



FULLERS

DREAM GARDEN

Magazine

January 2025

Welcome,

Happy New Year . . .

Firstly, Happy New Year! With Christmas over for another year it's time to look forward to your days getting a little longer and your garden starting to grow again which means you can enjoy your outdoors even more.

In this issue we give you many tips how to dispose of your Christmas tree, how to gain structure in your garden along with the usual articles. For our garden showcase this month we have three small projects that we have added to existing gardens to show you how a small change can create a big impact.

As you read this month's magazine, imagine all of the memorable moments you will create this year with your loved ones . . . especially in your dream garden. When you've been thinking about creating your dream garden . . . or even just enhancing it slightly. . . simply give our amazing team a call.



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FULLERS
LANDSCAPING

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Things To Do In The Garden This Month

- Move patio pots to sheltered sites during cold periods
- Improve the soil the soil by spreading compost or manure over beds and forking in
- Move plants growing in the wrong place
- Dig deep areas where you'll be planting new roses, shrubs or perennials
- Clean algae and moss from paths and steps
- Plant new fruit bushes and trees
- Spread a mulch of compost over borders and around trees, shrubs and roses
- Sprinkle a top dressing of gritty compost over lawns
- Dig over veg plots, mixing compost into the soil as you go
- Cover rhubarb with forcing jars for an early harvest
- Use cloches to warm the soil for early sowings
- Dig up congested clumps of winter aconites and transplant to new sites
- Buy shallots, onion sets and seed potatoes
- Order bulbs, corms and tubers for summer flowers

Did You Know?

The biggest flower in the world is the *Rafflesia Arnoldii*, found in the forests of Indonesia and first discovered in 1797.

Fully grown, it can measure an amazing 3 feet across! However, before you buy an extra-large greenhouse, you probably don't want it in your garden. This giant is a parasite, meaning it clings to another, healthy plant to harvest nutrients and water. It's also incredibly smelly – to attract insects to help it pollinate, it emits a foul odour similar to rotting flesh, which has earned it its nickname 'the corpse flower'.

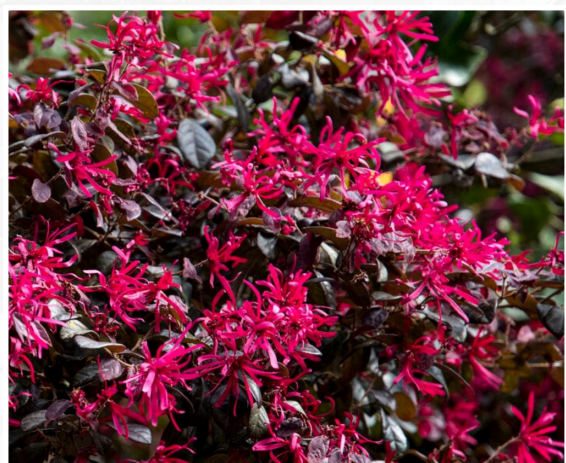
What Looks Good This Month

OUR FAVOURITE PLANTS FROM THE GARDEN



EDGEWORTHIA

You are sure to be tempted outside into the winter air with the mouth-watering scent of Edgeworthia. Silky buds adorn bare branches in late autumn and winter, each bursting open to create rounded clusters of highly scented blooms, truly a sight to behold.



LOROPETALUM

A little-known cousin of the Witch Hazel family, the stunning evergreen foliage makes the perfect backdrop for the fluffy fragrant lowers that smother the plant in winter and spring. Happy in both containers and borders.

ILEX CRENATA

The leaves of this evergreen holly are glossy and deep green, and as they are relatively small, it can be kept clipped into shape and used as an alternative to box. A bushy shrub, it can be trained as a small tree (in Japan it is often 'cloud' pruned to form a magnificent focal point or specimen), and it will also make an attractive, year-round hedge or screen.





