

Top designer Claudia de Yong offers exciting tips on how to make a statement with vibrant summer pelargoniums. By **Hannah Stephenson**

Are you looking for low-maintenance, high-impact colour this summer with patio pots, beds and borders?

For quick-fix glorious garden style, look no further than the pelargonium, which needs little watering and should thrive in a sunny spot through summer and into autumn.

Pelargoniums (*right*) store water in their stems, which makes them highly versatile when it comes to planting, so be creative — disused drain pipes, chimney pots, even a wellington boot or



Bring a blaze of colour to garden

two: these garden troopers will thrive.

Award-winning garden designer Claudia de Yong says: “To create a low-maintenance garden without compromising on colour and visual interest, look for plants like pelargoniums that can be grown with minimal aftercare and still remain healthy and happy throughout the summer.”

She offers the following tips...

Combine varieties

There are more than 500 varieties, from scented-leaf to trailing ivy specimens, along with upright bushy regals. Combining different varieties together creates a beautiful, eye-catching range of colours and growth habits — even the foliage variations can be stunning.

Use block colour

Choose a single colour theme and colour-block your pelargoniums to create a strong statement.

Include them in borders

Pelargoniums also grow beautifully in herbacious borders — combine with Nepeta (Catmint), Erigeron (Mexican fleabane) or Erysimum ‘Bowles Mauve’ (Wallflower) for bee-loving visual interest.

Go vertical

Create a vertical garden of pelargoniums by affixing pots to walls, fences or balconies — an effective way to create privacy.

Take them indoors

Pelargoniums love being in a sunny spot indoors too — planting single varieties in simple terracotta pots for the kitchen table or work surface brings summer inside.