

EXCLUSIVE
OFFERS

set to put
a spring
in your step

Harrod
HORTICULTURAL
Newsletter

ready...
steady...
GROW!

Stop slugs
& bugs
our Pest Expert
tells you how

Patch Patrol
with BBC Radio 2's
Terry Walton



new

*Handy Pest
Booklet, find
enclosed*



order by **phone** 0845 402 5300 **post** or **online** www.harrodhorticultural.com

HALF
PRICE



17g Insulating Fleece Pack
(2m W x 10m L)

HALF
PRICE



Fine Insect-Mesh Pack
(2m W x 5m L)

HALF
PRICE



Heavy-Duty Anti-Bird Mesh
Netting Pack (4m W x 5m L)

Only £3.00

Usually £6.00 GNE-063

Only £6.25

Usually £12.50 GNE-036

Only £7.50

Usually £15.00 GNE-001

EXCLUSIVE

Spring Offers

Achieve a garden of plenty this season by taking advantage of these great value offers on handy products. Just quote promotional code **ELNEWS** when you order! Hurry though, offers only valid until 31/07/11 or whilst stocks last.

HALF
PRICE



Flexible Soft-Tie
(3.5mm dia x 8m roll)

25%
OFF



Reusable Growbag
(100cm x 40cm x 23cm H)

25%
OFF



Slug & Snail Copper Tape
(4m roll)

Only £3.48

Usually £6.95 GDN-911

Only £4.46

Usually £5.95 GPL-037

Only £5.21

Usually £6.95 GPC-186

“ Welcome to our first Harrod Horticultural Newsletter! Full of helpful sowing and growing tips, expert advice, special offers and other news straight from my Kitchen Garden.



It's time to put those colder months behind you, so stop shivering and start gardening! It's the best way to shake off those winter doldrums and welcome in the warmer weather. No matter what the scale of your kitchen gardening empire, whether you have a full sized allotment or a modest collection of patio pots, it's always possible to maximise your enjoyment and harvests through some simple steps.

Compost is the lifeblood of the productive garden, promising excellent results, and our Master Composter, Martin Fiddes, offers some wise words to help you get started on the road to productive plenty. Whilst our Pest Expert, Julian Ives, shares his know-how on how to halt any infestation of common persistent pests in the garden such as slugs and carrot root fly. My biggest tip is to keep some Insect-Mesh Netting or Fleece handy to protect your newly sown seeds or crops from birds and other unwanted guests – so take advantage of our fantastic spring offers over the page and you're sure to be feasting on a home-grown bounty in just a few months' time.

Happy gardening!

Stephanie

Stephanie Harrod



Great value kit



3 planters and 15 ORGANIC seed potatoes (Colleen, Maris Peer & Charlotte) – just £13.90 G&P-176

Chitter Chatter



We're arriving very quickly at the time of year we can start planting potatoes. Whether you choose to grow in open soil or planters, the potato puzzler on many gardener's minds is: to chit, or not to chit?

Chit - time! says Terry Walton BBC Radio 2's Allotment Doctor

When I receive my seed potatoes they are stored in egg trays in a cool, light place with their eyes looking skyward so those sturdy young shoots can emerge prior to planting. The benefit of chitting for me is two-fold: firstly, I can weed out any tubers that may not be sound before planting and having already started to sprout they will gain a couple of weeks growth over those not chitted. Secondly, those unchitted tubers, if planted, have to start from scratch and will take longer to emerge from the soil and hence provide a later crop. I have chitted for over half a century with a great deal of success and I would take a lot of convincing to change my stance.



It's all chatter argues Stephanie

If you plan carefully and get your tubers delivered after you've done the hard ground work, you can put the spuds straight in the soil! They'll soon catch up with their chitted counterparts and later varieties won't thank you for keeping them hanging around before planting. Further problems can be caused by not storing your tubers in the correct conditions, as you could end up with long, pale weedy chits – a waste of the valuable energy stored inside the potato. Me? I'll be rubbing off any shoots which do emerge – said to give you fewer but larger potatoes – and saying 'no' to potato chitting. You want those spuds in peak condition when they hit the soil, not running on half empty!



Let us know what you think, share your thoughts with us on Twitter...