CAMELLIA SASANQUA SEKIYO

A large evergreen shrub with small, elliptic dark green leaves with finely serrated edges. Produces semi-double, deep pink flowers to 12cm across, sometimes splashed with white, in late autumn and winter

CORONILLA

During spells of winter sunshine, the sweet fragrance and lemon-yellow blooms of Coronilla will remind you of bright spring days. The very best choice if you live in coastal areas or you have a particularly windy garden.



WINTER FLOWERING CLEMATIS

At a notoriously sparse time of year, the evergreen foliage and beautiful floral display of winter-flowering Clematis is sure to impress. Wonderful trained up a trellis, obelisk or through shrubs where they can climb and entwine.

This Month's Plant Profile

BERGENIA CRASSIFOLIA 'AUREO-MARGINATA'



These easy-to-grow, clump-forming evergreen perennials really earn their keep, making a year-round contribution to borders. Their large leathery leaves, often tinged red in winter, make attractive ground cover, while the flowers are an early bounty for pollinating insects. They combine well with other spring flowers in shade or sun. They grow to about 45cm tall and in late winter and spring, loose clusters of usually pink bell-like flowers open on upright stems.

Happy in sun or shade, Bergenia's thrive in humus-rich, moist but well drained soil. They will also tolerate poor soil, and this can enhance the leaves' reddish tints in autumn and winter. Permanently wet soil can cause Bergenia's to rot, while deep shade may reduce or prevent flowering. In an exposed site, cold

winds can damage the foliage, and frost can spoil early flowers.

Early autumn is ideal for planting Bergenia's, as this gives them time to get established before their flowering season in late winter to spring. They can, however, be planted at any time of year, as long as the ground isn't frozen or waterlogged in winter or parched in summer. If you plant in summer, be prepared to water regularly, especially in hot dry spells, to keep the soil around the roots moist until they are well established in their new home.

Just before flowering in late winter or early spring, cut off any leaves that have been damaged or blackened by winter weather, to show off the blooms to best effect.

CHIMONANTHUS PRAECOX

Chimonanthus Praecox, also known as wintersweet, is a deciduous shrub with a bushy, much-branched habit, growing to 2.5m or higher against a wall. Leaves are lance-shaped, 5-12cm long, shining dark green. Small, sweetly scented, sulphur-yellow flowers stained purple inside appear on bare branches throughout the winter months.

This vigorous shrub will usually take a few years to start to flower, but they are well worth the wait and they will make a lovely specimen plant for a sunny, well-drained mixed or winter border. Try to plant it close to a



house entrance or path where its scent can be appreciated. Highly prized by floral arrangers, a stem of these unusual, bowl-shaped blooms makes a wonderfully fragrant indoor display.

Grow in well-drained soil in a sheltered position in full sun. Add some well-rotted compost to the planting hole when planting and sprinkle some rootgrow to assist with root establishment. Minimal pruning is required. Remove crossing, dead or diseased branches in late spring and apply a generous 5-7cm (2-3in) mulch of well-rotted garden compost or manure around the base of the plant.

DOGWOOD (CORNUS)

Dogwoods have colourful young stems and can be pruned annually ('coppiced') to make the most of this feature. They are regularly planted in winter gardens en-masse alongside early bulbs to create a stunning display. Excellent for adding height and colour to winter containers and for brightening up floral displays.

Once the leaves have fallen in autumn, their true glory is the bright red, orange, yellow or acid green stems. These are often cut to the ground in spring, leaving just small woody stumps. Then, as the season progresses, new whippy growth is sent skywards creating a dense thicket of stems and leaves, reaching a height of around 1.2m (4ft). Unpruned, stems are topped off with white, flat flower plates in early summer.

Dogwoods can grow in any soil, but preferably reliably moist to promote growth. The stems colour best in full sun. They will not grow well in extremely dry soil or in deep shade.

To get the best winter stem colour, you'll need to cut off all of the stems (coppice) annually in early spring, about 5cm (2in) above ground level. Over time the base will form a permanent low framework known as a stool.



