

RHS Hampton Court 2016 highlights Climate Positivity in Changing World

In the same week that gardens being built at RHS Hampton Court Flower Show experienced extreme weather including thunderstorms, hail, flooding and high winds, a Conceptual Garden at the 2016 show highlights the urgent need to adapt to a changing climate.

Near Future Garden takes its inspiration from rapidly changing weather patterns that are seriously affecting the growing cycle of plants and impacting on the design and maintenance of UK gardens.

The reality of these challenges means many plants now flower out of season and suffer from extremes of drought or long periods of heavy rain. During December 2015 daffodils in UK gardens began bursting into bloom 4 months early as the Met Office reported temperatures were 4.1c above the long term average for the UK, closer to those normally experienced in April.

As a result, UK gardeners must diversify their plant selection as shifting seasons bring new challenges to normal growing patterns as well as a big increase in serious pests and diseases that thrive in warmer temperatures. <https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/gardening-in-a-changing-world/climate-change/potential-diseases>

The RHS is aware that a changing climate is already impacting its members and recently appointed a Climate Scientist to update their 2002 research project called "Gardening in the Global Greenhouse." Eleanor Webster believes that:

"Near Future Garden is an example of how an individual can help mitigate the effects of climate change that both current and future generations will have to contend with"

This rapidly changing climate scenario was the inspiration for Deborah Scott Anderson and Arit Anderson who together conceived and designed Near Future Garden:

"Gardeners care about the weather, it affects their plants and soil and everything they grow. This is why we are optimistic that Near Future Garden can influence the carbon footprint of 146,000 visitors to RHS Hampton Court Flower Show in 2016."

NOTE:

Near Future Garden wishes to draw attention to the fact that every month since October 2015 has broken the record for that month and NASA predict a greater than 99 percent probability that 2016 as a whole will set a new heat record.

<http://climate.nasa.gov/news/2455/april-and-may-2016-continue-record-setting-heat/>

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