

Reproduced by kind permission of Evensford Productions Limited and Pollinger Limited. Copyright c Evensford Productions Limited, 1968.



GARDENS OF IDEAS I

UNDERSOIL HEATING FOR SUB-TROPICAL TREASURES

H. E. Bates, the well-known novelist, has visited five gardens each of which has an unusual idea behind its success. He starts this new series with the Surrey garden of Lœlia Duchess of Westminster

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DMITRI KASTERNE

IT HAS long seemed to me a fair bet that deep in the heart of 90 per cent. of gardeners in these islands there lies a secret dream: namely that some day, by the grace of God or some meteorological miracle, our climate will be so revolutionised that its mean winter temperature will be raised by anything between 10 and 15 degrees.

In that happy event we should be able to grow, outdoors, such things as bougainvillea, daturas, *plumbago capensis* and the more tender bignonias instead of merely ivy on the old garden wall; hibiscus would replace holly as the fiery emblem of winter; we should never see nasturtiums, begonias, geranias and geraniums reduced every autumn to the consistency of stewed seaweed; flower arrangers might well have a positive harvest festival with those strange sea-anemone beauties the proteas; mimosa, even now worth a try outside in southern England, would become the commonest of confections to grace midwinter. But,

as Gertrude Jekyll well observed when she wrote, 60 years ago: "I am strongly of the opinion that the possession of a quantity of plants, however good the plants may be themselves and however ample their number, does not make a garden . . . It is just in the way it is done that lies the whole difference between commonplace gardening and gardening that may rightly claim to rank as a fine art."

Nor need a garden be large in order to be inspiring. The very vastness of some large gardens, filled as they all too often are with ancient herbaceous borders long gone to pot, can be chilling. It is much more likely to be the small garden, faithfully reflecting its owner's taste, temperament, character and affection, which warms the heart and delights the eye. This I found to be very much the case in the comparatively small garden of Lœlia, Duchess of Westminster, at the Old Vicarage Cottage at Send, in Surrey.

Here, among other things, the

NOTICE: This Material

may be protected by copyright
law. (Title 17 U.S. Code)



ELECTRIC soil heaters in a walled flower bed (left) enable the Duchess of Westminster to grow sub-tropical plants which survive even the harshest of English winters. A polythene tent is put over them during the cold weather. The Duchess, who owns two miniature schnauzer dogs — David and Jonathan — created her garden at Send, in Surrey, from a mud patch in only six years. The heated beds hold even cannas and a banana tree, and behind them (right) a wall of more traditional oak and elm provides a perfect backdrop. Most of the work in the garden is done by the Duchess herself, and her "green fingers" have had a special triumph with the de Graaf hybrid lilies (below) from bulbs given to her by a grower in the United States



Duchess has achieved her own small miracle of cheating our untrustworthy climate: a fact not at all unsurprising when you see her predilection for strength of colour expressed in flower borders that verge on the exotic. Her solution to the problem of growing sub-tropical treasures in the open is a simple one and by no means the prerogative of the millionaire. What she has done is simply to build a raised oblong bed walled in by rock and heated by underground electric cables. From this the ravages of winter are kept away by a polythene tent which is removed with the arrival of summer.

The result is a sort of outdoor conservatory in which banana trees flourish side by side with daturas, bignonias, the lovely pale blue *plumbago capensis*, foliage begonias and a number of other highly desirable exotics. The shelter of the white house wall not only provides added protection for these treasures but a cool backcloth against which the flowers of the plumbago sit

like tender clutches of thrushes' eggs. Not to be outdone by this sub-tropical glamour a large group of *agapanthus umbellatus* flaunts its own heavenly blue in the open, completely unprotected, thus strengthening an opinion. I have long held: namely that a great many things that the books tell us are tender are in fact hardy enough to survive even a winter as savage as 1963, when even in my freezing garden not a single so-called tender subject was lost.

THIS comparatively small garden — the Duchess calls it humble, which it is not — rose only six years ago from a crater of mud in which bulldozers wallowed like tanks in a battlefield. And as if it were in fact a battlefield two scimitar-shaped beds stand facing each other very like those resplendent armies clad in grenadier scarlet and gold that one used to see in pictures of Zulu wars. In some ways those brilliantly mixed beds flout what is called good taste, at the same time

having a great virtue of being exciting.

