

FULLERS

DREAM GARDEN

Magazine

October 2023



Welcome,

Enjoy the Crisp Autumn Air . . .

Autumn is officially here. Everywhere you look, you can see leaves changing into beautiful shades of yellow, orange, and red. That's why this issue will help you give your garden an amazing Autumn aesthetic. You will discover some of the best planting schemes you can use to add Autumn colours to your garden.

We also reveal 3 simple ways you can decorate your garden for Halloween. We include options which will be fun for kids (and adults) of all ages.

Plus, now is the perfect time to get your garden ready for Spring. You will see exactly how to plant your bulbs to get an amazing bloom for next Spring.

As you read through the magazine . . . visualise yourself enjoying the garden of your dreams. When you're ready to make this dream come true . . . take the first step and give us a call.



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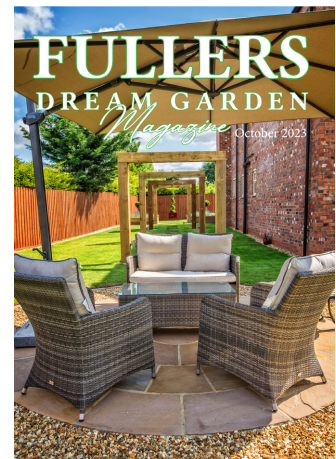
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On the cover

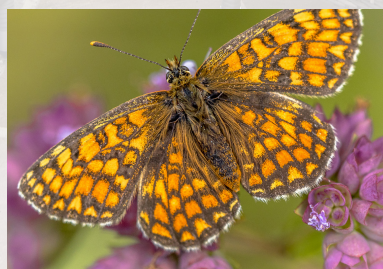
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Things To Do In The Garden This Month

- Clear up fallen autumn leaves regularly
- Prune Climbing roses and rambling roses once they have finished flowering and tie in the stems before autumn winds cause damage.
- Plant daffodil, tulip, and allium bulbs for a fantastic spring display.
- Now is the ideal time to plant clematis plants
- Clear up fallen rose leaves to prevent diseases such as black spot. Do not compost the leaves.
- Clear overhanging plants away from pathways
- After tidying borders, mulch with bark chips, well rotten manure, or leaf mould compost to insulate plant roots for the winter and keep weed growth in check.
- Harvest squashes and pumpkins before the first frosts, and apples and pears.
- Plant autumn onion sets for cropping next summer and plant out spring cabbages.
- Remove the netting from fruit cages to allow birds to catch and eat any pests that are lurking there.

Did You Know?

The first day of autumn (the autumnal equinox,) has 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness. The term equinox comes from the Latin words *aequus*, meaning equal and *nox*, meaning night.

The Earth's orbit around the Sun has very little effect over the seasons on Earth, despite what you may think. Instead, it is the tilt of the Earth's rotational axis, which is angled at around 23.5 degrees, which creates our seasons.

What Looks Good This Month

OUR FAVOURITE PLANTS FROM THE GARDEN



AGAPANTHUS

If you're lucky, Agapanthus may still be blooming but they like to have their roots bound, and don't fare as well in open ground. Grow against a fence, brick wall or in a container for best flowering performance.



ABELIA GRANDIFLORA

A useful, long-flowering, semi-evergreen shrub for a mixed border. This abelia has attractive, glossy, deep green leaves which it keeps for most of the year. From June, it produces masses of small, fragrant, pink-flushed, trumpet-like flowers on arching branches that continue to bloom into autumn.

PHORMIUM

With their arching, strappy, sword-shaped leaves, Phormiums make a dramatic statement in the garden. Originating from New Zealand, where their fibre has traditionally been used in the same way as hemp or sisal, they are versatile evergreen plants that tolerate a range of conditions.





AUTUMN CROCUS

Autumn Crocuses appear from September to November and are followed by narrow, mid-green leaves. This popular autumn flowering crocus is ideal for naturalising in a sunny border among deciduous shrubs or for scattering through the lawn.

