

The Gala Garden

Wow, May already!!!

Well I practised what I preached and now the lawn looks great and the borders have got some space where the weeds were. Now comes the best bit - It's time to buy those bedding plants.

Before you do though, take a good look around and work out how much space you have. Bedding plants are great fillers and give you instant colour. For the long term, try and buy some perennials as well. They give you the same effect and can last for years.

What bedding plants are good doers?

Pansies – Great for colour and long lasting – all the way through to September and October.

Geraniums – these are brilliant especially if you can get large varieties, and in red.

Marigolds – yellow and orange they really stand out. They will produce seed as well, so next year you can grow your own.

Nasturtiums – a friend grows these and I had forgotten how great they are, and they spread!!!

Another way you can use bedding plants is in **HANGING BASKETS**, whilst you can buy them ready made for say £10 to £20, you can actually have fun making your own.

You will need a basket and a liner. Then fill with compost and water retaining molecules mixed in. Choose something for the middle that has a bit of height, say a very cheap miniature conifer, then put a couple of trailing plants like IVY or LOBELIA at the edges and then fill all the rest up with bedding plants as above. If you want to make it really striking just choose one colour. If you have to buy the basket it may be cheaper just to buy one already made up this year and then use it again to do your own after that.

Lastly don't be afraid to ask for help, all of the plants here can be bought at most garden centres and at **Lowood Nursery** Holly and Barry will be on hand and only too pleased to help with your choice of plants.

Remember though take care until all chance of FROST has passed!

Debbie

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