

# The ENGLISH GARDEN

*For everyone who loves beautiful gardens*

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### SPRING BLOOMERS

The flowers that bloom in the spring, tra-la' are, most popularly, hyacinths, fritillaries and, of course, daffodils. But horticulturalists at Rutgers University working with the Goldsmith's Seed Co. in the US have discovered a simple, effective technique that adds aquilegias to the list of early flowerers. By chilling the seeds and then growing them through mild nights and cool days the plants will bloom sooner. This technique is the culmination of work by Dr Richard Merritt and Dr Thomas Gianfagna and also encourages the plants to bloom throughout the season. These 'super' seeds will be available commercially next year.

### THE MIGHTY PELARGONIUM

The red spider mite is the bane of gardeners, as it chews its destructive way through many plants, including the pelargonium. However, help is at hand. Some varieties of pelargoniums are resistant to the mite and American researchers have discovered that these resistant varieties have long surface hairs which carry a form of a compound called anacardic acid. Experiments show that it should be possible to transfer this characteristic to commercial varieties without too much trouble, producing pelargoniums that are mightier than the mite.

### COO, THATS NICE ▶

A dovecote in the garden gives a romantic feel of olde England. These are made of pressure treated timber and you can choose the colour. The Avonwick, right, stands 3.3 metres and can house six pairs of doves. It retails at £520. For orders made before 31 May 1998, quoting *The English Garden*, the price is £500. Shipping quotes on enquiry. Kootensaw Dovecotes, Moorcott, Diptford, Totnes, Devon TQ9 7NX. Tel: + 44 1548 821415 or website: [www.btinternet.com/~dovecotes](http://www.btinternet.com/~dovecotes).

### CHARLES PROWELL WOODWORKS ▼

A third generation craftsman, Charles Prowell has been creating furniture and garden structures for many years. Pictured here is a gate made from kiln dried heart redwood from his new range of garden fencing. Six designs of gate are available, made to the highest specifications, using mortice and floating tenon joints for strength. Prices start at \$550 for a gate and \$250 for a five foot length of fencing. For information, contact Charles Prowell at 222 Pitt Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472. Tel: 707 823 8013.