MAHONIA

Mahonia are an easy to grow shrub which look good in many settings and give late winter colour, with scented flowers and berries for the wildlife. En masse their bright yellow flowers are attractive and are mostly a trouble free shrub, making them easy to grow.



CALLICARPA

Callicarpa Profusion, also known as Beauty Berry, is a beautiful eye-catching medium sized deciduous shrub which produces masses of tiny star shaped lilac flower in summer.

This Month's Plant Profile

CYCLAMEN HEDERIFOLIUM

IVY LEAFED CYCLAMEN

Cyclamen hederifolium is a pretty, hardy perennial, with dainty blooms that appear in the wild from August to October. Depending on the start of the autumn rains, these rose pink coloured flowers are sweetly scented. Their leaves appear during flowering and are extremely variable in shape, from the typical ivy leaf to broadly heart or spear head shaped. The species name *hederifolium* comes from the Latin *hedera* (ivy) and *folium* (leaf).

Cyclamen hederifolium is one of the most widespread species in the wild and grows in southern France, southern Switzerland, Italy and most of the Balkans, Greece, west and south Turkey and on many of the Mediterranean islands, including Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Crete as well as many Aegean islands. So, it comes as a surprise that they are equally happy to grow in the shade as they are in the sun.

This cyclamen is a superb ground-cover plant in rock gardens and woodland gardens where it will self-seed freely and naturalise to form a delicate, totally hardy, no maintenance, almost bullet proof flowering carpet. Not to be confused with pot plant *Cyclamen* produced in their masses for Christmas, these superb wild *Cyclamen* are a stunning garden plant for slowly naturalising in dry spots under tree and hedges, in grass or in that awkward shady spot in your garden.



CALLICARPA 'PROFUSION'

BEAUTY BERRY



It's not difficult to see where Callicarpa gets its common name from. One of the best ornamental fruiting shrubs, this variety 'Profusion' is a medium sized non-evergreen shrub, primarily grown for its profusion of vibrant, glossy violet-purple berries dotting every arching branch.

Not only does it bear these stunning little berries in the autumn but through the summer little clusters of small lilac flowers take their place and are attractive to bees and butterflies.

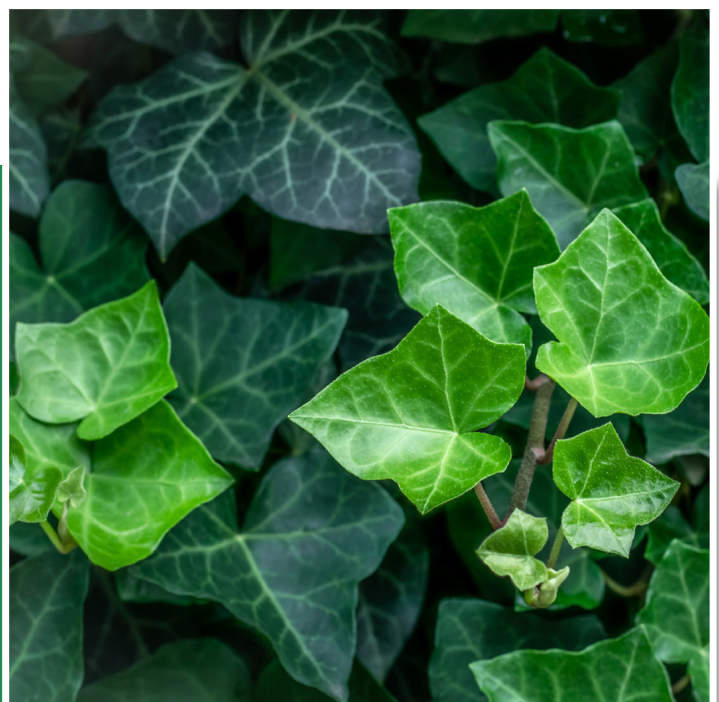
The glossy berries persist after the leaves have fallen and stand out beautifully on bare branches until early winter. Before leaf fall, the foliage adds rich colour to the landscape with purplish tones when the leaves are young and then turn rosy-pink in the autumn. This shrub is a spectacular sight in the autumn through to early winter. Growing in a fairly upright habit, up to 120-180cm tall and wide, it's a great specimen autumn shrub which doesn't dominate too much space. As a full sun to part shade lover, most gardens could find a suitable space for it in well-drained soils but it is quite adaptable to most soil types. Fertile soil with good drainage is preferred.

