

Press Release: TP 181 – Long Border ‘Deer O Deer’



Innovative Deer Garden Design Unveiled at RHS Tatton Park Flower Show 2024

Designed by Alice Meacham and Trudi Robson



West Country designers Alice Meacham and Trudi Robson are set to reveal their latest innovative garden design, ‘Deer O Deer’, at the RHS Tatton Park Flower Show 2024. This unique garden offers a solution to a common problem faced by country gardeners: protecting and selecting plants when you have deer visitors. Their experience in rural gardens has led to the creation of ingenious plant combinations that provide year-round colour and form while being more tolerant of browsing deer.

Creating a Harmonious Garden

The ‘Deer O Deer’ border is more than just a garden; it’s a harmonious blend of art and nature. Featuring two abstract steel sculptures that represent hinds browsing amid an array of carefully curated plants, the garden demonstrates that cultivated spaces don’t have to be fenced off but can be thoughtfully planted to tolerate deer browsing. While no plant is truly graze-proof, many are less palatable to deer or can cope with some nibbling. The garden includes a variety of grasses, shrubs, perennials, making it a practical and aesthetically pleasing solution for gardeners.

Balancing Deer and Garden Spaces

Recently, deer have received a lot of negative press due to the need for population management to prevent the negative impact that an out-of-balance deer population can cause. However, it is important to remember that deer are a vital part of our wildlife and can have a hugely beneficial effect when their numbers are in balance with their habitats. This garden seeks to stress the need for balance, harmony, and sustainability not only in our approach to gardens but also in the wildlife that call these spaces home.

The Role of the British Deer Society

The British Deer Society is proud to sponsor the Deer O Deer long border garden at the RHS Tatton Park Flower Show 2024. This sponsorship reflects the charity's commitment to promoting the harmonious coexistence of deer with their habitats including cultivated spaces. Deer are a vital part of the UK's wildlife, contributing to biodiversity and the health of natural ecosystems. By supporting this garden, the charity aims to educate the public on creating beautiful, deer-tolerant landscapes that protect cherished garden plants while allowing these beautiful animals to thrive.



About the Designers

Alice Meacham is a garden designer specialising in rural and coastal sites. Originally from a corporate media background, a move to the West Country inspired her to retrain as a gardener and eventually transition into garden design. Trudi Robson, a West Country native, previously worked in tourism and advertising before becoming a professional gardener and designer. The duo met when their children were at school together and have since collaborated on numerous design, renovation, and garden installation projects in the South West.

About the Sculptor



The sculptures for the 'Deer O Deer' garden are crafted by Sussex-based Simon Hempzell from his studio in Chichester. His abstract forms, made from 8mm thick corten steel, weather naturally to a lovely russet brown and can be supplied singly or as a complete set, making a fabulous standout focal point in any large garden.



Plant List

- Achillea millefolium
- Acer palmatum 'Bloodgood'
- Agapanthus 'Black Pantha'
- Anemanthele lessoniana
- Berberis thunbergii 'Red Pillar'
- Carex oshimenis 'Evergold'
- Calendula officinalis
- Choisya ternata 'Sundance'
- Cotoneaster dammeri
- Cordyline australis 'Purple Tower'
- Erigeron karvinskianus
- Hydrangea macrophylla 'Ami Pasquier'
- Kniphofia 'Tawny King'
- Miscanthus sinensis 'Morning Light'
- Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens'
- Phormium 'Platts Black'
- Pittosporum 'Tom Thumb'
- Potentilla fruticosa 'Bella Sol'
- Rosmarinus prostratus
- Salvia officinalis purpurescens
- Stachys byzantina
- Stipa tenuissima
- Yucca filamentosa
- Yucca gloriosa variegata

Contact Details:

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The British Deer Society

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Sculptor:

Simon Hempzell

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Plant Suppliers:

Peter Rider, Rainbow Plants

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Editor's Note: Journalists are invited to attend the RHS Tatton Park Flower Show 2024 to see the 'Deer O Deer' garden in person. For interview requests with Alice Meacham and Trudi Robson, or for additional high-resolution images and detailed plant lists, please contact the numbers listed above.