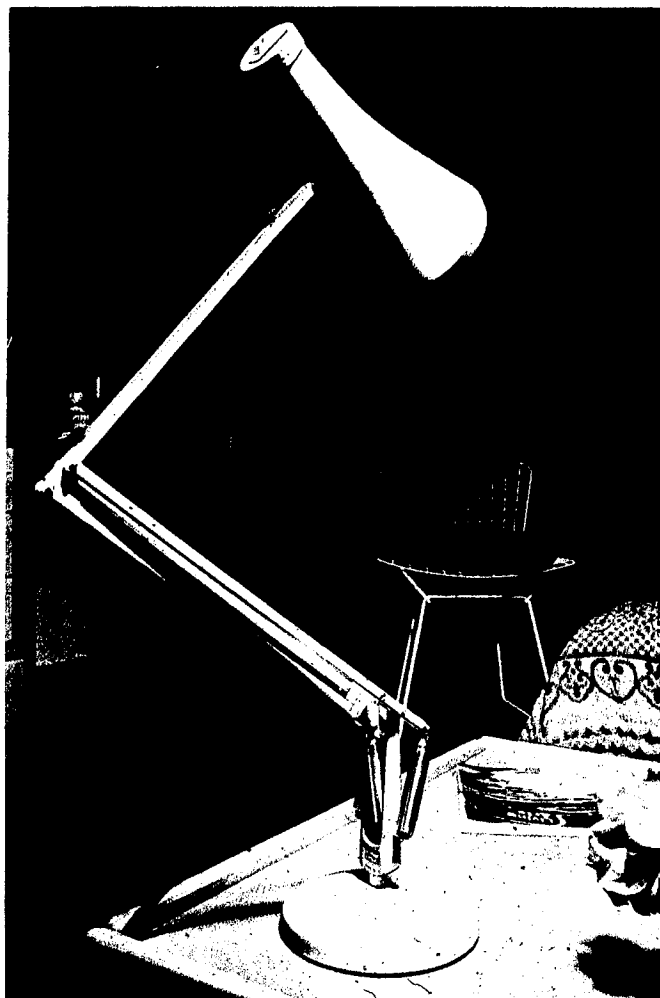
Most women, I find, are hypersensitive about colour in gardens, even to the extent of being afraid of it. They recoil from the quarrelsome clash of magentas and reds, the too savage glare of oranges and sugar pinks. Fond though I am of cool mauves and whites and greys and silvers my taste and temperament, like those of the Duchess, demand a certain amount of drama, a touch of fire, in the garden air, even though the outrageous flames may offend the purist's eye. The dramatic mixture of purple and vermillion phloxes, floribunda roses, dahlias, heleniums and other high summer fires, all burning away as in some floral bonfire, will doubtless displease the timid, but it will also undoubtedly satisfy those who, like me, find the greater part of English painting too literary by half and revel in the clashing splendours of painters such as Matisse, Bonnard, Matthew Smith and the Fauves.

As we exchanged views on dislikes

and preferences the Duchess and I found common ground in plants that, apparently for nothing else than sheer natural cussedness, would simply not grow for us, love them as we might. It turned out that the chief of these was the old madonna lily, so bountiful with its marbled grace in a host of cottage gardens but so stubbornly unco-operative for both of us that every effort to grow it had ended in dire and wretched failure.

My love is unreturned by all lilies. The Duchess is luckier. A bountiful gift of those expensive and coveted de Graaf hybrids from America adorns her bed of shrub roses with a healthy splendour that makes the madonna failure look still more inexplicable. Here these pink and yellow and orange and burnt sienna beauties flaunt themselves like opulent Victorian aristocrats at some exclusive ball, outshining even the exotic bignonias and daturas and filling me with silent envy. Perhaps because the

(continued on page 32)



**This lamp is
almost perfect**

(it just needs training)



A fingertip touch and the Anglepoise lamp is trained to perfection: Light just where it's wanted. Perfectly angled. Perfectly poised. Here is the modern idea in lighting—flexible, functional, and yet gracefully styled to be at home in any setting. Available in a choice of six colours, New Anglepoise costs £7.15.4 (inc. p. tax). The Standard Model remains at £5.8.2 (inc. p. tax). For a free descriptive leaflet and list of stockists, write to the sole manufacturers: Herbert Terry & Sons Ltd., Dept. 21, Redditch, Worcestershire

Anglepoise
the lamp with the personal touch

UNDERSOIL HEATING FOR SUB-TROPICAL TREASURES

continued August morning of my visit was dark with thunder-clouds the lilies had a sort of alabaster candescence that sharp sunlight might not have given. At any rate a sudden drifting of light rain presently drove us into the house, where mild envy rose in me again.