However, for best flowering and fruiting production, full sun is best. In too much shade it may become leggy, so getting the right balance is important.

This shrub does bloom on new growth so little pruning is needed other than removing older twiggy growth to maintain vigour. Best fruit production occurs when these shrubs are planted in groups to allow for cross pollination.

HEDERA HELIX COMMON IVY

Ivy is not as bad as it's made out to be. It is one of the best plants for wildlife within your garden all year round, but especially during autumn and winter. Whereas your most nectar rich plants are starting to die off, ivy's flowers are only just beginning to blossom, providing a vital late source of food for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Ivy's evergreen leaves offer crucial shelter for birds and insects even throughout the colder months, when other natural cover is thinning out. Ivy berries are a crucial, calorie rich source of food for your feathered friends, just when they need that extra energy hit to enable them to maintain their body temperatures.





Creatures and Critters

YOUR GUIDE TO ENCOURAGING AND CARING FOR BUTTERFLIES & WILDLIFE IN YOUR GARDEN

Some butterflies emerge as adults over winter and will enter our homes in autumn, where they find conditions cool and dry. However, when the central heating is turned on they wake up and expend energy flying around. If you find a butterfly inside your home, transfer it to your shed or garage where temperatures will remain constant. Use an empty shoe box to move it, keeping the lid on until it has settled down. Make sure it can exit safely in spring, via a window or door.

PLANTS FOR WILDLIFE

Sorbus Aucuparia

Sorbus aucuparia (also known as rowan or mountain ash) bear masses of leaves and berries which are a favourite for wildlife in woods and towns alike. It is commonly found in the wild in the UK, but also widely planted as a street or garden tree and favoured amongst our native wildlife.

Flowers provide pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinating insects, while the berries are a rich source of autumn food for birds, especially the blackbird, mistle thrush, redstart, redwing, song thrush, fieldfare and waxwing.



Bird Watch



Wildlife activity in your garden changes with every season, and autumn is another busy one! In fact, autumn is a brilliant time for watching all birds. As soon as they feel they have enough stored up energy to make it through the voyage, it'll be time to say farewell to a few birds which may have become regular visitors throughout the summer.

But it's not all 'goodbyes'. We get to welcome some wonderful winter birds which will travel to the UK from much colder climates, such as Russia, Scandinavia and North Eastern Europe to stay for the winter. It will be a bit early to expect them, but it's worth looking out for specials like Brambling, Redwing, and Fieldfare in the coming months.

Planting Schemes For Autumn

EXTEND THE FLOWERING SEASON WELL INTO LATER AUTUMN WITH THESE LATE SEASON BEAUTIES

The autumn season has some fantastic colours which Mother Nature herself has designed. If you have a predominantly evergreen garden, you may be missing out on some of the wonders non-evergreen planting brings! Now the seasons are turning, it's the ideal time to begin to see where your borders may lack interest. By incorporating some autumn colour into your garden, you can tick off another season of interest that you've achieved for a beautiful garden all year round.

Here's some of our favourite planting schemes for autumn colour; mix them into your current borders or dedicate an autumn zone within your garden.

