

Caring for plants in winter

The majority of the plants listed here are completely hardy and would survive an average British winter unscathed. However, some varieties (such as *Acacia dealbata*, *Myrtus communis* and *Olea europea*, plus young plants of *Phoenix canariensis* and *Trachycarpus fortunei*) all benefit from a little winter protection to emerge unharmed.

When the weather is forecast to drop below -2°, wrap tender plants in horticultural fleece, covering all the foliage and stems. Try to keep specimen plants in containers as dry as possible over winter - waterlogging can cause serious damage to vulnerable roots. Pots standing alone are particularly vulnerable - wrap the entire container with old carpet, sacking or surround with straw bales to insulate the roots from freezing conditions.

creating a... Mediterranean Garden

Haskins Ferndown

Longham, Ferndown
Dorset BH22 9DJ
Tel: 01202 591919

Haskins West End

Mansbridge Road, Gaters Hill
West End, Southampton SO18 3HW
Tel: 023 8047 2324

Haskins Roundstone

Roundstone Bypass, Angmering
West Sussex BN16 4BD
Tel: 01903 777666

Haskins Snowhill

Snowhill Lane, Copthorne
West Sussex RH10 3EY
Tel: 01342 712545



Trumpet Vine
Campsis x tagliabuana
'Madame Galen'



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creating a...Mediterranean Garden

Mediterranean gardens...

are full of dazzling colour and scent, with aromatic foliage and vivid flowers - the perfect place to enjoy a relaxing evening or dinner with friends. A courtyard offers the excitement of scarlet geraniums in terracotta pots, orange and lemon trees, fuchsias and figs.

By their very essence, Mediterranean gardens are low maintenance, needing little watering and feeding, and blighted with few pests and diseases. Weeds are suppressed by stones and gravel, while self-seeding annuals and perennials are positively encouraged.

In the wild, plants from the Mediterranean grow in poor, stony, free-draining soil. These are the conditions that you need to recreate to make them feel at home. Mediterranean plants hate having their feet permanently wet, so heavy clay soil poses the biggest challenge for the would-be Mediterranean Gardener. Dig in heaps of gravel, shingle or grit to improve soil structure and drainage. On heavy clay soils this may be hard work, but will pay dividends later to the health and hardiness of your plants. Vary the size according to the size of plants used, matching coarse grit to tiny alpines and rocks around trees and shrubs.

There are many good reasons to mulch; it prevents the "crowns" from rotting off due to winter wet, keeps mud off foliage, reflects sun and lightens the background, while holding moisture as well as setting Mediterranean plants off to perfection. Bare gravel, unlike bare earth, is always attractive.

If you garden on any kind of slope, consider terracing, by constructing low, easily gardened shelves. They make perfect "display cases" for special plants, encouraging closer inspection and providing excellent drainage. Trailing plants will tumble from one level to another, softening the hard landscaping. A raised bed follows the same principle, ensuring easy access for less gymnastic gardeners.

Pergolas and shady arbours provide welcome dappled shade (perhaps not always needed in this country), as well as being an enticing feature. Simple rustic poles or easy-to-assemble kits provide a home for, and an opportunity to enjoy grape vines, honeysuckle and a multitude of annual climbers.

Many native Mediterranean plants, such as Rosemary, Lavender and Thyme are familiar to our gardens already. These plants, and many others, are drought tolerant by their very nature, mostly evergreen and ideally suited to the drier summers we seem to be experiencing. Check to see if the existing plants in your garden originate from the Med - many widely grown plants do. It may be possible to incorporate them into your new plan.

For maximum impact, choose plants that have contrasting foliage colour, leaf shape and form. Try "Purple Sage" (*Salvia officinalis purpurea*) with "French Lavender" (*Lavendula stoechas*), "Spurge" (*Euphorbia characias* sbsp. *wulfenii*) and soft "Lambs Ears" (*Stachys byzantina*). Underplant with "Round-Headed Leeks" (*Allium sphaerocephalon*) to provide an unexpected shot of colour.