Creatures and Critters

Your Guide To Encouraging And Caring For Wildlife In Your Garden

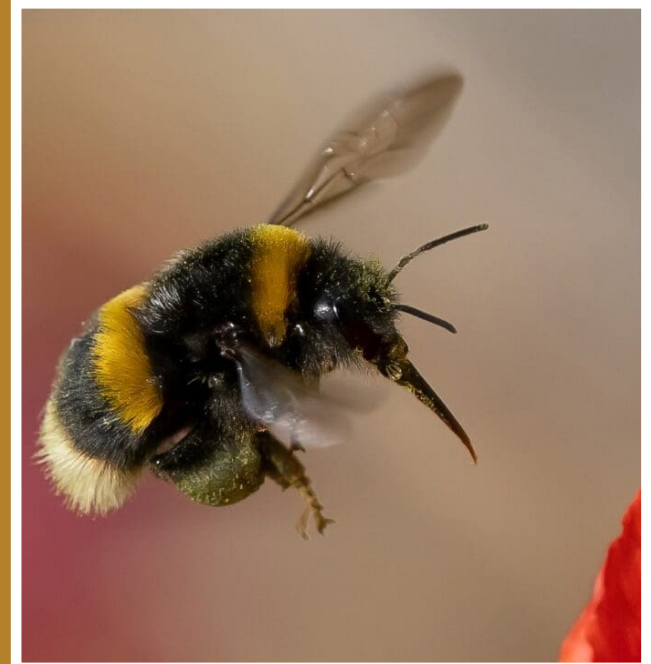
VOLES

January is a good month to look for some of our small mammals, particularly voles and mice. Sit patiently in most woodlands and it won't be long before a rustling in the leaf litter catches your attention, most likely evidence of a bank vole going about its daily chores. Parting long tussocky grass in fields will often reveal a network of trails punctuated with holes leading into the underground homesteads of these rodents.



BUFF-TAILED BUMBLEBEES

Although January may seem like a quiet time for insects, look out for buff-tailed bumblebee queens and workers foraging for food. This is the only bumblebee to have active colonies regularly recorded in winter and they are regularly seen in urban areas. You can help this brave, hardy bumblebee by growing sources of winter nectar such as mahonia or hellebore, or perhaps have some snowdrops and winter aconite in pots.



BIRDS

As we reach the heart of winter, it can become difficult for birds to find natural food sources. This is the time to provide food with a high fat content to support species including thrushes, robins and blue tits.



Focus On Structure

Creating structure in your garden for winter can give your space a year-round appeal and prevent it from looking barren during the colder months. When many plants lose their leaves, structures like archways, sculptures, and pergolas provide a sturdy visual focus and help maintain interest. Here are some ideas for incorporating these elements into your garden:

Archways:

- ◆ Archways are a subtle way to add height and frame views in your garden.
- ◆ Round-top arches work well in traditional garden settings, while square arches enhance modern landscapes.
- ◆ Even without foliage, arches offer shape and interest in winter but can also support climbing plants for seasonal interest in warmer months.



Sculpture:

- ◆ A sculpture can create a distinct focal point, especially against a blank wall or as a centerpiece in a lawn.
- ◆ The choice of sculpture allows you to infuse personality into your garden. This structure draws the eye when other garden elements fade into dormancy.

Pergolas:

- ◆ Larger and more pronounced than archways, pergolas can frame entrances, pathways, or add height in open spaces.
- ◆ They're perfect for adding dimension in flat gardens or balancing areas with large trees.
- ◆ Pergolas offer benefits year-round, providing structure in winter and shade in summer, making them versatile and visually unifying.

Adding these structures will not only provide winter interest but will make your garden an enjoyable place throughout the year.



What To Do With Your Old Christmas Tree

When it's time to take down the holiday decorations, you might wonder how to best repurpose your Christmas tree. Here are five eco-friendly and creative ways to give your tree a second life:



1. Let It Naturally Decompose

Since real trees are biodegradable, you can allow them to break down in a secluded part of your garden. Simply cut the tree into smaller pieces and stack them in a shady spot. The decomposing wood will attract beneficial insects and help enrich the soil, making it a natural way to feed nearby plants.