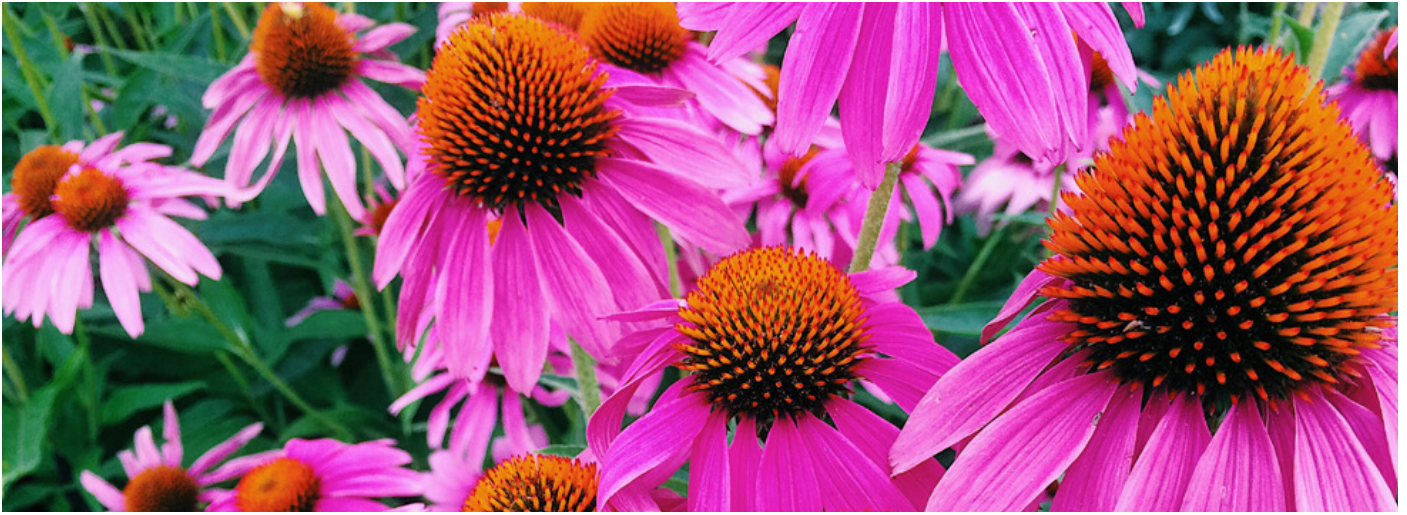
Verbena and Michaelmas daisies:

Statuesque *Verbena bonariensis* flowers for months and is often still going strong in October. Matched with pastel shades of Michaelmas daisies (or Aster) you can create an abundance of frothy delicate flowers well into late autumn.



Cornus and carex:

A great example of the balance between evergreen and non-evergreen planting. Evergreen grasses, like *Carex*, really earn their keep in autumn and winter. Their low growing habit teamed with the colourful stems of *Cornus* after it has lost its leaves looks stunning in sunny or slightly shady borders.



Miscanthus and Echinacea:

Technically both begin to fade during the autumn, but they're fantastic at holding their structure as they transition into rustic autumnal tones. Paired together they're a delight in an autumn border.

Japanese Anemone and ferns:

For more shadier borders team Anemone and ferns together for a lush look. The bright flowers of the Anemone will lighten a shady spot, and the softness to the leaves of the fern provides the perfect ground level layer and foil for the flowers above.



If bedding plants are more your thing, there's still plenty of options to choose from here too and these beauties could last well into the winter if cared for correctly. Winter pansies provide dependable colour from autumn until mid-spring. Smaller-flowered varieties are more weather resistant and easier to combine with other plants than those with big flowers. All are hardy and colourful; their little faces providing cheer on even the darkest days. Cyclamen persicum produces delightful flowers until the first hard frosts. It will continue blooming into the winter in sheltered gardens or protected positions.



