

Brighten up YOUR GARDEN

When summer's in full swing, your outdoor space becomes an extension of your home - a multipurpose room used for lazy lunches, family barbecues and kids' playtime. Use savvy buys in zingy colours to inject a happy holiday feel throughout the season - whatever the weather!

A bright yellow outdoor dining set is set up in a lush garden. The set includes a round table, two chairs, and a pendant light, all painted in a vibrant yellow. The table is set with a blue and white striped plate, a glass of orange juice, and a bowl of oranges. The chairs have orange cushions and patterned backrests. A yellow pendant light hangs above the table. The background is a dense green hedge.

Table, chairs and pendant painted in English Yellow, from £5.95 per 120ml; **cushions and napkins** dyed with chalk paint in Barcelona Orange and Florence, all Annie Sloan

Start the school summer holidays...



Date for the diary

Cornish celebration

Port Eliot Festival draws an unmatched collection of artists, musicians, writers, comedians, performers and makers to the ancient estate at St Germans on the Rame Peninsula, from 25-28 July. Enjoy the sunshine with this year's line up, including Emily Maitlis, Lily Allen and Dame Zandra Rhodes.



Fruity twist

FLAVOURED TONIC COLLECTION

Franklin & Sons has launched four new tonic waters – rosemary with black olive, pink grapefruit with bergamot, rhubarb with hibiscus and elderflower with cucumber – great for summer tipples to impress your guests with. Pair with classic gin, or experiment with tequila or vermouth.



Franklin & Sons
tonic water, £3.50
for four, Co-op



Must-try

GARDEN TRENDS

John Lewis & Partners shares its top five predictions for how you'll be dressing your outdoor space...

1 Bold colour choices

Outside areas are being livened up with a wave of colour as customers opt for a braver mix-and-match approach to tie in with existing pieces.

2 Indoor/outdoor schemes

Gardens are being given the same treatment as indoors when it comes to accessorising, with rugs and oversized cushions taking centre stage in seating areas.

3 Cocoon swing chairs

This trendy take on the traditional swing chair is popular on social media, with cocoon-shaped designs looking equally as good indoors as out.

4 Al fresco living

The practical layout of a living room is being recreated outdoors with a modular sofa and accent chairs positioned around a central coffee table.

5 Adding personality

Matching sets are making way for bold, individual pieces, as customers look to make a space unique with their own personal style.

Start a VEG PATCH

When the sun is shining, there's no better time to create your own edible garden. From pots to plots, growing your own saves money, is good for the planet and everything tastes so much better when you grow it yourself!



National Trust Cliveden modular sofa set style E, £4,199; round side tables, from £229, all Bridgman



Perfect pairing

COMFORT IN BLOOM

Furniture brand Bridgman has teamed up with the National Trust to design a collection of modular outdoor pieces inspired by the charity's heritage gardens. Featuring an elegant pewter weave upholstery and waterproof cushions in floral patterns, the Cliveden range boasts multifunctional elements such as armrest storage, ice bucket space and adjustable units, perfect for both small and large gardens.



Burgon & Ball waterfall watering can, £29.99; traditional wooden trug, from £26.99; Kent & Stowe digging fork and spade, £22.99 each; hand trowel and hand fork, £9.99 each, all Dobbies



Great for beginners

Plants by post

Small but perfectly formed for a continuous crop, the Mini year-round veg patch, £99 from Rocket Gardens, delivers baby plants to your door three times a year, from spring to autumn. All you need is a veg patch - whether a raised bed or selection of pots - to grow and harvest your own veggies all year round.



Taken from *My Bedroom is an Office & Other Interior Design Dilemmas* by Joanna Thornhill (£14.99, Laurence King)

Weekend project

COUNTRY CHARM

Add rustic style to an old storage cupboard with this easy-to-achieve paint effect. For a two-tone distressed finish, so that the piece appears as if its topcoat has chipped over time to reveal a colour from a past life, paint on your peeking-through colour first. Apply petroleum jelly or wax to the corners and edges where you want the base colour to show, then paint the second contrasting colour on top. Rub the corners and edges with sandpaper to remove the top layer of paint and reveal the colour underneath.

Flatwoven rug, £25; Sommar cushion cover, £4.50; Kungsholmen one-seat sofa section, £138; corner sofa section, £100; coffee table, £60; Regolit pendant shades, £1.75 each, all Ikea



Have fun IN THE SUN

Extend the garden enjoyment long into the night by introducing hanging lanterns, modern festoon lighting and indoor-outdoor floorstanding lamps to add warmth and character