Mediterranean plants can easily be grown in containers on the patio. Plant using a mix of Multi Purpose Compost and John Innes no.3. Water regularly while plants are actively growing (April to September) and apply MiracleGro All Purpose Plant Food once a fortnight, to build strength and encourage flowering.

Agave americana Marginata,
Allium cristophii and *Verbascum olympicum*
in a Mediterranean garden.

Recommended plants

Latin Name:	Common Name:	Type:	Deciduous/Evergreen:
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Mimosa	Tree	E
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Bears Breeches	Perennial	E
<i>Angelica archangelica</i>	Angelica	Perennial	D
<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i>	-	Perennial	E
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	Shrub / Tree	D
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking Grass	Annual	D
<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	Pot Marigold	Annual	E
<i>Campsis 'Mme Galen'</i>	Trumpet Vine	Climber	D
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Valerian	Perennial	D
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree	Tree	E
<i>Cerinthe major</i>	-	Annual	E
<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	Dwarf Fan Palm	Shrub	E
<i>Cistus</i> - all varieties	Rock Rose	Shrub	E
<i>Convolvulus sabatius</i>	-	Tender Perennial	E
<i>Convolvulus cneorum</i>	-	Shrub	E
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress	Tree	D
<i>Dianthus</i> - all varieties	Pink	Perennial	E
<i>Ecchreocarpus scaber</i>	Chilean Glory Flower	Tender Annual	E
<i>Eryngium</i> - all varieties	Sea Holly	Perennial	D
<i>Euphorbia</i> - most varieties	Spurge	Perennial	D
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	Wall Shrub	D
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	Perennial	E
<i>Genista aethnensis</i>	Mount Etna Broom	Shrub / Tree	D
<i>Genista</i>	Gorse	Shrub	E
<i>Geranium</i>	Cranesbill	Perennial	E
<i>x Halimicistus wintonensis</i>	Rock Rose	Shrub	D
<i>Helianthemum</i>	Sun / Rock Rose	Alpine	E
'Wisley Primrose'	-	-	-
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Sun Flower	Annual	E
<i>Helichrysum italicum</i>	Curry Plant	Shrub	D
<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>	Hyssop	Perennial	E
<i>Jasminum officinale</i>	Jasmine	Climber	E
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Bay	Shrub	E
<i>Lavandula</i>	Lavender	Shrub	E
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Toad Flax	Perennial	E
<i>Linum perenne</i>	Flax	Perennial	E
<i>Myrtle communis</i>	Myrtle	Shrub	D
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	Shrub / Tree	E
<i>Origanum</i>	Oregano	Perennial	S/E
<i>Osteospermum</i>	Rain Daisy	Tender Perennial	E
<i>Passiflora</i>	Passion Flower	Climber	E
<i>Phlomis</i>	-	Shrub	E
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Island Palm	Tree	E
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	Kohuhu	Shrub	E
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	Shrub	E
<i>Ruta graveolens</i>	Rue	Shrub	E
<i>Salvia argentea</i>	-	Biennial	E
<i>Salvia officinalis</i>	Purple Sage	Shrub	E
'Purpurascens'	-	-	-
<i>Salvia sclarea</i> var. <i>turkestanica</i>	Clary	Biennial	S/E
<i>Santolina</i>	Cotton Lavender	Shrub	E
<i>Solanum</i>	Potato Vine	Climber	E
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	Shrub	E
<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	Lambs Ears	Perennial	E
<i>Stipa tenuissima</i>	-	Grass	E
<i>Teucrium fruiticans</i>	Tree Germander	Shrub	E
<i>Thymus</i>	Thyme	Alpine / Herb	E
<i>Trachelospermum</i>	Star Jasmine	Climber	E
<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>	Chusan Palm	Tree	D
<i>Verbascum</i>	Mullein	Biennial/Peren.	D
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Grape Vine	Climber	D

NB: Availability of some varieties may be limited, due to scarcity of supply. If unavailable from our normal suppliers, we shall refer customers to an alternative source.