



viridis

Specialists in sourcing and supplying high quality plants
for garden designers, landscapers and architects

Plants for Purpose

Small Spaces



Plants for small spaces, a topic that is becoming more and more prevalent with outdoor space and gardens becoming a "nice to have" rather than a "must have". Especially inner and outer city developments where build space is at an absolute premium, outdoor spaces are often overlooked. Whether you garden on a 2x1m city balcony or in a 4x4 concrete small back yard or have the benefit of a little more space, we have some top tips and a selection of beautiful plants that will help you deliver a BIG WOW! in your small space.

Even the smallest gardens can transport you to another world entirely, whether that be through enveloping you in a jungle-esc feeling of green and dappled light or through the illusion and impression of a much larger space designed to draw you to an open space at its centre. By their nature, small gardens often have the bonus of creating gardening opportunities not offered in a larger space. In many gardens both lawn and patio areas are desired for many practical reasons. A lawn unites a garden and creates an attractive foil for borders, but a patio offers a year-round all-weather surface, as well as a super place to pop the sun lounger. Its patio all the way, after all you can pop a container of beautiful plants on a patio without it dying beneath! Shade also challenges small gardens, whether it is cast by high walls or buildings or from inherited tree or shrub shade from the neighbour's garden. This however is easily adopted into a clever planting scheme; inherited landscape is there to be enhanced not hidden!

Paths & Walkways

When planning and designing a small garden it is very important to include a way to walk around the garden, a route to be followed, a humble garden path. Paths are functional walkways, but they don't have to be un-beautiful. By adding winding, flowing paths that you can never quite see to the end of, you invite your visitors to venture into your garden and explore. A great way to do this is by incorporating "garden rooms". This doesn't refer to a brightly coloured garden shed, office or studio. Garden rooms are spaces that are independent to the main garden and often are obscured, created through clever planting and by utilising vertical space. What better way to create a wall than to plant an espalier fruit tree? *Pyrus communis* 'Conference', the conference pear holds RHS AGM and is one of the favourite dessert pears. Covered in white flowers in April followed by the production of long, yellow to green pears in mid to late summer. The firm but juicy fruit can be enjoyed straight from the tree. Another benefit of espalier fruit trees is the space below the first branches, with a traditional wall this would be concrete or brick but here lies the perfect planting space for spring bulbs and perennials.

Use a low growing perennial such as *Alchemilla mollis*, a staple for any garden, offering scalloped bright green leaves which catch droplets of water that flow like quicksilver in the summer light. From June through until September a frothy haze of tiny yellow flowers appears just above the foliage. Perfectly suited to be planted on mass below an espalier fruit tree or for softening the edges of paths.



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Using Vertical Space



Every garden needs an entrance and what better way to create an entrance than an archway, capitalising on the benefit of vertical space. *Trachelospermum jasminoides* or Star Jasmine is a wonderful evergreen climber that is more than happy to be grown in a large pot at the base of an archway, creating a beautiful entrance of fragrant flowers.

By adding any form of support, whether that be as large as an arch or pergola, or as simple as a trellis or supporting wires, you can really maximise the flower power of a small space by adding a vertical display of joy that, with good planting choices, can offer pleasure in every season.

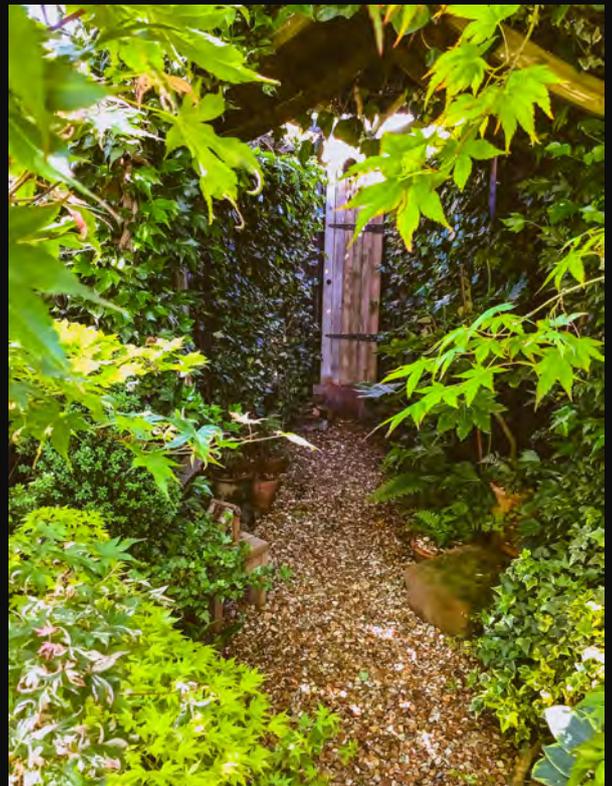
Perhaps a quiet spot in a sunny corner is your favourite place to sit and enjoy a good book or a large glass of your favourite tippie. Well why not create a Honeysuckle arbour for you to sit below and enjoy?