Spring Bulb Planting Tips

(THAT THE GARDEN CENTRES DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT)

It may seem a little unseasonal to talk about spring flowering bulbs when we're only halfway through the autumn, but there actually is no better time than October to prepare your garden for its spring display. While you can plant any spring flowering bulb from September to early December, the success rate of some spring bulbs will be greater if you time their planting more carefully. When selecting your bulbs, avoid any that are damaged, shrivelled or feel soft. Go for plump, firm bulbs and aim to plant within a week or they'll start to sprout.

PLANTING DEPTHS AND UNDERSTANDING TIMINGS

As long as all your spring flowering bulbs are in the ground before the first frosts you can expect a fair display from most of them from next year. October is the optimum time, the warm autumn soil encourages strong root growth before falling dormant in the winter, ready for them to burst into bloom in the spring. The rule of thumb when planting most bulbs is to plant them at two to three times their depth. So, for a 5cm bulb, plant it 10-15cm deep at the bottom of the hole. Plant too shallow and you run the risk of diving bulbs and 'flopping' stems. Plant too deeply and your flowers may never emerge. Hardy summer flowering bulbs, such as lilies, aliums and crocosmia, should also be planted in October. Try not to be tempted to plant tulips too early, although staggering planting times means you can increase the length of display in your borders. Plant tulips from mid to late autumn- this is later than most bulbs, but a late planting can help reduce problems with tulip fire disease, which is fatal to them.

NATURALISING EFFECT

Aim to plant in groups of at least six, as the more bulbs that are grouped together, the better to display. Typically, 25 to 50 bulbs may be needed to make an impressive show. If you want your bulb display to look less contrived, there's a trick gardeners use to create an effective naturalised effect. Take a handful of your chosen bulb, gently 'throw' them across your border and where they land is where you plant them.

THE SECRET TO SNOWDROPS

Garden centres are very good at luring you in with dry snowdrop bulbs by the packet. Don't fall for this as it's a complete waste of money and time! The success rate of dry snowdrop, aconites and bluebell bulbs is very (very!) low. Instead, wait until spring when they've just finished flowering where you can buy the 'in the green'. Plant these 'in the green' bulbs when they arrive in the spring. They won't look much for the current spring you've planted them in but next year, they'll perform well.



Garden Showcase of the Month

We get to work on some amazing projects and we thought we would share them with you. They can hopefully provide you with inspiration for your own dream garden.



Bespoke Lighting

Project Year: 2017

Location: North Hykeham, Lincolnshire

The property sits at the end of a long and shared driveway. The original garden was bare except for lawn. The owners had acquired some land from next door which was extremely overgrown, but it would enable them to extend the size of their garden to complement the size of the house.

The initial brief from the client was to provide a full makeover for the garden and to include a courtyard area to the front of the house (where they could park three vehicles), add two separate seating areas in the sunny parts of the garden (which had to be private but not overshadowed), add features to join all the areas of the garden together and include an outdoor room. They also wanted a simple low maintenance planting design.



As the garden had two parts, the front courtyard area and rear garden, we wanted to ensure that they were separate usable spaces, but not disjointed. The outdoor room is positioned within the courtyard and gives the feel of an extension to the main house. It is fully insulated and so enables the owners to have a quiet retreat all year round. This building is clad with cedar and so we continued the use of this material along the boundary of the courtyard. To create a unique style, we created a low level gabion wall on which the cedar was positioned, and gabion pillars rather than timber ones. The pillars are also bespoke as, along with the limestone filling, we used a band of coloured glass to

create a striking first impression when you come up the long driveway to the house. The gabions not only create a distinctive feature they are also practical as a retaining wall.

You move from the courtyard area through timber archways to the first seating area within the back garden. The gabion theme is reiterated with a large bespoke gabion light feature filled with glass, corresponding with the glass bands in the gabion pillars. This unique feature comes into its own at night. It is positioned slightly away from the seating area so it can be viewed from all areas of the garden and provide a striking impact at night.

The timber archways carry on long the back of the property and carry you along the back of the house through the lawn on stepping-stones to the second seating area. The archways have lights on so that at night your eyes are drawn to the length of the garden.

