

Grow Your Own Cut Flowers, 25 Years On

Ideal for those who have been thinking about creating an intensive cutting patch, or just growing a few flowers to pick for the house, this is my classic course updated with all I've learned about growing cut flowers over 25 years. In the afternoon, our gardeners will show you round and teach you how we propagate, stake and support our plants with woven baskets. In the autumn course (17th September), in the afternoon our gardeners will show you how to create bulb lasagnes and propagate all the things they are doing at the time.

I've been growing cut flowers at Perch Hill for 25 years and with each year hone and add to the range of plants I passionately recommend, as well as refine the ways to grow things, always looking for the highest production from minimal space and time, questioning traditional techniques to maximise gardening efficiency. I want our gardening to be sustainable too, and will recommend plants to feed our birds and bees.

In this intensive day, I'll explain how to prepare, plant, maintain and harvest buckets of flowers from your garden from March through to November. In the spring, I'll talk about sowing the very best cut-and-come-again hardy and half-hardy annuals, biennials and sweet peas as well as spring planting of dahlias and summer-flowering bulbs. In the autumn, we'll cover all the best annuals etc. and we'll look at the best tulips, alliums and narcissi for planting now instead of dahlias. Whichever time of year you come, you will learn the best sowing and growing techniques so you can achieve easy yet brilliant results and plant rotation through the seasons to make the most of whatever space you have, little or large. We'll also cover flower conditioning techniques to make all your cut flowers last well in the vase.

- * This course is taught by Sarah and Josie Lewis (Head Gardener at Perch Hill) with some help from the other gardeners
- * It is held at Perch Hill Farm TN32 5HP
- * The day lasts from 10.30 till 3.30-4pm including tea/coffee on arrival, morning tea/coffee break with home-made biscuits and a delicious 2-course lunch using fresh produce from the garden at Perch Hill where possible. You will also get a detailed course hand-out covering all the information of the day.

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Booking

Thursday 17th September 2020
600095

£195.00

[Click here to book](#)

Thursday 22nd October 2020
600095

£195.00

[Click here to book](#)

Itinerary

Arrival between 10 and 10.30 am *coffee/tea and home-made biscuit served from 10am*

Session 1: 10.30-11.30

- * Meet Sarah and Josie —Perch Hill's head gardener and the team
- * Sarah will guide you through the principles of the cut flower cut-and-come-again philosophy — how to get a lot of produce from minimal space.

11.30-11.50 coffee/tea/tisane and home-made cake

Session 2: 11.50-13.00

- * Sarah will discuss the design and practicalities of a cutting patch – and the best cut-and-come-again plants to grow to give you almost year-round picking just outside the door.

13.00-14.15 Simple 2 course lunch in the barn (using recipes from Sarah's cookbooks) and produce from the garden wherever we can. This is served with home-made cordial. Shopping after lunch for those who want it.

Session 3: 14.15-15.15

- * Josie and the other Perch Hill gardeners will take over in the afternoon. They will take you to the cutting garden at Perch Hill to talk about the functional side of cut flower growing – such as raised beds, soil conditioning, composting, weed control and pests and diseases. In spring 2020, they will also demonstrate how we stake cut flower plants with woven birch, hazel teepees and frames.
- * This session includes practical demonstrations showing you some key relevant skills for this course including our seed sowing systems.

Session 4: 15.15-15.30

- * Q&A with Sarah and Josie to clear up any queries you might still have.

15.30-16.00 The Perch Hill shop will be open and you are welcome to wander in the garden.

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Directions and further information

[Click here](#) for more information and directions to Perch Hill Farm.

If you are booking this course for someone else to attend, please enter their name in the gift message box at the checkout or contact us on 0345 092 0283 to let us know their details.

Terms and conditions apply. [Please click here for more information](#). Completing and paying for your order shows acceptance of our full terms and conditions.

Parking at Perch Hill Farm

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Sarah Raven's Cutting Garden at Perch Hill Farm, which is the home of Sarah Raven, Adam Nicolson and their family. Parking for courses, garden visits and garden open days will be in the grass field next to the Cutting Garden, as the family car park does not fit a large number of cars. Please do wear suitable shoes or boots, particularly at the wet times of year, as the grass may be muddy. The paths are sometimes slippery and a little uneven, so please take care.

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