## Privacy Notice

This is the privacy notice of [www.GardeningWomen.com](http://www.GardeningWomen.com).

The website is operated by Catherine Horwood of 6 Emerald House, 1c King Henry's Road, London, NW3 3QP ("we", "our", or "us"). In relation to this privacy notice, Catherine can be contacted at ch@catherinehorwood.com.

## Introduction

We are committed to protecting your privacy and the confidentiality of your personal information.

This privacy notice aims to inform you about how we collect and process any information that we collect from you, or that you provide to us. It covers information that could identify you (“personal information”) and information that could not. In the context of the law and this notice, “process” means collect, store, transfer, use or otherwise act on information.

Our privacy policy complies with the Data Protection Act 2018 (the “Act”), which incorporates the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The law requires us to tell you about your rights and our obligations to you in regards to the processing and control of your personal data. We do this now, by requesting that you read the information provided at <http://www.knowyourprivacyrights.org>

Except as set out below, we do not share, or sell, or disclose to a third party, any information collected through our website and our forum.

1. **Data we process**

We may collect, use, store and transfer different kinds of personal data about you. We have collated these into groups as follows:

Your identity includes information such as first name, last name, title, date of birth, and other identifiers that you may have provided at some time.

Your contact information includes information such as your address, your email address, your telephone numbers and any other information you have given to us so that we may communicate with you.

Technical data includes your Internet protocol (IP) address, browser type and version, time zone setting and location, browser plug-in types and versions, operating system and platform and other technology on the devices you use to access this website.

Your forum profile includes information such as your username and password; the messages you post on our forum; your communication preferences; and responses and actions in relation to your use of our services.

We may aggregate anonymous data such as statistical or demographic data for any purpose. Anonymous data is data that does not identify you as an individual. Aggregated data may be derived from your personal data but is not considered personal information in law because it does not reveal your identity.

However, if we combine or connect aggregated data with your personal information so that it can identify you in any way, we treat the combined data as personal information and it will be used in accordance with this privacy notice.

1. **Special personal information**

Special personal information is data about your race or ethnicity, religious or philosophical beliefs, sex life, sexual orientation, political opinions, trade union membership, information about your health and genetic and biometric data.

We do not ask you to provide any special personal information.

However, when you interact with other members of our website, you may disclose special personal information or information from which special personal information can be inferred.

We have no processes in place to identify when this occurs, and therefore we do not process such information in any way that is different to any other information that you post publicly.

1. **If you do not provide personal information we need**

Where we need to process personal data under the terms of a contract we have with you, and you fail to provide that data when requested, we may not be able to perform that contract.

In that case, we may have to stop providing access to our website or forum. If so, we will notify you of this at the time.

## The bases on which we process information about you

The law requires us to determine under which of six defined bases we process different categories of your personal information, and to notify you of the basis for each category.

If a basis on which we process your personal information is no longer relevant then we shall immediately stop processing your data.

If the basis changes then if required by law we shall notify you of the change and of any new basis under which we have determined that we can continue to process your information.

1. **Information we process because we have a contractual obligation with you**

When you create an account on our forum, or otherwise agree to our terms and conditions, a contract is formed between you and us.

In order to carry out our obligations under that contract we must process the information you give us. Some of this information may be personal information.

We may use for a number of purposes, including in order to verify your identity for security purposes when you return to the website, and to provide you with our services.

We process this information on the basis there is a contract between us, or that you have requested we use the information before we enter into a legal contract.

We shall continue to process this information until the contract between us ends or is terminated by either party under the terms of the contract.

1. **Information we process with your consent**

Through certain actions when otherwise there is no contractual relationship between us, such as when you browse our website or subscribe to our blog, you provide your consent to us to process information that may be personal information.

We continue to process your information on this basis until you withdraw your consent or it can be reasonably assumed that your consent no longer exists.

You may withdraw your consent at any time by instructing us at the e-mail address at the top of this document. However, if you do so, you may not be able to use our website or our services further.