2. Shred It for Mulch

Shredding your tree can speed up the decomposition process and creates a useful mulch for shrubs or garden paths. Shredded tree mulch helps retain soil moisture and can deter weeds, giving your garden an extra boost.

3. Build a 'Dead Hedge'

Consider using your tree to help form a "dead hedge." This eco-friendly barrier is made by stacking pruned branches or tree trimmings between sturdy posts. A dead hedge provides shelter for wildlife and improves your garden's biodiversity. Reach out to neighbours for extra trees if you'd like to create a larger hedge.

4. Donate It to Local Farm Animals

Many animals, such as goats, donkeys, and alpacas, find Christmas trees to be a nutritious treat packed with Vitamin C, antioxidants, and natural de-worming properties. Contact nearby farms or animal sanctuaries to see if they accept tree donations. Remember to remove all decorations and any chemicals or sprays from the tree before giving it to the animals.

5. Replant (If You Have a Potted Tree)

If you've used a potted tree, consider planting it in your garden to keep it alive. Make sure to plant it in a suitable location with enough space for growth, and water it well to help it adjust. Replanting is a wonderful way to enjoy your Christmas tree for years to come and contribute to a greener environment.



Each of these options ensures your tree has an eco-friendly afterlife, whether it's enriching soil, creating habitat, or providing a treat for local animals.

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. This month we have three small projects to show you. These were not full garden designs and rebuilds but instead smaller alterations we made to a gardens which highlight how a small change to your existing garden can make a big impact.

Small Changes with Big Impacts

Project Year: 2022-2024

Location: Lincolnshire

PERGOLA

The client wanted to have a pergola over an existing paving area. It is a great modern addition to the outdoor space, providing partial shade and structure to the patio area. It is bespoke as our team made it on site to fit the space perfectly. The use of timber complements the home's red brick exterior and frames the entrance to the back garden, creating a cozy spot for relaxation or outdoor dining.

The slatted roof allows for filtered sunlight, making it a great choice for growing climbing plants or hanging



lights for a warm ambiance in the evening. This type of pergola enhances both the functionality and aesthetics of the garden, offering a transitional space between indoors and outdoors.

This simple addition automatically elevates the garden without having to completely overhaul the whole space.

FIREPIT

This was a fascinating project as it was a one-off bespoke requirement to make a unique and unforgettable garden centrepiece. The clients just so happened to have a tornado jet engine afterburner! And they wanted to integrate it into their garden to create a unique firepit.

We created a sunken area within the paving, to not only accommodate the afterburner's height, but to also ensure it's function as both a firepit and a table. A custom glass top was created to enable it to also be used as a table. The lower area was filled with decorative cobbles and a custom-made grate added a polished touch, enhancing both form and function.

This bespoke element undoubtedly transformed the space, inviting conversation and adding a touch of intrigue to the garden. This project was a pleasure to carry out as it enabled us to use our creativity and craftsmanship in a bespoke garden design, making this a standout feature that the clients will surely enjoy and take pride in for years to come.





WATER FEATURE

A water feature is a fantastic way to elevate any garden, adding movement, sound, and a sense of tranquillity without the need for a major redesign. This particular project showcases a beautiful, modern water feature, custom-built to fit seamlessly into an existing garden.

The timber frame provides a natural, rustic border, while the polished steel sphere at the centre serves as a striking focal point. Water gently trickles down the sphere's surface, creating a calming ambiance as it flows over the decorative cobbles below.

Powered by mains electricity, this water feature combines functionality with aesthetics, offering a soothing soundtrack that can be enjoyed both from the garden and indoors. Custom projects like this add a unique touch, transforming outdoor spaces into personalised retreats tailored to the client's vision.



Ed's Thoughts!

PROTECTING SOIL IN A WET WINTER!



