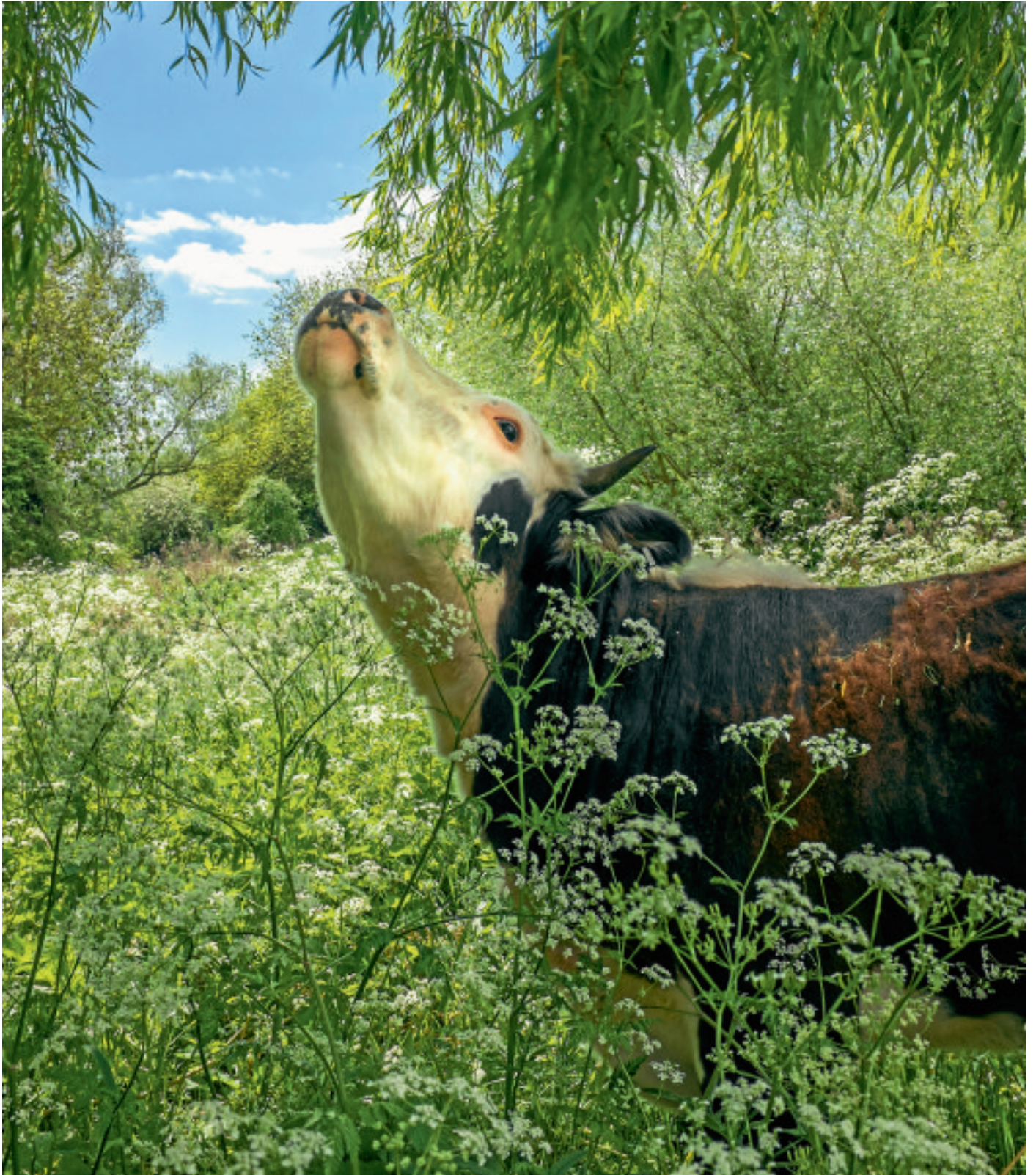


CAMBRIDGE

peoplehomesfashionfoodmotoring magazine



Compiled by Alice Ryan

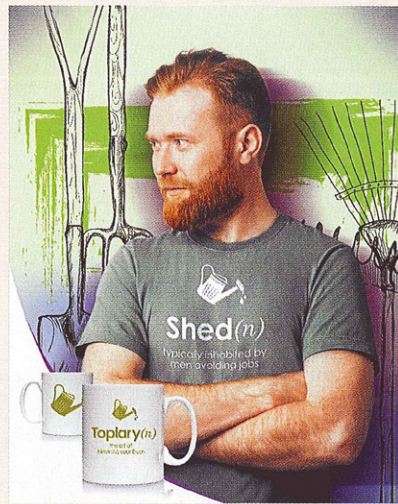
MUST BUY

Gardening is getting hipper by the day. Fact.

Take this too-cool-for-school collection of gardening gear, new from Papworth Trust. Being sold to raise funds for the charity, which supports the disabled, their families and carers, it includes mugs, bags and tops – each emblazoned with a cheeky dictionary redefinition.

Our favourite? 'Topiary (n): the art of trimming your bush.' Ahem.

▶ papworthtrust.org.uk/shop



Best bloom. . .



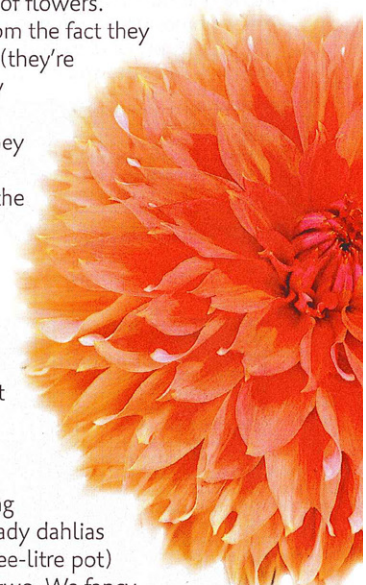
DAHLIA EXPLOSION, LEFT; DAHLIA CAMBRIDGE, BELOW; DAHLIA ORANGE FUBUKI, BOTTOM

As regular readers of these pages will know, as far as we're concerned dahlias can do no wrong. Coming in all shapes, sizes and colours of the rainbow, they're the most joyful of flowers.

And, apart from the fact they loathe the cold (they're native to muggy Mexico, where, legend has it, they were unearthed by Hidalgos in the 1500s), they're pretty easy-going sorts to boot. What more could you want?

Our friends at Mr Fothergill's, the plant place in Kentford, are currently offering three garden-ready dahlias (£9.95 for a three-litre pot) for the price of two. We fancy streaky-petalled Explosion, bright Orange Fubuki and, of course, the red-freckled Cambridge (well, it would be rude not to).

▶ mr-fothergills.co.uk



What to do in July