1. **Information we process for the purposes of legitimate interests**

We may process information on the basis there is a legitimate interest, either to you or to us, of doing so.

Where we process your information on this basis, we do after having given careful consideration to:

* + whether the same objective could be achieved through other means
	+ whether processing (or not processing) might cause you harm
	+ whether you would expect us to process your data, and whether you would, in the round, consider it reasonable to do so

For example, we may process your data on this basis for the purposes of:

* + record-keeping for the proper and necessary administration of our business
	+ responding to a message from you asking a question to which we believe you would expect a response
	+ protecting your interests where we believe we have a duty to do so
1. **Information we process because we have a legal obligation**

Very occasionally we may need to process your information in order to comply with a legal obligation.

For example, we may be required to give information to legal authorities if they so request or if they have the proper authorisation such as a search warrant or court order.

This may include your personal information.

## Specific uses of information you provide to us

1. **Information provided on the understanding that it will be shared with a third party**

Our forum allows you to post information with a view to that information being read, copied, downloaded, or used by other people.

Examples include:

* + starting a thread
	+ replying to a message
	+ clicking on an icon next to a post made by someone else to convey your agreement, disagreement or thanks

In posting personal information, it is up to you to satisfy yourself about the privacy level of every person who might use it. This includes where the information is special personal information, and is therefore potentially sensitive.

We do not specifically use this information except to allow it to be displayed or shared.

We do store it, and we reserve a right to use it in the future in any way we decide.

Once your information enters the public domain, we have no control over what any individual third party may do with it. We accept no responsibility for their actions at any time.

Provided your request is reasonable and there is no legal basis for us to retain it, then at our discretion we may agree to your request to delete personal information that you have posted. You can make a request by contacting us.

You should be aware when you post personal information that we are under no obligation to delete it simply because you no longer wish for it to be in the public domain.

1. **Complaints regarding content on our website**

Our website is a publishing medium. Anyone may register and then publish information about himself, herself or some other person.

We attempt to moderate user generated content, but we are not always able to do so as soon as that content is published.

If you complain about any of the content on our website, we investigate your complaint.

When we receive a complaint, we record all the information you have given to us.

We use that information to resolve your complaint.

If we feel it is justified or if we believe the law requires us to do so, we remove the content while we investigate.

Free speech is a fundamental right, so we have to make a judgment as to whose right will be obstructed: yours, or that of the person who posted the content that offends you.

If your complaint reasonably requires us to contact some other person, we may decide to give to that other person some of the information contained in your complaint. We do this as infrequently as possible, but it is a matter for our sole discretion as to whether we do give information, and if we do, what that information is.

If we think your complaint is vexatious or without any basis, we shall not correspond with you about it.

1. **Communicating with us**

When you contact us we collect the information you have given to us in order to reply appropriately.

We may keep personally identifiable information associated with your message, such as your name and email address so as to be able to track our communications with you to provide a high quality service.

## Use of information we collect through automated systems when you visit our website

1. **Cookies**

Cookies are small text files that are placed on your computer's hard drive by your web browser at a web server’s request. They allow information gathered on one web page to be stored until it is needed for use on another, allowing a website to provide you with a personalised experience, and the website owner with statistics about how you use the website so that it can be improved.

Some cookies may last for a defined period of time, such as one day or until you close your browser. Others last indefinitely.

Your web browser should allow you to delete any you choose. It also should allow you to prevent or limit their use.

Our website uses cookies. They are placed by software that operates on our servers, and by software operated by third parties whose services we use, such as our website hosting provider Wix.

If you choose not to use cookies or you prevent their use through your browser settings, you will not be able to use all the functionality of our website.

We use cookies in the following ways:

* + to track how you use our website and which threads you read on our forum
	+ to record whether you have seen specific messages we display on our website
	+ to keep you signed in to our website
	+ to record your draft messages on our forum before you post them
1. **Personal identifiers from your browsing activity**

Requests by your web browser to our servers for web pages and other content on our website are recorded. We use Google Analytics.

