

LIVE LIFE IN FULL BLOOM

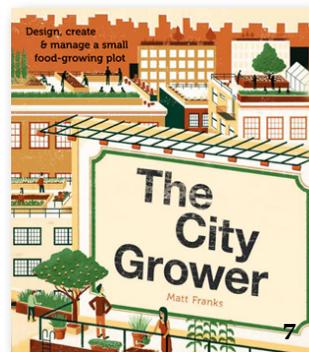
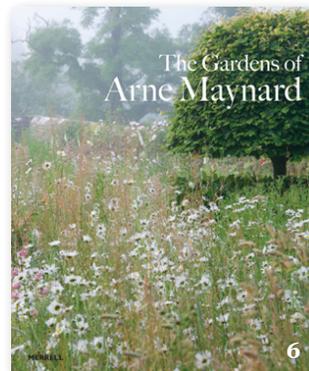
Early summer is a time of industriousness in gardens across Britain. Whether you're a natural horticulturalist or a beginner, these courses, books and shops are sure to fire your enthusiasm

DO Try an evening class making a glass-encased garden (1) that can sit on your coffee table at Hackney florist Grace & Thorn's monthly Terrarium Tuesday (£60; graceandthorn.com) or a Japanese hanging *kokedama* (2) with London brand Geo Fleur (£25; geo-fleur.com). Petersham Nurseries (3) also provides classes for specific skills, such as how to grow and arrange your own wedding flowers (15 June, £100) or fill stylish windowboxes (9 September, £20; petershamnurseries.com). For more inspiration and instruction, head to contemporary garden fair GROW (24–26 June, tickets £16; growlondon.com) on Hampstead Heath. As well as courses on seed sowing and how to make hanging macramé planters, there are brilliant shops selling all things outdoors, from seed bombs to cast-iron garden benches.

Finally, budding experts should enroll in a class with one of Britain's best-known landscape designers, Arne Maynard. One-, two- or eight-day intensive courses are held at Allt-y-bela on the Welsh-English border (4), an idyllic medieval farmhouse that is now home to Maynard, who is respected for his modern-but-romantic gardens. All courses include a delicious home-cooked lunch (from £160 for a one-day workshop; arnemaynard.com).

READ Add the beautiful new book on Maynard's oeuvre, *The Gardens of Arne Maynard* (6, Merrell, £45), to your reading list, and also *The City Grower* (7, Kyle Books, £16.99) by urban gardener Matt Franks, whose social enterprise Connected Roots works with companies from Fortnum & Mason to Google on how to plan and grow edible gardens in cities.

SHOP Head to hip gardenware shop Botany (5) in Hackney, founded by former fashion product developer Angela Maynard. This green treasure trove has shelves lined with tiny terracotta pots of succulents and cacti, and trailing *tradescantia* (spiderwort) hanging from the ceiling in baskets. It also includes a mini gallery of calligraphy-ink flower illustrations by artist Lucy Auge, plus a curated selection of homewares, and reading matter from indie publisher Persephone Books. (5 Chatsworth Road, London E5; botanyshop.co.uk).



WORDS: CHARLOTTE BROOK, EMMA LOVE; PICTURES: MARIKO IMAGES, WILLIAM COLLINSON