Ah. This is a nice job. Both sweet peas and dahlias will be flowering their hearts out by now. And the best way to keep those flowers coming? Cut them as often as you remember: the more blooms you cut – and enjoy in a jug on the kitchen table – the more energy the plant can put into producing new buds. That's what you call a win-win.

We live in a famously arid area of the country; like as not, your lawn is starting to look a little parched. The best advice we can give, when faced with browning grass, is DON'T PANIC. As soon as we get some rain (and this is the British summer: we won't be waiting long) it'll bounce back to its former green-and-pleasant glory.

Home-grown salad leaves are one of summer's tastiest (and least labour-intensive) pleasures. If you've got a bare patch in a border, or a patio pot going spare, use it to sow a selection of seeds: we favour lamb's lettuce, rocket and claytonia. Because you're going to cut the leaves while young and tender, the plants won't need room to mature – so sow nice and densely. You'll be dressing a bowl of own-grown salad before you know it.



ORLA KIELY FLOWER STEM STRING-IN-A-TIN, £13, AT JOHN LEWIS, GRAND ARCADE, CAMBRIDGE

We love. . .



While we have a sneaking admiration for the gnome (it's the little rosy cheeks), there's no doubt in our minds: garden ornaments don't get better than this.

Cute yet also incredibly elegant, these outsize ceramic cherries were created by Brazilian designer Lisa Pappon for Bull & Stein; exclusive to urbanlivinginteriors.co.uk, prices start at £98 for a 12cm fruit. Just gorgeous.