Honeysuckle are perfect for clothing porches and rustic arches or grown alongside boundary hedges and even above your winding path. *Lonicera japonica* 'Hall's Prolific' is a particularly vigorous growing and free flowing honeysuckle, offering a mass of sweetly scented tubular flowers from April through to late August. In milder winters and in sheltered gardens the deep dark green leaves can stay with the plant all year and in truly hot summers the flowers are followed by small dark purple berries.

Mirrors & Doors

Mirrors create a sense of depth, reflecting the side of a plant that perhaps you could never enjoy otherwise, whilst adding a level of depth that otherwise would never be attained. Placing a mirror at the end of a winding path, slightly obscured by wonderful planting is a fabulous way of creating the illusion of endless space whilst reflecting light to help brighten the display in a shady corner. Remember to always angle your mirror upwards, this will catch the most light whilst assuring you do not scorch shade bathers such as *Hosta* 'Patriot', a terrific perennial with the most striking irregular cream variegation across olive-green leaves, a really good *Hosta* for adding a bit of interest to a shady corner.

Doors are a wonderful little trick, giving the illusion of more garden to come or a secret space held beyond. Also, they do tend to come in very handy to use as a fixing board for hanging pots or to allow climbers to scabble their way across the top of. What about planting up a letter box with alpines?! What a super selection of low growing perennials that offer a punch of flower more than equal to that of their larger counterparts. A wooden door to us is also an inviting home to beneficial wildlife.



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Alpine Plants



Alpines or rockery plants are a must have plant group for gardens where space really is limited. They work really well in small or large pots and look stunning when grouped together with successional colour through flower and foliage alike. So your shed is more important than a flower bed, well that's not a problem, a hanging pot is the perfect spot for an Aubrieta to do its thing. So your table needs a central display, miniature rock garden?! A small square trough is all you need to keep these little beauties happy.



Ponds



So ponds are for big gardens only? NOPE that is not the case! You can make a wildlife friendly pond in almost any setting. Something as small as a margarine tub is enough to encourage wildlife to co-exist. You can see the benefits of having a small pond in your garden almost immediately, but the true pleasure is the first time you see wildlife within, whether it be a passing sparrow having a wash or a frog or toad taking a dip by encouraging nature you are encouraging your garden to do well. Nymphaea species the Waterlily are a wonderful addition to a pond, with a species to suit most environments and planting depths. Nymphaea 'Pygmaea Helvola' – perfect for a pocket size pond, you can grow this one in a large bucket!

Plants for Small Spaces

Viridis can supply a broad range of quality, cost-effective planting options.

The below list is an outline of plant recommendations for small gardens. More are available on request. Please send us your enquiry for further details and pricing.

Herbaceous	Shrubs
Achillea	Amelanchier lamarckii
Agapanthus	Brachyglottis 'Sunshine'
Alchemilla	Caryopteris x dandonensis
Allium moly	Ceratostigma willmottianum
Aster acris	Choisya ternata
Astilbe	Euonymus fortune
Camassia quamash	Fatsia japonica – big showy leaves but happy in a pot
Coreopsis moonbeam	Forsythia x intermedia
Echinacea	Fuchsia magellanica
Erigeron	Hebe 'Autumn Glory'
Geranium	Hypericum
Helenium	Magnolia stellate
Hemerocallis thunbergii	Philadelphus hybrids
Kniphofia	Potentilla fruticosa
Leucanthemum x superbum	Spiraea 'Arguta'
Lupin	Syringa meyeri
Lysimachia punctata	Weigela hybrids
Grasses	Wall Shrubs
Carex oshimensis – Ever series	Ceanothus repens
Cortaderia seloana 'Pumilla'	Cotoneaster horizontalis
Festuca glauca	Jasminum nudiflorum
Hakonechloa macra / Aurea	Trees – Lifted From 'Trees for Small Gardens'
Bamboo	Cornus kousa 'Chinensis'
Fargesia murielae	Crataegus laevigata sp.
Phyllostachys nigra – will need keeping in check if planted out in containers	Magnolia stellata 'Waterlily'
Sasa veitchii – in a pot	Prunus 'Shirotae' / Amanogawa
	Syringa vulgaris 'Madame Lemoine'
	Climbers – Vertical Height
	Clematis

Alpines
Arabis
Armeria
Aubrieta
Lewisia
Organum
Rhodohypoxis
Saxifraga
Sempervivum
Sisyrinchium
Thymus
Viola