

GARDENS

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GARDEN
PLANTS
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ILLUSTRATED

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GARDENPLANTSMAN'S PARADISE AT
LOWER SEVERALLS IN SOMERSETPHLOMIS
PLANT PROFILEBETH CHATTO'S
WATER GARDENPRUNING
MASTERCLASSANNA PAVORD
FRUIT SERIES

KEY POINTS

- Pergolas used for shade can limit the space available for outdoor dining and can create heavy shade – not just in the garden, but also indoors if located close to the house.
- Most temporary awnings, canopies or parasols will need winter storage and must be used only when weather conditions are suitable. Many of these modern products are large and could cause serious damage if affected by strong winds. Ensure that ground fixings are substantial.
- Aluminium is a versatile and lightweight material, making larger structures easier to move and relocate.
- A wide choice of canopies or awnings is available, allowing you to change the colour and finish of a shade-casting structure every few years and freshen up the appearance of the garden. Tailor-made covers are usually available for storage and protection.
- Many makers of garden furniture also produce matching garden parasols.

RECOMMENDED
SUPPLIERS

TENSILE STRUCTURES

- **Architen Landrell:** Dramatic structures made of durable membranes. Tel 01292 638200, www.architen.com
- **Sunwing Products:** Beautiful, state-of-the-art canopies made by an English couple based in France. Tel +33 (0) 490 754460, www.sunwingproducts.com
- **Timber Intent:** Innovative and eco-friendly designs. Tel 01297 444416, www.timberintent.co.uk
- **Tensile Fabric:** Elegant garden canopies. Tel 0870 609 005, www.tensilefabric.co.uk



HIGH-TENSILE CANOPY

This strong, durable canopy by Sunwing Products would suit both a traditional garden and a more contemporary one.



COOL SHADE

On a hot summer day it's a sheer pleasure to cool off in the shade. Designer Andrew Wilson discusses how to choose the right awning, screen, parasol or pergola to suit your garden, whether traditional or modern.

AS SPRING TURNS OFFICIALLY INTO SUMMER the heat is on in the garden and our once insatiable appetite for warm sunshine gives way to a desire for the option of cool shade. Burning sunlight can be uncomfortable, and over the last decade, evidence about the health effects of over-exposure to sunlight has caused increasing concern. During this time, fewer and fewer of my clients have asked for open sun terraces; instead demand has grown for shaded corners, pergolas and other structures.

The contrast between sun-worship and shade-dwelling need not be black and white. The UK climate is usually changeable, so it may be undesirable to create areas of constant shade by building permanent structures. After all, there are more flexible ways of casting shade, including parasols, blinds and tented canopies.

If you are determined to build permanent structures, their size and location will need careful consideration. Many people are tempted to build pergolas close to their homes to provide a convenient pool of shade, but such structures

can darken the house's interior, a phenomenon only fully appreciated after some time, as any planting matures and comes to dominate.

If a planted structure is intended to cast shade over a dining terrace, it will have to be large, or the resulting shady area beneath it will be too small to accommodate everybody, particularly when you have guests for lunch. In these circumstances a purely architectural structure, designed as a sun-block, may be more workable. The uprights and main supports of such a structure need not be especially thick as they are supporting little weight apart from that of the structure itself. The main support or frame may be made from steel or aluminium, with thin slats of steel or timber overhead, or up the sides, providing dappled shade. Slats placed close enough together can provide a screen, improving privacy. Fabrics may also be attached to pergolas or shade-casting structures to increase seclusion or add colour.

The orientation of these structures must be carefully considered, with thought given to the times of the day during which they are most

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