Google Analytics records information such as your geographical location, your Internet service provider and your IP address. It also records information about the software you are using to browse our website, such as the type of computer or device and the screen resolution.

We use this information in aggregate to assess the popularity of the webpages on our website and how we perform in providing content to you.

If combined with other information we know about you from previous visits, the data possibly could be used to identify you personally, even if you are not signed in to our website. However, we do not use the data in this way.

More information about how Google processes your information can be found at https://privacy.google.com/businesses/compliance/

## Disclosure and sharing of your information

1. **Data may be processed outside the European Union**

Our websites are hosted in the UK.

This website’s hosting provider, Wix, is based in Israel. Israel is considered by the European Commission to offer an adequate level of protection for the personal information of EU Member State residents.

Your personal information may be stored through Wix’s data storage, databases and the general Wix applications. Data is stored on secure servers behind a firewall.

Your data may be maintained, processed and stored by Wix and their authorised affiliates and service providers in the United States of America, in Europe (including in Lithuania, Germany and Ukraine), in Israel, and in other jurisdictions as necessary for the proper delivery of their services and/or as may be required by law.

Wix affiliates and service providers that store or process your data on Wix’s behalf are each contractually committed to keep it protected and secured, in accordance with industry standards and regardless of any lesser legal requirements which may apply in their legal jurisdiction.

Wix’s full privacy policy can be viewed at: https://www.wix.com/about/privacyControlControl over your own information

1. **Mailing automation software**

We use MailChimp to manage our newsletter subscription list and to send messages to subscribers.

We share your contact information and some of your identity information with MailChimp

MailChimp complies with requirements of the GDPR. More information can be found at https://mailchimp.com/legal/privacy/#3.\_Privacy\_for\_Contacts

1. **Keeping your personal information up to date**

It is important that the personal data we hold about you is accurate and current. Please keep us informed if your personal data changes.

At any time you may update personally identifiable information that we hold about you, by signing in to your account on our website.

To obtain a copy of any information that is not provided on our website you should contact us to make that request.

After receiving the request, we will tell you when we expect to provide you with the information, and whether we require any fee for providing it to you.

1. **Removal of your information**

If you wish us to remove personally identifiable information from our website, you should contact us to make your request.

This may limit the service we can provide to you.

Please note that the law does not require us to remove your information simply because you have requested that we do so. There may be a valid reason why retention of the information is necessary.

1. **Verification of your information**

When we receive any request to access, edit or delete personal identifiable information we shall first take reasonable steps to verify your identity before granting you access or otherwise taking any action. This is important to safeguard your information.

## Other matters

1. **How you can complain about our policy**

If you are not happy with our privacy policy or if you have any complaint then you should tell us.

If a dispute is not settled then we hope you will agree to attempt to resolve it by engaging in good faith with us in a process of mediation or arbitration.

If you are in any way dissatisfied about how we process your personal information, you have a right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). This can be done at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>. We would, however, appreciate the opportunity to talk to you about your concern before you approach the ICO.

1. **Retention period for personal data**

Except as otherwise mentioned in this privacy notice, we keep your personal information only for as long as required by us:

* + to provide you with the services you have requested
	+ to comply with other law, including for the period demanded by our tax authorities
	+ to support a claim or defence in court
1. **Compliance with the law**

Our privacy policy has been compiled so as to comply with the law of every country or legal jurisdiction in which we aim to operate. If you think it fails to satisfy the law of your jurisdiction, we should like to hear from you.

However, ultimately it is your choice as to whether you wish to use our website.

1. **Review of this privacy policy**

We may update this privacy notice from time to time as necessary. The terms that apply to you are those posted here on our website on the day you use our website. We advise you to print a copy for your records.

If you have any question regarding our privacy policy, please contact us.