WANTED



Fruit Cages: *a soft fruit saviour!*

Talk to any gardener about bird damage and you will hear a variety of solutions to the problem but in reality there are only two proven and reliable methods of preventing damage by birds – netting and fruit cages – which should be present as

fruits develop. Don't delay! If you're thinking about moving your plans up a notch, we've a cage kit to suit all gardens and pockets. There's those with a lower height for temporary protection, aluminium and steel walk-in cages in many standard sizes or we even have a bespoke design service to tailor cages to individual garden shapes and sizes.

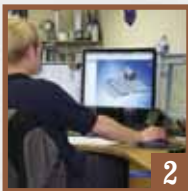
A Bespoke Steel Cage is born



1

Get the ball moving by requesting, filling in and sending back a quotation form. Call our Fruit Cage

Experts on 0845 218 5301 or download a form from our website.



2

We'll provide you with a FREE of charge, no obligation quote and when you've returned your form we can start to work on making your

vision a reality! Our Design Team will create a CAD drawing of how your bespoke cage could look and work in your garden.



4

Framework complete, our in-house netting specialists hand pick and cut-to-size the netting of your

choice for the roof and side of your cage. We even supply all the required fixings to make assembly that much more seamless for you. The only dilemma you have is in choosing what netting type you want from our extensive range!



3

Once you've given us the green light, all systems are go! All the square steel section bars are galvanised and then powder coated textured black for an

attractive finish at our factory in Lowestoft, Suffolk. To our knowledge we're the only manufacturers in the UK who use a superior strength square galvanised steel section, that's why we can guarantee your cage frame for 10 years!

5 Voila! Assembly is made easy with illustrated instructions and a Free Tips DVD. Nothing rivals the long lasting strength, quality and premium appearance of our cages in the garden. But don't just take our word for it, see what other gardeners have to say!

**FREE
ASSEMBLY
TIPS DVD**

"When I researched Fruit Cages, fellow gardeners kept recommending Harrod Horticultural. This Superior Steel Cage is sturdy, of the highest quality and is sure to pay itself back over the years with continuous high crop yields".

**Mark Diacono, Head Gardener at
Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's River Cottage Garden**

**Our FREE
QUOTATION
SERVICE**
ensures there
is a cage for
every garden!

As we've been designing and manufacturing for 55+ years, we know that pretty much anything is possible when it comes to tailoring our cages to any garden – uneven ground, slopes, angled boundaries, the lot. So don't rule out any of our cage kits just because you think your garden is challenged, challenge us instead!



Customer Review

A repeat purchase

"I have purchased over the last few years two fruit cages from Harrod Horticultural. The quality is outstanding, and delivery prompt. At last I can grow the fruit I want without the pigeons taking half the crop."

EXCLUSIVE
DESIGNED & MANUFACTURED BY US!

QUALITY ASSURED

Seeing is believing!

When it comes to our fruit cages, nothing compares to seeing them in action. The following gardens are all protected with high quality cages from our extensive range so why not visit them first hand?*



RHS Wisley



Holt Hall

Find out even more

Go online and view our inspirational Fruit & Vegetable Cage video clips. Complete with commentary, they show just how simple it is to assemble our cages and how they could work in your garden.



Bishop's Garden

1. RHS Harlow Carr, Yorkshire: Superior Steel Cage
2. RHS Wisley, Surrey: Aluminium, Superior & Decorative Steel Cages
3. Garden Organic, Ryton, Warwickshire: Aluminium & Superior Steel Cages
4. Blackmoor Nurseries, Hampshire: Superior Steel Cage
5. Victoriana Nurseries, Kent: Aluminium Cage
6. Holt Hall, Norfolk: Superior Steel & Decorative Fruit Cage
7. Lightbounds, Staffordshire: Superior Steel Fruit Cage
8. The Bishop's Garden, Norfolk: Superior Steel Fruit Cages
9. Woottens of Wenhaston, Suffolk: Superior Steel Fruit Cage



Victoriana Nurseries

*Please call any of these gardens before travelling to ensure the cages remain available for viewing.
 RHS Harlow Carr 01423 565418 • RHS Wisley 0845 260 9000 • Garden Organic, Ryton 02476 303517
 Blackmoor Nurseries 01420 473576 • Victoriana Nurseries 01233 740529 • Holt Hall 01263 713117
 Lightbounds 01889 567123 • Bishop's Garden 01603 880853 • Woottens 01502 478258

PEST CONTROL

with Julian

Start the growing season as you mean to go on by giving plants a health kick! Healthy plants make all the difference for a successful growing season in the garden and you can reduce pest and disease levels by ensuring tip-top plant hygiene along with a combination of good growing conditions and early detection of garden marauders.