The second seating area has granite chippings which are surrounded by timber raised beds. The planting throughout the garden consists of coral bark maples, lavender, rosemary, and low maintenance grasses.





Ed's Thoughts!

ADVANTAGES OF BARE ROOT PLANTING

GET MORE MATURE PLANTS QUICKER AND INEXPENSIVELY WITH THE BARE ROOT OPTION

If you're unfamiliar with bare root plants, they are exactly how they sound - the bare roots and crowns of plants that are in a dormant stage and suitable to plant out.



Many deciduous shrubs, trees and hedging plants, along with some evergreens, are available as bare root plants (or 'BR' as it's abbreviated in the industry,) whilst they're dormant between November and March.

Despite the dormancy, the roots will quickly establish and grow away below ground, ready to fuel a fabulous display of flowers and foliage once the soil warms up in the spring. In very cold winters, the bare root season can sometimes be extended through to April.

Bare root shrubs are a lot cheaper for nurseries to grow and dispatch as they don't require re-potting each year and don't incur costs for the weight of the soil when being delivered. This means they're inexpensive to buy and are a great way to get more mature, bigger plants quicker without breaking the bank.



The reason they're less expensive than traditional container grown plants and trees is because they're grown directly into the ground in fields and only lifted when they're required during the 'bare-root season.' With the current war on plastic, bare root plants are environmentally friendly, have no requirement for a container and use very little packaging to deliver them. Also, as there's no soil around the plants on arrival, valuable topsoil can be preserved and not wasted.

Bare roots are a viable choice when planting a long stretch of hedging or if you need taller plants at a lower cost than pots or root balls. However, it must also be mentioned

that bare root plants do normally have a 10% failure rate. The success rate can be improved when incorporating root builders, such as bone meal, into the planting pit, but don't incorporate organic matter into the backfill as this will encourage the roots to only stay within the backfilled area. Bare roots are easy to handle but should be planted quite quickly after delivery.

Maintenance Matters



The Last Cut of the Season

Whilst the last grass cut marks the beginning of the autumn-winter wind-down, let's remember that grass never stops growing - it only slows down.

As we get into the autumn months the frequency of mowing will reduce gradually. In June, July and August you may have been mowing once or twice a week. You will have felt the need to cut in September so, now approaching mid October once a fortnight will suffice.

If you find that since your last cut at the end of this month, your grass is still quite high, consider one final cut in November. You may notice this if the weather is still mild. The aim of the autumn-winter cut is to top the grass and to never trim it too short for the winter. If you cut too short, you leave the blades susceptible to frost and disease damage. Different lawn mixes recommend different mowing heights throughout the year, so if you're unsure it's best to leave it a little longer than you would in the summer.

Before winter approaches it is also a good idea to apply a fertiliser to strengthen and protect the grass from harsh conditions over winter. This ensures it emerges bigger, brighter and better come spring!

Halloween Fun in the Garden

Alternative Halloween Pumpkins

With Halloween just around the corner, pumpkins are top of the shopping list, or harvest list if you have the space to grow your own. While pumpkins are fantastic for 'big kids', for smaller children carving pumpkins may not be so easy. So, we've put a list together of some alternative activities that children (and adults) of all ages can get involved in decorating for Halloween.

Prickly pineapples: Hollowed out the same way as pumpkins, their spiky top and mildly prickly surface gives a spooky appearance when lit with a tea light. Best for older kids, the effects are almost spookier than their pumpkin counterparts.

Spooky satsumas: Great for smaller kids as these don't need to be hollowed out. Simply draw on the satsumas with a black marker to make great pumpkin looking minis.



Ghoulish gourds and squashes: Quite trendy among home décor connoisseurs, gourd and squashes look like pumpkins, but have more interesting skins and colours so you can really achieve spooky lanterns for your porch displays. As they're usually smaller than pumpkins, they are a little easier to hollow out.

