

## GARDEN ESSENTIALS

### RESTING PLACE

Juliette's Interiors offers a wide range of traditional garden, patio and conservatory furniture. This beautiful stone-effect lovers' bench is priced at £665. For further information call them on 01789 721 911 or visit [www.juliettesinteriors.com](http://www.juliettesinteriors.com).



### FEELING FRUITY

Pretty as well as practical, this gorgeous pop-up garden bag is perfect for collecting leaves, grass cuttings, weeds and other outdoor waste. It is priced at £9.99 from Wyevale. To find out more call 0121 565 0110 or log on to [www.wyevale.co.uk](http://www.wyevale.co.uk).



### WIRE WORKS

This hand-woven solid steel Roman Lattice Canopy from Garden Requisites could be the key to a stunning entrance. It is priced at £225. Call 01225 851 577 or visit [www.garden-requisites.co.uk](http://www.garden-requisites.co.uk) for more details.



### WEATHER WARNING

Available with a variety of motifs, this handcrafted cockerel weather vane from Haddonstone is priced from £125. To find out more call 01604 770 711 or log on to [www.haddonstone.co.uk](http://www.haddonstone.co.uk).



### DO SIT UNDER THE APPLE TREE

For an eye-catching outdoor feature, why not adorn your favourite tree with a classic steel bench from The Cotswold Company? Prices start from £149. For further information call 0844 984 0001 or visit [www.cotswoldco.com](http://www.cotswoldco.com).



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Paphiopedilum need an intermediate temperature. These types are best grown between 13°C-23°C (55 F-73 F) and their blooms can last between six and eight weeks. After flowering, be sure to take off the spikes and let the plants rest.

Other orchids better flourish when kept cool. Species such as Masdevallia, Coeloglyne, Pleurothallis and Cymbidium, for example, are happiest when they are kept in an environment of 10-20°C (50-68°F). These varieties typically flower for a shorter time – sometimes for as little as two or three weeks.

When you are choosing your orchid, don't be afraid to chat the nurseryman, and ask plenty of questions about their upkeep. Make sure the plant appears healthy, and check that no livestock is included! Do look for a plant with a few flowers out to judge the colouration but, more importantly, select one with plenty of buds so you can look forward to an abundance of beautiful blooms.

To get the best from your orchids, they need re-potting every two years or so as the compost can go sour, and they may have outgrown their container. This gives you a great opportunity to get a good all-round look at the plant, and to remove dead roots and old leaves. Re-pot the plant into fresh compost and a clean container, give it a good drink and drain it out, and then return it



to its growing area. By doing this you should add to their lifespan – we have orchids here at Scone over 30 years old. Also, don't let the plants stand in a draught or direct sunlight, and make sure you don't over-water them.

Peter Timoney has been the Head Gardener at Scone Palace in Perthshire for over 20 years, and helped establish its world-renowned private orchid collection. His new DVD, *The Orchid Kingdom*, shows how he nurtures the precious blooms. Priced at £14.95, it is available exclusively from [www.anorchidkingdom.co.uk](http://www.anorchidkingdom.co.uk).