Since I am utterly useless with my hands, I stood in stunned admiration at the skilled patience with which the Duchess creates flowerpieces in cross-stitch and minute crystalline beads of many colours, to give not the effect of those crude wool affairs once seen in Victorian cottages, but rather, exquisite in their tortoise-shell frames, the delicacy of 18th-century Chinese paintings on silk. It wasn't at all surprising, it seemed to me, that such skill and ardent affection for flowers should be reflected in the garden outside.

BEFORE leaving I took one more look at the regimental array of the two borders, to be suddenly struck by something I hadn't really noticed before: that the ordered lines of young fruit-trees behind them and still farther beyond them a wall of oak and elm provided a back-cloth for the drama of colour that was absolutely right. And for some reason, as I looked at it, I was inconsequently reminded of a passage in a letter of Chekhov's. Far away in Yalta in February 1900 he was writing thus to the actress Olga Knipper, far away in dismal Moscow: "Lilies, irises, tulips, tuberoses, hyacinths, all are pushing out of the ground. The willow is already green. By the little seat in the corner the grass is luxuriant already. The almond tree is in blossom. . . I have made three bridges over the stream. I am planting palms."

I have always been particularly fond of that passage; it is like a Chinese painting itself; it breathes affection in its every syllable—an essential without which no garden, whether of duchesses or cottagers, can ever completely enchant or succeed.

March 15: H. E. Bates visits the Birmingham garden where Roy Elliott grows 4,000 alpine

Suffering for science

Research into ways of curing disease sometimes involves clinical experiment on human volunteers to produce the information the scientists need. In next week's *Daily Telegraph Magazine*, JENNY CAMPBELL meets "The Human Guinea Pigs", and some of the tests they undergo are photographed by ANTHONY HOWARTH. Also: a report on "China Today", by NORMAN BARRYMAINE: and a profile of Graham Greene by fellow-novelist V. S. NAIPAUL.

Audi SERVICE CENTRES

BERKSHIRE:
Swanhill Garage, Shilvenham. Tel: 721;
Central Newbury Motors, Newbury. Tel: 2000

BRISTOL:
CHARLES CRUIKSHANK MOTORS LTD., BRISTOL.
Tel: 25280

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE:
DENHAM MOTOR SALES, DENHAM. Tel: 2661;
Chalfont Station Garage, Amersham.
Tel: Little Chalfont 2711

CAMBRIDGESHIRE:
MALONEY & RHODES, CAMBRIDGE. Tel: 47268

CHESHIRE:
Thingwall Garages, Thingwall. Tel: Irby 1315

CORNWALL:
COTSWOLD GARAGE, FOWEY. Tel: 3468

CUMBERLAND:
Birmingham Motors, Carlisle. Tel: 23855

DEVON:
ROGERS' GARAGES, PAIGINTON. Tel: 56234/5;
Fairway Motors, Barnstaple. Tel: 5181;
Westland Motors, Exeter. Tel: 95590;
Greenbank Service Station, Plymouth. Tel: 60009

DORSET:
Central Garage, Ferndown. Tel: 2055;
Maiden Castle Service Station, Dorchester. Tel: 301

DURHAM:
MILL GARAGES, SUNDERLAND. Tel: 58225/6;
John S. Roe, Hartlepool. Tel: 2345

ESSEX:
CAMBRIDGE MOTORS, CHELMSFORD. Tel: 55822;
Belgore Motors, Glade Park, Romford. Tel: 40904

GLOUCESTERSHIRE:
CENTRAL MOTORS, GLOUCESTER. Tel: 22976;
Charlton Kings Motors, Chelltenham. Tel: 27754

HAMPSHIRE:
MODERN LIGHT CARS, SOUTHAMPTON. Tel: 22828;
Tel: Turgis Green 211; Sherfield Garage, Nr. Basingstoke

HANTS:
Young's Garage, Gosport. Tel: 80261;
Continental Cars, Camberley. Tel: 22475;
MAJESTIC GARAGE, BOURNEMOUTH. Tel: 25333/4/5

HERTFORDSHIRE:
Parkhouse, Hatfield. Tel: 2582

KENT:
EUROPEAN AUTOS, MAIDSTONE. Tel: 81068;
Leonard & Charge, Tonbridge. Tel: 2449/4884;
Simpsons Service Station, Bexleyheath. Tel: 1161

LANCASHIRE:
CLIFF HOLDEN, PETER ST., MANCHESTER.
Tel: Deane 5891

LEICESTERSHIRE:
Chorley Auto, Chorley. Tel: 22778;
Darwen Motor, Tel: Blackburn 57841;
Zed Motors, Liverpool, 4. Tel: Stanley 1692;
Prestwich Garage, Prestwich. Tel: 4176

