

RHS Garden Wisley

Showcase of sustainably-grown food

Both beautiful and productive, the World Food Garden celebrates growing edibles in a sustainable way that is positive for the environment and biodiversity. The garden operates on a 'no dig' basis to improve soil health. "We use mixed plantings to confuse crop-damaging creatures, feed the soil through mulching with organic matter and provide natural feeds only for plants in pots," says Garden Manager Sheila Das.

The garden is split into distinct areas, each packed with ideas to try at home. In the Herb and Flower Garden, you can sit immersed among fragrant and floral edibles and enjoy food and drink from the World Food Café. In August, the area hums with pollinators and is full of colour from edible blooms. "The flowers of Salvia elegans 'Scarlet Pineapple' and 'Tangerine' are particularly tasty," says Horticulturist Sarah Henson. "Amaranthus 'Red Army' catches your eye with its striking crimson tassels. Its leaves are delicious raw in salads or cooked like spinach."

The Good to Grow beds are filled with tried-and-tested edibles - a selection of gardeners' favourites or those with the RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM). Sweet corn and squashes look good this month, and pale yellow climbing French bean 'Golden Gate' AGM, blight-resistant tomatoes 'Crimson Crush' and 'Mountain Magic' and cucumber 'Marketmore' AGM are cropping. Find crops from different cuisines in The World Maze, such as vigorous South American climber achocha 'Bolivian Giant' with fruit that tastes like cucumber eaten raw and pepper when roasted or fried.

To make the most of family days out and find fun things to see and do, come rain or shine, visit rhs.org.uk/wisleyfamilies

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Not to miss

National Plant Collection of Pelargonium

July-August
See a selection of
Wisley's Plant Heritage
National Plant
Collection on display
in containers around
the Laboratory and
in the Cottage Garden.

Summer holiday fun: The Great Garden Adventure

23 July-29 August Enjoy outdoor adventures for all the family.

Walkies at Wisley

8 August 6–8.30pm and 26 August 6–8pm Explore the garden with your four-legged friend. Members and dogs free; non-members: adults £7.50, children £4. Book online: rhs.org.uk/ walkiesatwisley

Hilltop Live 2pm daily

Visit RHS Hilltop – The Home of Gardening Science for advice and how-to demonstrations and find out about the fascinating scientific research of the RHS.

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