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## The Moonshadow Moth Garden at RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival 2024

### Emerging designer Sarah Mayfield presents a Day-to-Night planting pocket highlighting moth conservation

#### Media Contact Information

Sarah Mayfield

[mrs.sarahmayfield@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.sarahmayfield@gmail.com)

07795 466481

Instagram [smaygarden](#)

Site number: 203

The RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival, an iconic event in British horticulture, attracts over 120,000 visitors and is prominently featured on BBC TV's Gardeners' World. This year, the festival introduces a new category focused on resilience, showcasing planting pockets that highlight sustainable practices.

Sarah Mayfield, **mentored by gold medal-winning designer Tom Massey**, has designed The Moonshadow Moth Garden to raise awareness about the decline in moth populations. With over 2,500 species of moths in Britain, their numbers have dropped by 28% since 1968, and by 40% in the South. Sarah aims to inspire visitors to consider simple and practical planting and conservation strategies that support moth life cycles, contributing to a healthier ecosystem.

"Supporting resilience in our gardens is not just about sustainability, but about creating new dimensions of pleasure and engagement with the natural world," says Sarah Mayfield. "A day-to-night garden can transform how we interact with our spaces, providing enjoyment and ecological benefits around the clock."

A central feature is a harmless "**moth trap**," a theatrical talking point designed to engage the public and promote conversation. This interactive element serves as a fun and educational activity that can be easily replicated in home gardens with household objects, including a **bed sheet hung over a washing line and a torch**. Much of the other conservation strategies are also **simple to copy**, and Sarah has **grown much of the plants herself**, demonstrating that **if she can do this, anyone can**. In response to the RHS judging of show gardens that now tolerate 'caterpillar damage' to plants, Sarah also asks the general gardener to reconsider the traditional phrase 'caterpillar damage' and instead consider plants to be '**caterpillar approved**'.

Sarah Mayfield, born and raised near Liverpool, is an emerging garden designer based in Brighton. After starting her career in the corporate world, Sarah pursued her passion for art and creative expression through garden design. She studied at Plumpton College where she teaches subjects such as propagation, soil health, and creating a pollinator garden. Inspired by the South Downs and East Sussex coast, Sarah is dedicated to creating resilient gardens that enhance both beauty and biodiversity.

The Moonshadow Moth Garden, one of nine selected to explore resilience at the RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival, will be up for a **People Choice award**. The planting pocket introduces simple to copy planting and gardening strategies that support moth populations. Designed by Sarah Mayfield, the garden features moonlight-white meadow planting rich in nectar, a central "moth trap" feature, and a native tree canopy. The garden offers a sanctuary that is both lively and informative, bridging the gap between day and night in a beautiful, seamless composition.

Moth Night Documentation: Sarah conducted a moth night at One Garden Brighton, with the help of moth experts. They identified a wide range of species and have some **outstanding photographs** (see below). This will be **repeated at Hampton Court**, the using a 'light moth trap' moth, experts will open the trap during a photo call on **1st July 10:35am**.

Charity Collaboration, The Wild Flower Conservation Society, a local charity have provided native plants some rare and the one food source to a species. They manage the gathering and propagation of local wild flower seeds and then arrange the planting in sites across the South Downs and other wildlife areas. [www.wildflowerconservationsociety.com](http://www.wildflowerconservationsociety.com)

Garden relocation, many plants for the show garden have been grown at One Garden Brighton - Plumpton College a centre of educational excellence in teaching Horticulture. The plants will be returned back to serve as educational resources for horticulture and garden design students.

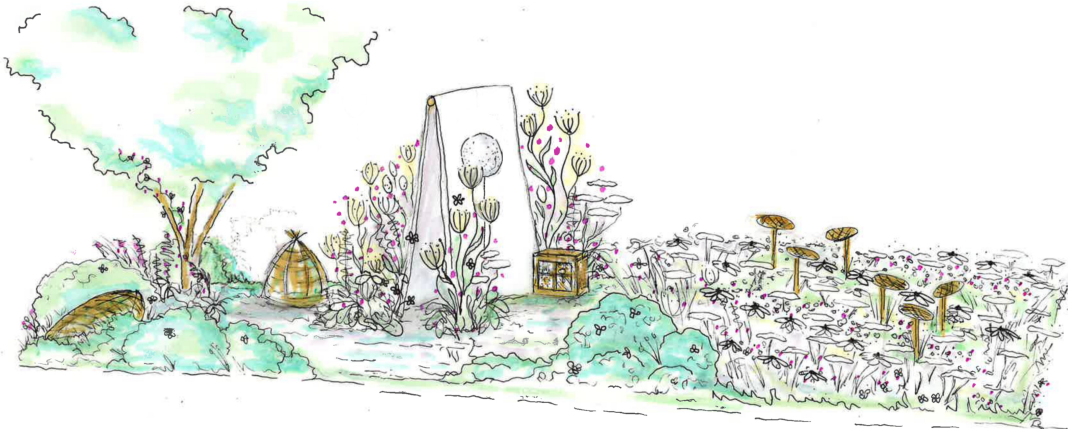
### Key Plant list

<i>Achillea ageratum</i>	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> 'Credo'	
<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	(Caterpillar approved)
<i>Alchemilla erythropoda</i>	
<i>Amaranthus</i>	(Living bird food)
<i>Briza media</i>	
<i>Buddleia</i> 'Hot Raspberry'	(Dwarf variety, suitable for pot/small space)
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	(Supports entire ecosystem)
<i>Cynoglossum</i> 'Mystery Rose'	
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> 'Pam's Choice'	(Hero plant - pollinators love em')
<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>	(Winter seed head)
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	(Rare, supplied by The Wild Flower Conservation Society)
<i>Fuchsia Hawkshead</i>	(Adult moth favourite)
<i>Galium vernum</i>	
<i>Lamium maculatum</i> 'White Nancy'	
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> 'Belgica Select'	(Elephant hawk-moth favourite)
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	
<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	
<i>Oenothera speciosa</i> 'Pink Petticoats'	(easy to grow from seed, suitable for window-sill)
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	
<i>Orlaya grandiflora</i>	
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	
<i>Verbena</i> × <i>baileyana</i> purple-leaved	
<i>Verbena officinalis</i> 'Bampton'	
<i>Zaluzianskya capensis</i> 'Midnight Candy'	(easy to grow from seed, night flowering)

**Images from Moth night:  
Credit: Bertram Greenhough**



**The Moonshadow Moth Garden**



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