Working in your garden during winter can be beneficial, but it's essential to be mindful of the wet soil, as it's easily damaged. Here's why soil structure is so crucial and a few tips to protect it during winter gardening:

Why Soil Structure Matters

Soil structure affects water, air, and nutrient flow, which are vital for plant health. When soil becomes compacted, it restricts root growth, limits water absorption, and reduces nutrient uptake, which can ultimately weaken or even kill your plants.

How to Protect Soil Structure in Winter

1. Avoid Walking on Wet Soil

◆ Standing or walking on wet soil causes compaction, which blocks water and air flow. If you need to access parts of your garden, lay down boards (like old scaffolding boards) to distribute your weight and reduce pressure on the ground. Ideally, avoid stepping on your soil altogether until there's been a stretch of dry days.

2. Let Winter Weeds Grow

◆ Winter weeds like dandelions, bittercress, and chickweed act as natural cover crops, helping protect soil from erosion and enhancing drainage. Rather than pulling them out, let them stay through the winter as they provide a buffer against soil compaction from rain and can be easily removed in spring.

3. Cover Vacant Beds

◆ For garden beds that will sit empty over winter, apply a layer of compost and cover them with an old blanket, cloth, or tarp. This shields the soil from excessive moisture, reduces erosion, and maintains the soil structure by moderating how much rain seeps in. In the spring, remove the cover, let the compost breathe, and then dig it into the soil.

By taking these steps, you'll help preserve soil health and ensure it's ready to support thriving plants when spring arrives.



MAINTENANCE MATTERS

GREENHOUSE CLEANING

Cleaning greenhouses, gutters, and water butts in winter may not be the most exciting gardening task, but it's essential for maintaining a healthy environment for your plants and keeping things in top shape for spring. Here's a step-by-step guide to make the process easier and more effective:

Steps for Cleaning Your Greenhouse

1. Remove Plants

- ◆ Move all plants to a sheltered area, covering them with fleece for protection while you clean. This prevents any accidental damage and keeps plants away from cleaning chemicals.

2. Clear Debris

- ◆ Use a broom or vacuum to remove debris like leaves, soil, and dead plant material. Removing this buildup helps control pests and diseases.

3. Disinfect Structural Parts

- ◆ Clean the frame and other structural parts with a disinfectant or detergent, ideally with hot water. Always follow manufacturer instructions to ensure effective and safe cleaning.

4. Wash Glazing Inside and Out

- ◆ Clean both the inside and outside of your glass or plastic glazing to maximize light for your plants. If the glazing is plastic, test your cleaning product on a small area first to avoid damage. Remove any old shade paint from summer.

5. Clean Between Panes

- ◆ Use a flexible scraper (like a plastic plant label) to loosen dirt between glass panes. This will prevent mold or algae from building up in hard-to-reach spots.

6. Replace Damaged Parts

- ◆ Check for broken parts like vent controllers or draught excluders and replace as needed. These small repairs can significantly improve temperature and airflow control.

7. Focus on Propagation Areas

- ◆ Pay extra attention to propagation trays and tools, as young plants are particularly vulnerable to diseases. Clean these areas thoroughly to ensure a healthy environment.

Cleaning Gutters and Water Butts

While cleaning the greenhouse, it's a good time to tackle other structures:

- ◆ **Gutters:** Clean out leaves and debris to prevent blockages and keep rainwater flowing freely. Use long-handled tools to avoid unsafe reaching and wear gloves for protection.
- ◆ **Water Butts:** Rinse out any algae or grime to maintain clean water storage for your plants. This keeps water free from potential contaminants and promotes healthy plant growth.

Safety Tips

- ◆ Avoid leaning your body weight against glazing or any fragile surfaces.
- ◆ Use long-handled tools for hard-to-reach areas to work safely from the ground.
- ◆ Wear gloves and eye protection, especially when handling glass or metal.

By taking these steps, you'll create a cleaner, brighter environment for your plants and keep your garden infrastructure in top shape through the winter and beyond.



Power of Paving

Paving can be a powerful design element in a garden, especially during winter when other features are subdued. Thoughtfully chosen paving can transform your outdoor space, adding depth and texture year-round and bringing unique seasonal benefits.

