



5 MINUTES WITH
MATT COLLINS

*Head Gardener at
 The Garden Museum*

The Garden Museum has a shady courtyard garden. Tell us about some of the plants that thrive there. The courtyard is a challenging site, but it's been cleverly planted by Dan Pearson with varieties from all over the world to reflect the story of the Tradescants – the 16th- and 17th-century plant collectors who are buried here. We have Australian violets, yellow ginger lilies from the Himalayas, a rare Mexican tree dahlia and *Fatsia polycarpa* from Taiwan.

What simple change can gardeners make to be more sustainable? Make your own compost – it's one of the best things to add to soil to help improve the structure and drainage.

What's your favourite thing about gardening in May? For me, it's that feeling of gardening in sync with nature. It's so good for the spirits.

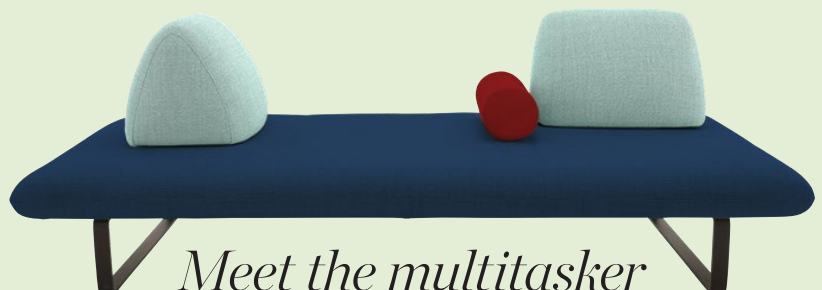
What's the most exciting trend you're seeing in gardening at the moment? I'm really happy to see a better understanding of where plants come from, horticulturally as well as politically. People are more interested in how plants grow in their home regions and discovering more about their cultural associations (@museum_gardener).



*How to use
 outdoor sculpture*

Anna Greenacre, curator of renowned modern-sculpture show 'On Form', gives us her top tips for placing artwork in a garden

- **First, ask yourself what you want the sculpture to do.** Should it draw the eye down the garden, break up the space or simply be something to look out on?
 - **Don't assume it needs to go in the middle of your lawn or patio.** Sculpture works well in flower beds, on a garden table or against a wall or hedge.
 - **Scale is important, but small gardens don't have to mean small sculptures.** A large piece can add a sense of energy and fun to a space.
 - **Light it well.** This is especially important for wall reliefs. In the right place, the sun can act as a natural spotlight.
 - **Enlist friends or family to help you work out the best spot.** Stone is very tactile, so make sure it's accessible if you want to be able to touch it.
- 'On Form', from 12 June – 10 July 2022 (onformsculpture.co.uk).*



Meet the multitasker

German designer Christian Werner's new 'Murtoli' chaise is something of a master shapeshifter. Not only is his new design for Ligne Roset suitable for outdoors (thanks to water-repellent fabric) but its cushions can be detached. 'Made to be used as a sofa, daybed or chaise, it's easily transferred from terraces to living rooms,' says general manager Olivier Roset. There are more than 50 fabric shades to choose from, with the option to mix and match. £4,716 (ligne-roset.com). **ED**

PICTURES: EVA NEWETH, OULIE TOWINSON | PETER VAN DEN BERG, SCULPTURES: WILLIAM PEERS, JORDI BAGÀ, PAUL VANSTONE