

from the editor

It's showtime!



THE Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show may be overseas, but many of you would have felt right at home among the phormiums, cordylines and astellas. Judging by the number of architectural plants on display, you might think that flowers had suddenly gone out of fashion!

So what's hot in horticulture across the ditch? Courtyard gardens were definitely the height of fashion, with lots of pavers and decking replacing grass. And bold and colourful foliage took centre stage, with an abundance of ruby-red and grey-leaved plants to dazzle. As far as hard landscaping materials went, stone, copper and marble were certainly high on the designer list, with stone in some form or another – stone tiles, stone walls or pebbles – present in about 80 per cent of the garden designs.

It's always fun to see what's happening on the international gardening scene, whether it's a new landscaping trend or the latest-release plants to whet our appetites. And the show didn't disappoint. One nursery told me they were trialling a blue rose – "the bluest blue you've ever seen". So watch this space. We'll be following their progress and bringing you the latest on that front in the coming months.



Spilanthes 'Peek A Boo' (a new release in Australia), planted in a large tub with a mulch of pebbles, made a simple yet effective display.

Meanwhile, turn to page 10 for a glimpse of the highlights from this year's show – and prepare to be inspired.

Jane
Jane Wrigglesworth



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features

- 10 IT'S SHOWTIME!**
Check out the horticultural highlights from the 2005 Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show.
- 14 POTTERING AROUND**
Moving to a smaller garden doesn't mean you have to sacrifice your favourite plants, as ANN HYLAND discovers.
- 16 SMALL WONDERS**
PAMELA McGEORGE visits a Southland garden that's brimming with alpines and unusual plants.
- 18 SHOWING THEIR STRIPES**
Variegated plants are ideal for lifting a dark, dull corner, says NIGEL SILVERDEN.
- 20 WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS**
Our regular garden centre guide. We visit Sunhill Garden Centre in Auckland.
- 22 COASTING ALONG**
MARK RAYNER reckons gardening beside the sea is easy when you choose the right plants.
- 24 TAKE COVER**
JANE BELLERBY extols the virtues of sowing cover crops.
- 26 FIELDS OF LAVENDER**
LYNN KIRKLAND calls in at Graelynn Lavender in Taranua to learn more about this calming herb.

columns

- 6 LETTERS TO EDITOR**
- 31 OFF THE SHELF**
- 8 GARDEN NEWS**
- 32 COOL KIDS GROW**
- 25 GARDENING SNIPPETS**
- 34 CLASSIFIEDS**
- 28 PLANT DOCTOR**
- 38 CROSSWORD**
- 29 DIARY**
- 39 PLANT GALLERY**
- 30 SUBSCRIPTIONS**

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