How Seasonal Changes Affect Paving

1. Enhanced Texture and Colour in Winter

- ◆ During winter, with the sun lower in the sky and the ground frequently wet, paving textures and colours become more prominent. Sunlight at this angle often highlights details in the paving, and wet weather brings out the natural hues of stones, like the ribbons of colour in sandstone that may not be as vivid in summer's dry heat.



2. Light Considerations

- ◆ Darker paving in shaded areas absorbs light, which can make these spaces feel even darker in winter. Consider this effect if you have paving near windows, as darker outdoor surfaces can dim indoor spaces as well. Light-coloured paving can help brighten these areas and maintain a more open, airy feel throughout the winter.

3. Paving Material Choices for Year-Round Appeal

- ◆ Natural Stone: Materials like sandstone and limestone come alive in winter, revealing intricate colours and patterns when wet. These stones offer both visual warmth and richness that can enhance a garden's aesthetic during the colder months.
- ◆ Porcelain Paving: Ideal for modern gardens, porcelain's smooth and glossy finish looks sleek and vibrant. However, be mindful that its smoothness can cause leaves and debris to stick in autumn and winter. A quick rinse with a hose or jet wash can easily clear the surface, making maintenance straightforward.

4. Creating a Balanced Look

- ◆ For a year-round appeal, think about how your paving colours, textures, and materials will complement the changing light levels. Combining lighter tones with interesting textures can add dimension to shaded areas, while darker paving can make open areas feel cozy and grounded.

By carefully selecting and arranging paving, you can create a winter landscape that feels vibrant and dynamic, adding interest and beauty to your garden throughout the year, even when viewed from inside your home.



Garden to Kitchen

This Month's Recipe

CAULIFLOWER SOUP

Throw together this comforting and creamy cauliflower soup for lunch or a light supper. It's perfect topped with parsley and served with crusty bread, and an ideal winter warmer.

PREP TIME: 15 MINS

COOK TIME: 25 MINS

SERVES: 4-6

Ingredients

- 1 large cauliflower (1.5kg), cut into florets
- ½ tbsp ground cumin
- 2 tbsp olive oil plus extra for drizzling
- 4 thyme sprigs
- 1 onion finely chopped
- 1 celery stick, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove crushed
- 750-850ml veg or chicken stock
- 100ml single cream
- ½ small bunch of parsley finely chopped



Method

STEP 1

Heat the oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Toss the cauliflower florets in a roasting tin with 1 tbsp olive oil, the cumin and the thyme. Roast for 15 mins or until golden and tender. Discard the thyme.

