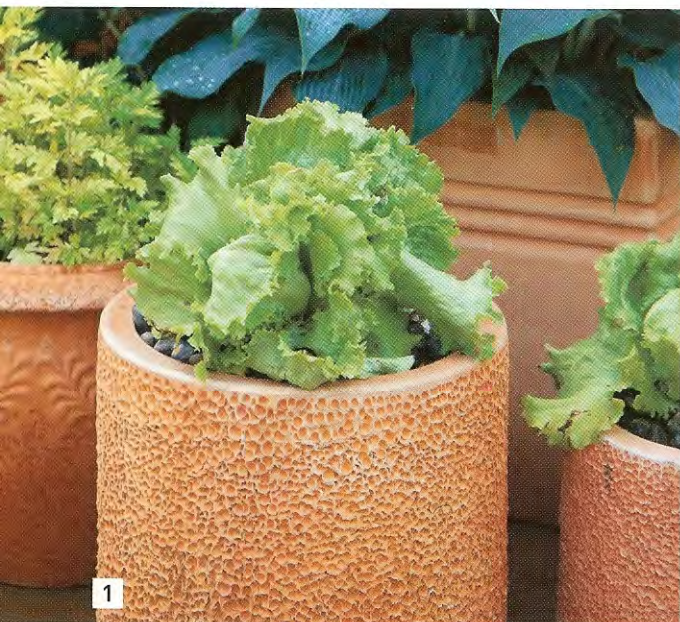
The joy of growing your own can bring different ages, cultures and abilities together. Just as with ornamental planting, productive gardening can represent your personal interests; it can reflect the style of your overall garden, respond to needs and tastes, and can help you understand the relationship between garden and soil. In all, productive gardening can be a hugely rewarding experience, where successes are greeted with glee and delight, and failures met with a steely determination to try something different next time. Growing your own is not always easy, and problems are often encountered, but when a seed germinates or your first tomato is ready to pick, it brings a smile to even the most experienced of growers.



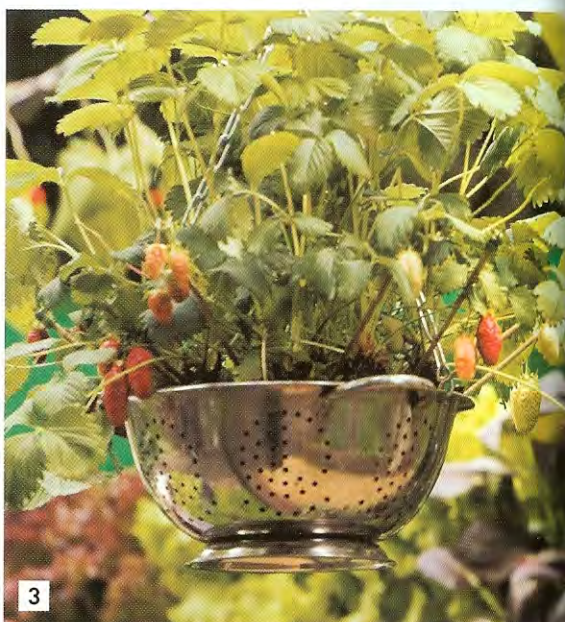
Contained excitement

Increasingly, those gardeners with small outside spaces are being offered the opportunity to share in the 'grow-your-own revolution'. Whether it be by choosing specially bred cultivars that grow smaller, or via growing systems that use soil and water to maximum effect, the owner of a small garden can really get stuck into growing produce. And the beauty of veg, especially, is that it doesn't care what it is being grown in – a row of lettuces in an old

