


BBC Gardeners' World Live

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16 – 19 June 2022 | Birmingham NEC

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Frances' Garden - a sustainable, post-industrial garden for a modern world

BBC *Gardeners' World* presenter Frances Tophill takes the reins of the headline Show Garden at BBC Gardeners' World Live (16 – 19 June) in the year that marks the 100-year anniversary of the BBC.

With sustainability at the heart of the design, Frances' Garden is structurally inspired by the Bauhaus era of the 1920s, when the BBC was formed, juxtaposed with naturalistic planting, lush greenery and rewilded areas to support wildlife. The garden will illustrate the beauty that can ensue as nature is allowed to take its course. Visitors will see how plants can intertwine with a stylised landscape, increasing opportunities for biodiversity and sustainability in our built-up spaces.

Softening the geometric shapes within the garden that represent our industrial past, encroaching flora will be a kaleidoscope of plants with a purpose, be it medicinal or nutritional, or as a source of food or habitat for wildlife. A specimen apple tree, *Delbard Estivale*, will be set amongst a woodland understory

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of purple with accents of orange and red, peppered with naturally growing edibles and garden vegetables.

Locally sourced, reclaimed and recycled materials feature throughout the garden design. A grid of sunken Belfast sink ponds sits at the centre, with a vintage greenhouse made from reclaimed wooden windows, a shed made of rusty-patina corrugated iron, and a 2.5m tall bug arch utilising antique radiators, clay pipes, bricks and tiles to create a range of habitats for wildlife.

Contributing to the sustainable nature of the garden, Frances has chosen to work only with plants grown in peat free compost, that have been allowed to grow naturally in the run up to the Show.


Frances says, "I'm tremendously excited to be creating my first Show Garden at BBC Gardeners' World Live, especially in the 100th anniversary year of the BBC". Frances continues "My garden design shows how plants and wildlife can soften even the most industrial of spaces - the boundaries between manmade and the living world blurs as natural forces are allowed back in, to take charge. I hope that visitors come away from the garden with a lasting impression of the wonders of what nature can do given the chance to recover".

Take-home ideas will be in abundance, from the use of existing materials to create garden features to maximising every inch of a plot and creating a variety of habitats within a small space. Visitors will come away with a feeling of balance and equilibrium as the human world sits harmoniously with the landscape as well as the flora and fauna within.

BBC Gardeners' World Live runs from 16 – 19 June 2022 at The NEC in Birmingham. For more information visit www.bbcgardenersworldlive.com.

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NOTES TO EDITOR

About **BBC Gardeners' World Live**, Birmingham NEC:

Thursday 16 June	9am – 6pm
Friday 17 June	9am – 6pm
Saturday 18 June	9am – 6pm
Sunday 19 June	9am – 5pm

Co-located with the BBC Good Food Show Summer.

Book tickets: bbcgardenersworldlive.com

Event Contact: Sarah Sandys-Renton, 07500 762 168 / ssr@immediate.co.uk

Details correct at time of print.

In an event is postponed, cancelled or Immediate Live (the trading name of Upper Street Events Ltd & River Street Events Ltd) deem it unsafe to run the event in light of UK Government and Public Health England guidelines regarding Covid-19, visitors will be contacted directly with regards to transferring their booking to a future date or requesting a refund. Refunds exclude the transaction fee.

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