For FREE pest advice email
julian@harrowd.uk.com

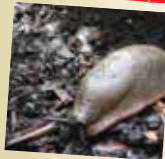
HYGIENE

Don't give those garden criminals anywhere to hide, they sure won't return the favour! First things first, remove weeds and old plant debris, especially in greenhouses, otherwise whitefly, aphid and other persistent pests will spread like wildfire from weeds to your new precious plants and crops.

WANTED

Despite the harsh winter some slugs and snails will have survived!

For any gardener at risk of staring down the barrel of a slimy invasion, you need to protect your new plants early on. If soil temperatures are getting above 5°C, apply slug killing nematodes, such as Nemaslug (1), by watering them into your compost. For larger pots and containers, put adhesive copper tape around the rims, this is sure to shock those malignant mollusks into a retreat. For ground level control try our organic Advanced Slug Killer product (2). These iron based pellets are safe around all plants, children and pets, yet they kill slugs and snails naturally.



Slugs & snails

Like slugs, vine weevil larvae overwinter too by hiding away in pots and containers so

it is important to kill them before they eat the roots of plants and then develop into adults. The best method is with Vine Weevil Killer nematodes (3), simply water these microscopic worms into the compost or soil from March onwards. There is also a new natural ally in the battle against many pests including vine weevil larvae, new Mighty Mite (4)! This tiny little predatory mite fights well above its size; feeding on vine weevil larvae, fungus fly larvae, moth eggs and other larvae or small pupae it finds in the compost or soil. Apply it in seed trays, pots and containers to help keep these pests under control.

WANTED



Vine weevils

As the spring develops, start to think about what is flying around and get to the root of any problems!

To miss the 1st generation of flies such as Carrot root fly and Cabbage root fly, make sure early crops are covered with Fleece or Insect Mesh Netting or purchase an Anti-Carrot Fly Screen; made from ultra fine insect mesh, it's the ideal protection for crops in raised beds or the open ground. If you think you are too late and some flies have got through, try putting a Carrot Root Fly Trap up and applying the Grow Your Own nematode treatment (5) to the soil. It searches out and kills the root fly larvae as well as controlling numerous other pests including caterpillars, onion fly and gooseberry saw fly.

WANTED



Root flies

OUR FAVOURITE PEST FIGHTING FIVE



1

Nemaslug Slug Killer
40m² pack
GPC-265 £9.95



2

Advanced Slug Killer
250g
GPC-149 £3.95



3

Vine Weevil Killer
12m² pack
GPC-275 £8.95



4

Mighty Mite
tube contains 500 mites
GPC-034 £9.95



5

Grow Your Own Nematodes
60m² pack
GPC-029 £4.95

POSTAGE & PACKING IS JUST £2.00 FOR THESE PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS!





Sowing & growing advice

with Courtney, Stephanie's Trainee Kitchen Gardener

Spring has sprung – and hasn't it been the longest wait?

At last things in the kitchen garden are really starting to move and everything demands attention: lawns need to be prepared, soil warmed and seed sowing continues like it's going out of fashion! Here are a few tasks we'll be doing in Stephanie's Kitchen Garden this spring. Don't forget you can visit our website to find out more about our organic growing project. If you leave your email address we can send monthly updates direct to your inbox.

Sow busy!

With the help of propagators, I've started to sow greenhouse crops such as tomatoes, aubergines and peppers. By the end of April, the greenhouse should be bulging at the seams with young plants itching to be planted out into their permanent positions. I'll have to make sure to rein them in with a few hardening off sessions in our Timber Cold Frame first to gradually accustom them to their cooler conditions.



A warm reception

While a greenhouse offers more reliable results, if simply like me you just don't have the space, I find certain varieties of tender crops can be grown successfully outside such as carrots and cabbages. I recommend choosing a warm, sheltered position and making use of cloches, fleece and polythene to help early sowings. For best results, I always warm the soil beforehand by a week or two ahead of sowing with some fleece, which also helps keep the soil weed-free and moist. This also comes in handy when protecting young veg against plummeting night-time temperatures and pests, which are on wing in mid-spring.

