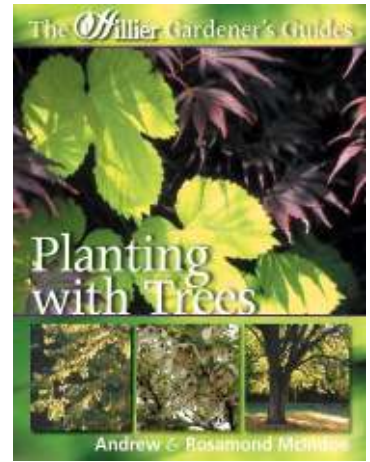


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## Hillier Garden Centres and Nurseries

### Planting With Trees – Chelsea 2007

At Chelsea 2007, Hillier will be asking visitors to open their eyes to the beauty of trees! The central theme is "Planting with Trees", and Hillier are aiming to demonstrate the sheer beauty and versatility of trees in garden design.



So much of gardeners' attention is focused upon plants at ground or eye level, whilst trees add height, a sense of space, privacy, tranquillity and year-round interest to even the smallest gardens. As the UK's largest tree nursery and largest hardy plant nursery and with the Sir Harold Hillier Arboretum as their pedigree, Hillier are well placed to talk about the use of trees in planting schemes, and are publishing "Planting with Trees" in March 2007 as part of The Hillier Gardener's Guides series.

#### Planting with Trees – Versatility

Using trees taken from their nurseries in Hampshire, Hillier will demonstrate the ease with which trees can be incorporated into garden design in situations from naturalistic settings to formal urban gardens. Vast structural specimens appear alongside heavenly ornamental foliage varieties. Trees will be shown individually and in groups, rising from underplanting and also planted in containers.



This artist's impression shows the hospital end of the Hillier exhibit, where all the structure will come from trees. Low ivy screens front tall slender trees around a central water feature by Mehrdad Tafreshi. To the right is a contemporary courtyard with trees planted in containers backed by tall ivy screens, clearly demonstrating how trees can be designed into gardens of all sizes.

#### Tree planting the stress-free way!

Many gardeners worry about planting trees. They worry about tree roots invading water pipes and undermining buildings. They worry about what to plant with, and under, trees. They worry that trees will overshadow the rest of the planting. Hillier set out to demonstrate that all gardeners can and should incorporate trees into their own gardens. For example: avoid planting willows where there is a danger of disturbing water pipes, and focus on planting species with more compact root systems near buildings, such as birch, sorbus, hornbeam and magnolia.

#### Underplanting

Andy McIndoe's design incorporates interest at ground, eye and above eye level, respecting the conditions of dappled to dense shade that planting with trees determines. Evergreen shrubs and plants from woodland habitats relish the growing conditions beneath trees. Euonymus, heder, mahonia and cotoneaster mingle with euphorbia, tiarella, ferns and many ericaceous plants. The trunk and branches of trees provide support for climbing plants, introducing further variety.

## Trees to look out for on the Hillier exhibit in 2007

The key trees featured in the exhibit will include varieties of birch, acer, maple and hornbeam. Look out for these classics: *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii* as a standard and multi-stem; the lovely *Prunus maackii* "Amber" with its polished golden bark; *Prunus serrula*, The Tibetan Cherry grown as a mahogany-barked multi-stem tree.

*Quercus ilex*, Holm/evergreen Oak is the only broad-leaved evergreen tree suitable for UK conditions generally. Although slow growing at first, it is ultimately a magnificent, large tree. All stocks originate from the seeds from 2 trees on the Isle of Wight. *Quercus ilex* tolerates wind, maritime exposure and dry conditions. It can be trimmed and trained for more formal effect.

*Ulmus* "New Horizon" elm has been bred to resist Dutch Elm disease, which has devastated 70% of elm stocks in Europe and North America since its outbreak in the 1920s.

## Planting with Trees – and Climate Change

And, if that were not enough reasons to plant a tree, every tree planted helps in a small way toward combating the effects of climate change. As they grow, trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, convert it into carbon-based tissues during photosynthesis, and release oxygen as a by-product.

## Design Inspiration

Hillier have an unbroken record of Gold medals since 1945, and occupy the largest site at the Chelsea Flower Show around the Monument in the Great Floral Pavilion. In designing the stand, Andrew McIndoe (pictured), Hillier's Chelsea designer and Deputy Managing Director, has drawn inspiration from numerous gardens, not least from the Sir Harold Hillier Arboretum near Romsey in Hampshire near to the company's headquarters. Stocked with over 30 000 trees in 180 acres, the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens were first planted in 1953 and are now recognised not only as one of the premier arboreta in Europe, but also as one of the world's foremost Winter Gardens.



Andrew and Rosamond McIndoe  
(authors of "Planting with Trees")

## Notes to editors

Hillier Nurseries was founded in 1864 by Edwin Hillier, and has an unrivalled and (to date) unbroken run of Gold Medals at the Chelsea Flower Show since 1945. Hillier has 3 divisions:

**Hillier Wholesale Nursery:** supplies a network of UK stockists, producing around 2 million container-grown hardy plants, shrubs and herbaceous perennials per year.

**Hillier Amenity Nursery:** is Britain's largest tree nursery, growing semi-mature trees in the open ground on 500 acres at Liss in Hampshire for commercial projects and local authorities in the UK; and 20 000 trees a year in containers from 45 litres to a staggering 2000 Litres at the Broadmead Nursery close to the Company's headquarters at Ampfield, Hampshire.

**Hillier Garden Centres:** are specialist garden centres at 13 locations in England where the focus is on premium plant range and quality, gardening advice and customer service. Hillier has the largest membership of any garden society other than the RHS with 190 000 members, who receive the Club Magazine three times a year. Hillier Garden Centres are in Bath, Newbury, Hemel Hempstead, Sunningdale, Chichester, Eastbourne, Horsham, Redditch, Botley, Braishfield, Liss, Romsey and Winchester.

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