LEICESTERSHIRE:
Johnsons Garage, Hinckley. Tel: 3934;
C. & S. Wilson, Leicester. Tel: 61241/61878

LINCOLNSHIRE:
London Road Garage, Boston. Tel: 3283/4;
Alexandra Motors, Grimsby. Tel: 7274/5

LONDON:
NORMAN LTD., 127 PARK LANE, W.1. Tel: MAYfair 5831
and at 132 SLOANE STREET, S.W.1. Tel: SLOane 9538/9;
Blue Star Garage, Watford Way, N.W.1.
Tel: MILL Hill 6187;
Alan Day, Finchley Rd., N.W.3. HAMPSHIRE 1133;
Bridge Motors, Forest Road, S.17. Tel: COPpermill 6717;
Waterloo Barriage Co., Hatfield, S.E.1.
Tel: WAterloo 6707;
Quinn Motors, Upper Richmond Rd. West, S.W.14.
Tel: 876 8888

MIDDLESEX:
Thameside Service Station, Wandsworth, S.W.18.
Tel: WAterloo 2386

MIDDLESEX:
Clock Tower Garage, Hounslow. Tel: 7247;
NORFOLK:
Robinson's Autostar Garage, Norwich. Tel: 27134/5/6; —
Peter Guest, Kings Lynn. Tel: 4128

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE:
MOTORS PLANT, Nr. PETERBOROUGH. Tel: 363

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE:
Kingshorpe Garage, Northampton. Tel: 35361/2/3

NORTHUMBRIA:
Condercum Service Station, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
Tel: 39951

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE:
B. & K. THOMAS, NOTTINGHAM. Tel: 82121

OXFORDSHIRE:
Luxica, Oxford. Tel: 40101

SOMERSET:
Super Star Garage, Nr. Taunton. Tel: West Monkton 296

STAFFORDSHIRE:
Ken Jarvis Ltd., New Garage, Stoke-on-Trent. Tel: 29118;
Westley Garages, Walsall. Tel: 23648

SURREY:
WORKING MOTORS, BYFLEET. Tel: 42233;
Bale & Co., Croydon. Tel: 3112

SUSSEX:
Sargent & Brooker Ltd., 147/149 London Road,
East Grinstead. Tel: 23678

SUSSEX:
Eastern Garages, Brighton 7. Tel: 64580;
Prestwich Ltd., Burgess Hill. Tel: 2961

WARWICKSHIRE:
CAROLS GARAGE, BIRMINGHAM. Tel: Broadwell 2825;
Orin-Toshey Ltd., Warwick. Tel: 43771

WESTMORLAND:
Staveley Motors, Nr. Kendal. Tel: Staveley 442

WORCESTERSHIRE:
BLACK & WHITE GARAGES, EVESHAM. Tel: 456/7/8;
Swinford Motors, Sloughbridge. Tel: Lye 2975

YORKSHIRE:
CHARLES SIDNEY, BRADFORD. 3. Tel: 41307;
Arthur Reed, Hull. Tel: 35953;
North Riding Garages, Pickering. Tel: 2251;
Huddersfield Garages, Huddersfield. Tel: 54523;
Hoffman's, Sheffield, 11. Tel: 78705

NORTHERN IRELAND:
ISAAC AGNEW, BELFAST, 12. Tel: 33633

CHANNEL ISLANDS:
JACKSONS GARAGE, ST. HELIER.
Tel: Central 20281

WALES:
Jacksons Garage, Guernsey. Tel: Central 3918

WALSLEY:
THOMAS WILCOCK, COLWYN BAY. Tel: 30486;
Regent Garage, Criccieth. Tel: 3655;
Valley Motors, Anglesey. Tel: 471

SCOTLAND:
Continental Cars, Tivoli Garage, Cardiff. Tel: 71395;
T. A. Milburn & Son, Star Garage, Gaerwan, Anglesey.
Tel: 249

WATKINS GARAGE, Newport. Tel: 8770;
Tangier Motors, Wexford, Ireland. Tel: 3655;
Llanwenarth Motors, Nr. Cricchiwell. Tel: 421

SCOTLAND:
CALLANDERS ENGINEERING, GLASGOW, W.2.
Tel: Wm 825

BURNS STATUE GARAGE, Ayr. Tel: 63338;
Western Automobile, Edinburgh 11. Tel: Cra 2066;
Relliance Motors, Perth. Tel: 26331;
Douglas Salmon, Kirkcaldy

Distributors in capitals

AN export enquiries direct to:
**AUTO UNION (G.B.) LTD., GREAT WEST
ROAD, BRENTFORD, MIDDLESEX.**
TELEPHONE: 01-560 2151