



«Dates for your diary

EXBURY GARDENS (LEFT), HAMPSHIRE 19 MARCH 2011

This spectacular 200-acre site – world famous for its rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias – will reopen to the public from 19 March. Admission is £9 per adult, or free to RHS members this month. Visit exbury.co.uk for more information.

THE EDIBLE GARDEN SHOW, STONELEIGH PARK, WARWICKSHIRE 18-20 MARCH 2011

Celebrity gardener Pippa Greenwood will be sharing experiences of her kitchen garden at this brand new grow-your-own show. Tickets cost £11 for adults. Visit theediblegardenshow.co.uk for more information.

STONEHOUSE GARDEN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE 11 MARCH 2011

Explore this Cotswold cottage garden designed by Katie Lukas and pick up a bargain, including stunning hellebores, at the 'Early Spring Treasures' plant sale. Visit stonehousegarden.co.uk for more information.



GARDEN update

Great buys and smart advice for your outdoor space



▲ Going potty

This incredible value potting bench is made from FSC wood – great for your garden as well as the environment! Potting bench, £20, in-store at Morrisons supermarkets, 0845 611 6111.

● Handle with care

● Treat hard-working winter-worn hands with Laura Ashley's new range of gardeners' toiletries. Choose from scrubs, muscle soaks and a variety of soothing creams.

▶ Falling Leaves collection, from £10, Laura Ashley, 0871 983 5999, lauraashley.com.

EXPERT ADVICE

Get mulching!

'Mulching now will pay dividends later: a deep layer of organic matter will condition the soil, suppress weeds, insulate plants and conserve soil moisture during the summer.' **Heather Culpan**, managing director, **Burgon & Ball**



5 of the best: Plant labels

▼ Giant hard wood labels (30cm), £2.49 each, Burgon & Ball, burgonandball.com.



▼ Ceramic markers, £7.95 for six. Ethical Superstore, 0845 009 9016, ethicalsuperstore.com.



▼ Hanging copper labels, £3.49 for ten, Crocus, 0844 557 2233, crocus.co.uk.



▲ Plant tags with chalk, £8 for six, Objects of Design, 01188 71236, objects-of-design.com.

▲ Porcelain vegetable and herb tags, £6 each, Jo Heckett, 07930 492746, joheckett.com.