

'Right to grow' for Scottish city dwellers

A 'right to grow' for urban communities is among proposals from the Scottish Government to give local people more say over what happens in their local areas.

Under the Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill, city dwellers would have the right to access and turn neglected land into allotments and community gardens, if the owner could not show plans for its future use. Other proposals include allowing people to take over under-used public sector land; to have the right to buy land (as they already can in rural areas); and to let local people buy disused land by compulsory purchase.

Local Government and Planning Minister Derek Mackay said the move would be the biggest transfer of power since devolution. 'We believe the people of Scotland are best placed to take decisions about their future, both at a national and local level,' he said.

Water-use prize

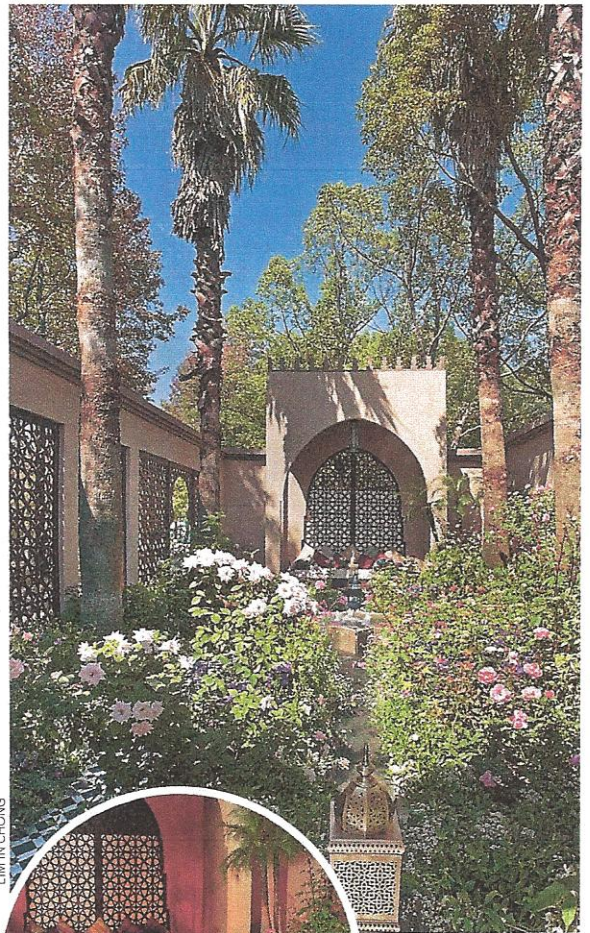
The Potting Shed, an online service from Anglian Water with RHS advice, took first place in the Landscape and Gardening section of the Environment Agency and Waterwise UK Water Efficiency Awards 2012. More than 30,000 kits of water-storing crystals and information about drought-tolerant plants were distributed to encourage customers to use water more efficiently.

World Cup victory for Malaysia

Landscape architect Lim In Chong from Malaysia won Best in Show at this year's Gardening World Cup in Nagasaki, Japan, with a Middle Eastern-themed garden called 'Eye to Eye' (right). A garden of two halves, it depicted a journey from war to peace. Pathways lit by lanterns led the way from a stark, plant-free space on raised shards of rusty metal, through an eye-shaped 'mirror' gate to a peaceful Islamic garden of roses and *Cosmos* under giant *Washingtonia robusta* palms.

In September, RHS Head of Judging Bob Sweet led a team of judges for the 12 gardens by international designers. Three were British: James Basson depicted a bullet's passage through concrete in 'Dulce et Decorum Est'; Jo Thompson's 'The Butterfly Effect' explored the after-effects of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki; and Richard Miers created an elegantly English outdoor dining area with 'Serenity'.

❖ www.gardeningworldcup.jp/en/



LIM IN CHONG



The peaceful paradise of Lim In Chong's Middle Eastern-styled garden in the day (above) and lit by candles at night (inset).

New and interesting plants



J VAIN ZOIEST

Clematis Princess Kate ('Zoprika')

A new Texensis Group clematis with purple-red buds that open into white, tulip-shaped flowers, with red-purple stamens. Plants in 2-litre pots are £14.99 from Thorncroft Clematis. www.thorncroftclematis.co.uk



TULY NURSERIES

Hebe 'Rhubarb and Custard'

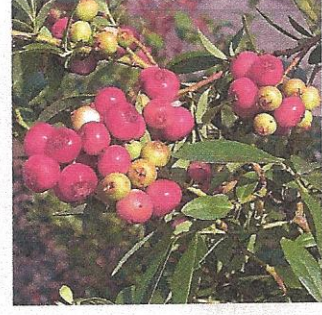
The green, pink and cream foliage of this new evergreen is complemented by lilac flowers in June. With a rounded habit, it is said to have good mildew and leaf spot resistance. In garden centres from March 2013.



DEREK SPICER

Chamaecyparis lawsoniana 'Pearly Swirls'

A compact new conifer with creamy white foliage, said to hold its bright appearance all year. A 7-litre pot is £29.99 from Larch Cottage Nurseries. www.larchcottage.co.uk



SUTTONS SEEDS

Blueberry 'Pink Lemonade'

An unusual *Vaccinium*, the pink-white, bell-like flowers of which form sweet berries that ripen to pink. Dobies of Devon offers 1.3-litre pots at £14.99. Free postage for RHS members. www.dobies.co.uk