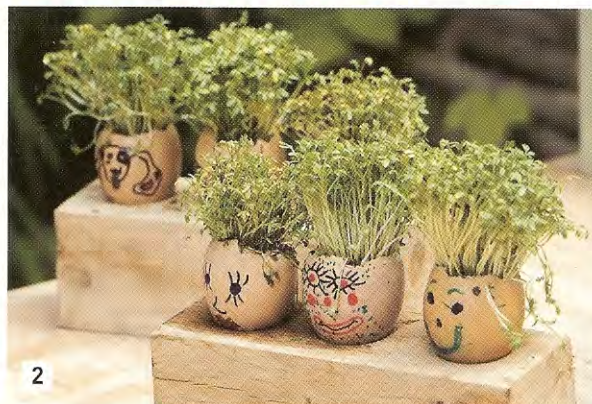
plastic container will be just as happy as they would be in the ground, as long as feeding, watering and husbandry are kept to the normal standard. Growing produce in containers is also a great way of involving children, allowing them to garden at their physical height, as well as in defined areas that are not too onerous. Whatever your passion, or your palette, growing your own in a container is a viable, enjoyable way of running a kitchen garden.



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CONTAINERS CAN BRING A WEALTH OF GROWING OPPORTUNITY

No matter what the container is and where it is placed – on a windowsill or in a courtyard – it can be used to grow fresh produce in any garden.

1 Crops can be grown in a range of containers, some small enough for just one plant.

2 Cress in old egg shells is just one novel idea to get children involved with growing and is a great way of introducing them to gardening.

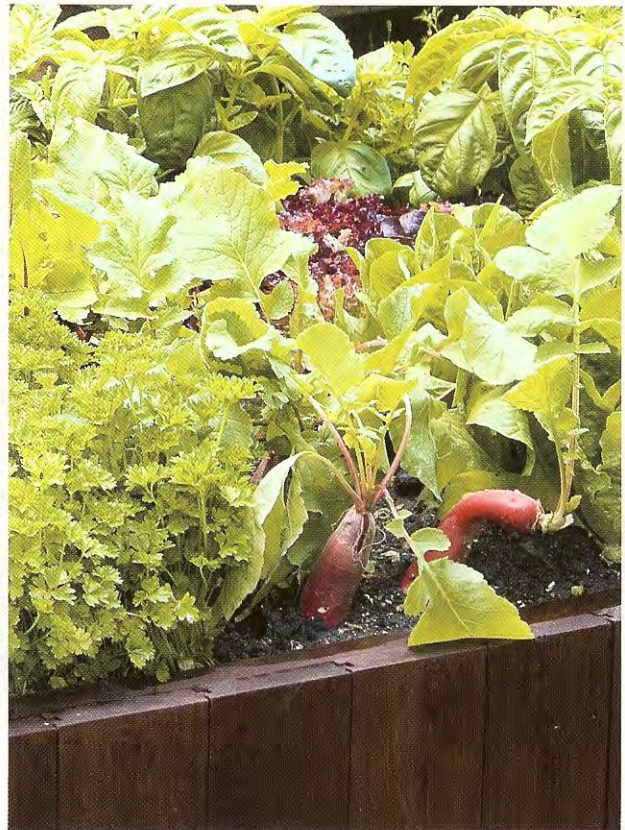
3 This fun idea marries fruit (strawberries) with a kitchen implement (colander). By hanging the colander planter above a table, it is easy to pick the delicious fruit from underneath.

4 Pot-grown citrus plants can be brought outdoors during the summer months to help fruit ripen, as they do best in a sunny warm position.

EXPERT TIP

Jekka McVicar Planting up a container for summer salad crops

Salad rocket (*Eruca vesicaria* subsp. *sativa*), dill (*Anethum graveolens*) and mustard (*Brassica juncea*) are all great salad herbs that can be easily raised from seed and grown in a container. The trick is to choose a planter large enough to grow a crop for cutting; an ideal size is 23cm (9in) wide by 18cm (7in) high, or 5 litres/1 gallon, or larger. Fill with compost and water well, then sow the seeds and cover lightly with more compost. Set the container in a sheltered warm spot that is shaded from the midday sun. Once you start cutting your salad, feed the plants every week with a balanced liquid fertiliser. This will help them to develop productive succulent growth.



Growing vegetables in raised planters gives physically easy access while allowing soil to be free-draining and easily improved.