STEP 2

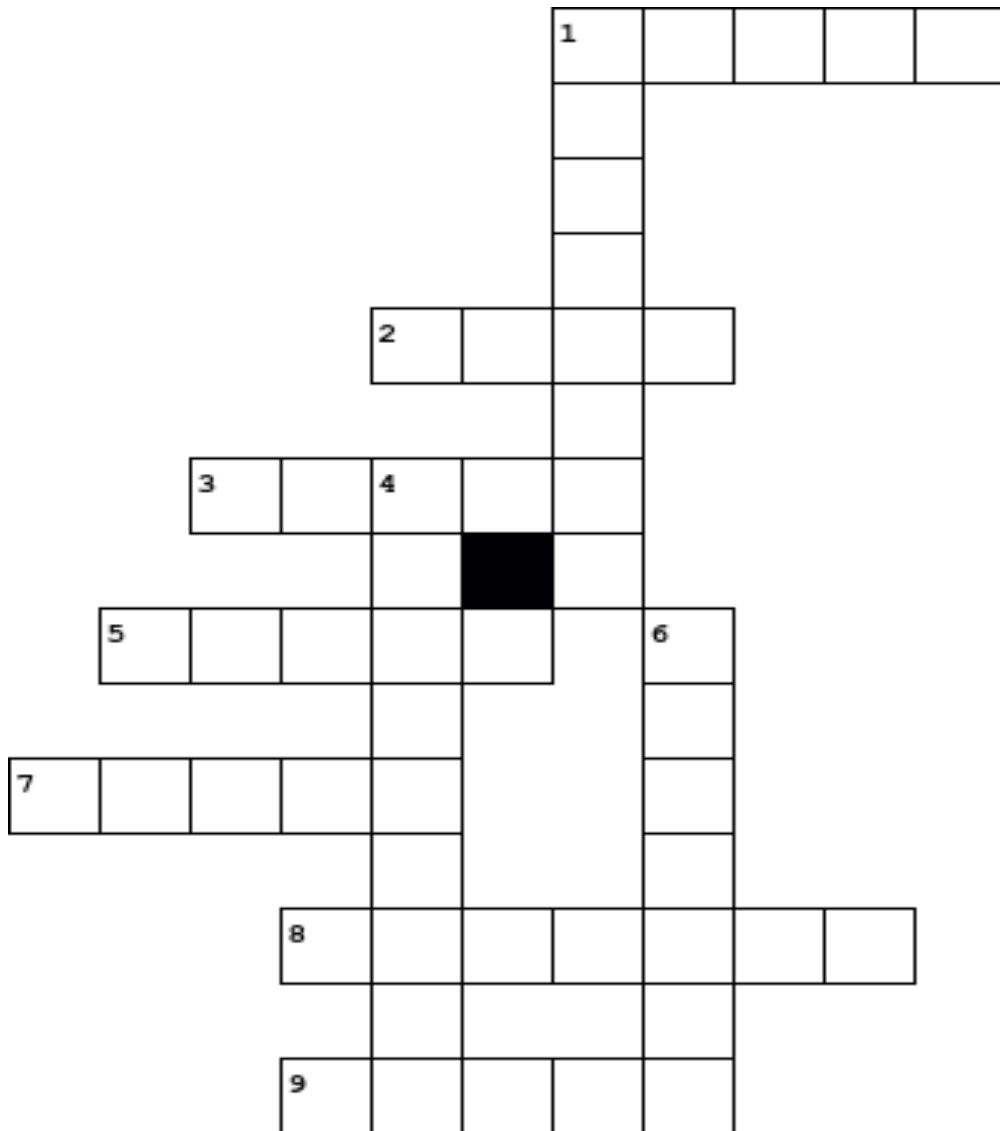
Heat the remaining oil in a saucepan with the onion and celery and fry over a medium heat for 10 mins or until softened. Add the garlic and cook for 1 min. Stir through most of the cauliflower, reserving some to top the soup with later. Add 750ml of the stock to the pan and bring to a simmer. Cook for 10 mins.

STEP 3

Blitz the soup until smooth using a hand blender or food processor. Stir through the cream and season to taste. Add extra stock if you like your soup a little thinner. Ladle into bowls and top with the parsley, reserved cauliflower and an extra drizzle of olive oil.

Monthly Puzzle

CAN YOU WORK OUT THE 10 GARDEN RELATED WORDS IN THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE?



Across

1. A small, woody plant or bush.
2. Nutrient-rich ground for planting.
3. Material spread over soil to retain moisture.
5. To place seeds or a young shrub.

Down


1. Essential for photosynthesis.
4. Outdoor scenery or garden layout.
6. Colourful blooms in garden.

* ANSWERS WILL BE IN NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE




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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You can also find us on social media

 <https://www.facebook.com/fullerslandscaping>

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 <https://www.youtube.com/@fullerslandscaping>

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We began with a garden that was lifeless and that we hadn't used for over 10 years. With the vision and creativeness from Fullers Landscaping we have an outstanding area for parties along with an imaginative side area with a rockery planted area which is ideal to sit out for a morning coffee.

We have been extremely impressed with the streamline service which meant we could do our day jobs without any hassle as the project was fully managed by them.

Huge thanks to all the team and we look forward to seeing you again in the spring to bring your other ideas to life!

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