

# GARDEN LIFE

INSPIRING IDEAS FOR OUTDOOR SPACES



“ Colchicums (autumn crocuses, above) are one of gardening’s best-kept secrets. Don’t be put off by bulbs that are already in flower, plant them now in an open, well drained spot and let them surprise you every year ”



**Guy Pullen**  
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Learn new gardening skills at Coton Manor.

## BACK TO SCHOOL

HONE GARDENING SKILLS ON A SPECIALIST COURSE

**Coton Manor** Susie Pasley-Tyler, owner of this Northamptonshire garden, is running a one-day ‘Winter Work’ course to guide you through everything from cutting back borders to dividing overgrown plants. 17th September, £55. Call 01604 740219, cottonmanor.co.uk.

**Harveys Garden Plants** Sign up for ‘The Joy of Autumn Perennials’, a course led by Chelsea Gold Medallist Roger Harvey in Suffolk. 7th September, RHS members £32; non-RHS members £40. Call 01359 233363, harveysgardenplants.co.uk.

**The English Gardening School** Discover your artistic side on the five-day ‘Introduction to Botanical Painting’ course at Chelsea Physic Garden, London. From 14th September, £690. Call 020 7352 4347, englishgardeningsschool.co.uk.



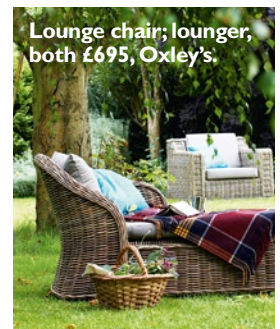
### 3 OF THE BEST... SOLAR LIGHTS

(From top) **mini hurricane lantern**, H14cm, £9.99, Solar Illuminations, 020 8144 0847, solarilluminations.co.uk. **Terracotta sphere**, H12cm, £14.67, The Solar Centre, 01727 866326, the solarcentre.co.uk. **Kilner sun jar**, H16.5cm, £22, Cox & Cox, 0870 442 4787, coxandcox.co.uk.



### ALL IN ONE

This gorgeous floral tool tidy is made from linen with a canvas lining. It has six storage pockets, a carrying handle and folds flat for easy storage. It measures H32cm by W32cm by D32cm and costs £37.50 from Plum & Ivory. Call 01622 814901, plumandivory.co.uk.



Lounge chair; lounger, both £695, Oxley's.

### WEATHERED WICKER

Oxley's fabulous new range of all-weather wicker furniture is designed to cope with the British climate. Each piece is beautifully crafted using natural coloured, sustainably grown rattan. From £265 for a dining chair. Oxley's, 01386 840466, wicker.oxleys.com.

## WEB WATCH

**Pondconservation.org.uk** tackles the 70% decline in British ponds by promoting home and community projects. **World-of-water.co.uk** has plenty of products to set your pond plan in motion. Visit **pondexpert.co.uk** for advice on everything about ponds.