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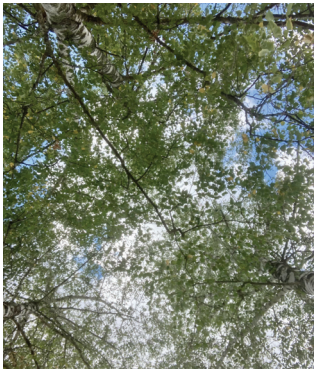
A GARDEN FOR DROUGHT

by Ian McBain

At the time of writing, the majority of England has just emerged from the second heatwave of the summer. Another is forecast in a week or so. The increasing frequency and seriousness of extreme weather events shouldn't come as a shock to any of us. Our climate is changing at a rapid pace, and we have to be able to adapt accordingly.

But what does this mean for our gardens, and for the way we garden. Well, firstly, I would say that our gardens have the potential to make a difference both in terms of collectively contributing to slowing the rate of climate change, but also in providing a degree of respite from the heat. But we can also work to try to make our gardens more resilient to how our summers are changing.

Shade: a well-designed garden should always include an area of shade, or at least provision for a good parasol or a shade sail. We don't need to cover the whole garden, but having a shaded spot for a bit of cooler rest and relaxation can be a real asset. Trees can support this,



providing height, seasonal interest and delicious dappled shade (ideally next to seating areas).

Water conservation: we simply must try to conserve precious rainwater, if only so that we can maintain food crops and any plants we might have growing in pots or containers. Collecting and storing rain in water butts or dipping tanks is essential, and is both extremely easy and cost-effective.

Plant choice: we need to move away from plants that are particularly 'thirsty' in favour of drought-resistant options. In practical terms, this often means looking to plants with small or finely-textured leaves (including ornamental grasses), those with silvery-grey foliage (which can reflect sunlight), or plants with waxy or hairy leaves (which trap and store moisture). We have a wide range of plants to choose from including Lavender, Stipa, Thyme, Sedum, Nepeta, Salvia and Stachys.



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Tythorne Garden Design provides professional fixed-fee garden design solutions for customers in Grantham, Stamford, Newark and surrounding areas. Book your initial garden design consultation today by calling 01529 455 355 or 07900 224 239.

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