The lawn ultimatum

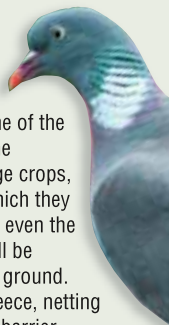
Spring is the time to lavish some attention on your lawn and I'll be doing just that. Armed with a scarifier and lawn rake, I'll be giving the lawn a good going over to remove the moss, thatch and any

other organic matter which prevents the grass from growing. Once cleared, bare or patchy areas can be sown with grass seed to fill the gaps – although I think netting these off may be a good option to avoid birds making the most of seeds! Come summer I'll

be the envy of my friends with my reward of a healthy emerald sward.

Pesky pigeons

Whilst on the subject of birds, pigeons are one of the main garden pests of the moment, they will ravage crops, especially brassicas, which they will strip to bare stems, even the spiciest of mustards will be 'strimmed' down to the ground. Use vegetable cages, fleece, netting – anything to provide a barrier.



Read monthly updates at harrodhorticultural.com

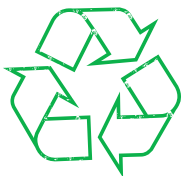
Sowing & Propagation Tips DVD

Set in the beautiful surroundings of Stephanie's Kitchen Garden, we show you just how simple and satisfying it is to successfully germinate and grow your own vegetables. Full of horticultural expertise, unique tips and practical explanations - it's compulsive viewing for novices and experienced gardeners alike. **ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY! DVD-100 £4.95**

FOR ONLY
£4.95



ECO WATCH



**Reduce,
Re-use,
Recycle!**

*Terry Walton
shows you how*



“To an ‘old’ allotmenteer like me recycling is a way of life and a skip is a great source of money saving especially as other people’s rubbish often make for handy objects to use on the plot. Old window frames can be transformed into great cold frames and, for the more resourceful, can be fashioned into a greenhouse using old timber to boot. Those old buckets and containers can soon be drilled with holes to make a home for many a vegetable to be grown in. Discarded bricks form great path edging and soon the skip may be empty and in place on the plot! Whilst those polystyrene cups, dispensed in their thousands from coffee machines up and down the land, are soon washed, a couple of holes burned in the base and there you have a snug home for many a plant.”



You can hear more from Terry on BBC Radio 2's Jeremy Vine's show.

*Plan your
garden
growing
with us online*



An easy and fun way to plan your kitchen garden, whatever its shape and size. Get clear and reliable information and tutorials with our fantastic new garden planner and maximise your growing success. It's only a click away so give it a try today! Find it on our homepage.

Martin's 'Compost Corner'



“Now that the gardening season is here again, I'm sure many of you are interested in getting your bins and heaps leaping into action once more. If you dutifully collected lots of organic matter during your autumn tidy you may now be rewarded to find that it has broken down somewhat during the winter. What great mulch this will make for now, or perhaps, like me, you're keen to add some new material to transform it into sweet-smelling, nutrient rich compost?”

To do this just put together the same equal blend of organic green and brown materials to make your compost. Included in the green sector are grass cuttings (including thatch), fruit and vegetable peelings and tea bags. Whilst, on the brown team you'll find newspaper (scrunch it up), twigs and woody prunings, cardboard, leaves and shredded paper. I'd recommend shredding or chopping your organic matter to expedite decomposition. As soon as the first strong rays of spring's sunlight emerges, the chemistry of composting begins because the bacteria involved in the decomposition process work better in warm temperatures.

You'll need to carefully tend to your bin as the degrading material inside will need turning and aerating – and you may even want to invest in a long-probed compost thermometer to check the core temperature is hot enough. This heat – temperatures of 35°C are commonplace – is enough to kill off any weed seeds and most roots which have crept into the bin. Good quality compost will be yours in as little as two weeks to a month, given the right type of bin and perfect conditions. I give my pile a healthy sprinkling of water to ensure moist conditions.

And it's that easy to get your bin back in shape this spring! By composting at home you've produced a wonderful soil enhancer and fertiliser practically for free!



NEWSFLASH

Come visit us at Chelsea!

The ultimate event in the gardening year!

24-28th May RHS Chelsea Flower Show, London.

*We're delighted to be part of this prestigious show for the 8th year running. Visit our intriguing exhibit at 47 Pavilion Way and take advantage of our **exclusive show offers** and **expert advice**. Among our favourite core products will be the launch of our*

NEW ROSE ARCH RANGE.