

 NatWest

# Sense

Helpful ways to spend and save

New Year 2012

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FOR ALL  
AGES**

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RADCLIFFE**  
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HARRY POTTER

**THE  
LOVE ISSUE**

*The chemistry of falling in love,  
and ROMANTIC TRAVEL  
trips to enjoy for two*





# GROW *your* OWN *with style*

*Don't miss the chance to grow your own supper. **Alys Fowler** suggests some pretty delicious ways to transform your plot*



AN EDIBLE GARDEN should look just as good as it tastes. This is not about relegating the vegetables to the bottom of the plot. Gone are the days when

growing your own meant adopting allotment-style beds. Sure, your garden needs to be productive if you want something for supper, but it doesn't mean it can't be pretty or stylish.

Whether you decide to build raised beds (see over the page) or just add a few vegetables to your borders, start planning the changes now because spring will be upon us before you know it.

There are two basic design routes: the French potager style, where vegetables are grown formally in patterns, often in box-edged beds, or the more romantically informal route of the cottage garden, where cabbages and roses sit side by side.

If you've got feet rather than acres, there are many benefits to weaving it all together. For starters, you can pack more in. Companion planting will add colour and provide nutrients in the soil, and will also attract beneficial insects and help to ward off certain pests. The trick is making it all work effectively in a small space.



PHOTOS: HARRPUR GARDEN IMAGES, MARIANNE MAJERUS/RHS HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW, SIMON WHEELER