If you still want to use pumpkins but not for spooky faces, get your kids involved in poking a few holes through the pumpkin skin and push cut flowers such as chrysanthemums into the holes for an autumnal, long lasting floral display which is perfect for the porch or for the dining table.

If you are not sure what to do with your pumpkins once Halloween is over, then you could turn them into bird feeders. Push some sticks into the side to create a place for the birds to sit and fill the middle with bird seed. Then sit back and watch your garden wildlife.



Garden to Kitchen

This Month's Recipe

Traditionally, sloes are said to be best picked after the first frost, as this softens their skins, helping them to release their juices. So now could be a good time to pick them. Making sloe gin is 'slow' but not time consuming. There's no cooking required just patience and as the sloes steep in the gin. If you start now, you'll have a tasty tittle ready for Christmas.

HOMEMADE SLOE GIN

PREP TIME: 30 MINS

SERVES: 6

Ingredients

- 450g Sloe (which you can harvest for free!)
- 225g caster sugar
- 1 litre gin (any gin)



Method

1. Prick the tough skin of the sloes all over with a clean needle and put in a large sterilised jar
2. Pour in the sugar and the gin, seal tightly and shake well
3. Store in a cool, dark cupboard and shake every other day for a week. Then shake once a week for at least two months
4. Strain the sloe gin through muslin into a sterilised bottle
5. Serve & Enjoy!

HOW BEST TO SERVE SLOE GIN

ICE
Sloe gin is traditionally sipped neat, over pudding or as a hot toddy, but it also works lovely chilled. Add a shot to a chilled glass of Prosecco if you're feeling extra boujee.

GLASS
If drinking sloe gin neat or warm, it's always nice to serve it in a small to medium cup or glass with a handle - ideally huddled outdoors around a warm fire pit! Otherwise, opt for whichever type of glass fits the cocktail you're intending to make.

MEASUREMENT
Sloe gin should be treated in the same way as normal gin, with a single shot being 25ml and a double 50ml. It all depends on how you're drinking it: whether it's a single or double preference with a mixer or following specific quantities in a cocktail recipe.



Garden Puzzle

Can You Find These 6 Halloween related words in the puzzle below?

PUMPKIN

SQUASH

GOURDS

TURNIPS

TRICK


TREAT

K	E	E	M	D	Q	N	R	T	T	K	B	M	E	I
R	F	F	D	D	G	I	B	Q	U	V	L	U	V	K
T	R	G	T	N	A	K	X	T	C	R	H	H	O	K
Y	J	F	E	I	H	P	Q	O	W	S	N	Z	U	F
T	U	M	X	M	M	M	O	Q	A	A	Z	I	R	Y
R	O	J	F	C	O	U	J	U	H	Z	T	D	P	K
I	Z	D	W	O	J	P	Q	O	I	M	F	P	A	S
C	E	K	E	M	I	S	W	T	Q	Y	Q	B	S	U
K	J	S	X	F	J	E	K	E	V	L	H	V	R	C
R	U	X	Y	U	I	N	X	Y	F	J	L	C	O	T
I	P	O	A	B	B	P	G	O	U	R	D	S	T	J
V	H	Y	R	V	I	U	S	D	V	R	O	R	E	F
R	O	T	Y	Y	H	K	R	A	I	Z	E	Y	B	S
R	G	D	W	L	L	L	H	F	D	A	A	H	B	N
E	P	E	D	G	S	K	T	E	T	R	R	Q	L	V




Contact Us


If you are looking for a landscaper who can transform your garden, get in touch with Fullers Landscaping now.


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The whole experience, from the initial design, through to the completion of our garden, has been excellent. A big thank you to all involved, the Designer, the Project Manager, the team of Landscapers & the Admin, everyone have been friendly, helpful, & nothing has been too much trouble. An excellent team who have delivered a great garden within the timescale indicated. We would have no hesitation in recommending Fullers to anyone considering landscaping their garden

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