

GARDENING FROM A DISTANCE

This can be a problem, as we discovered after acquiring a holiday home in the Poitou Charentes area of France. Each year sees us spending longer periods away from the UK with the result that our English garden turns into a jungle by the time we return, particularly noticeable this last year with so much rain.



In France we have settled on bulbs, dahlias and perennials for border interest. We have also created a herb garden with lavender and rosemary hedges (grown from cuttings). For privacy we have planted evergreen shrubs. The longing for them to grow quickly will be overtaken by the chore of pruning. Some soft fruit and salad

completes the picture and this seems to work for us. Friends ensure the grass is cut in our absence for which we are very grateful. Three of us spent a happy week there in August, visiting markets and local sights.

Our French neighbours love their gardens, growing the majority of their own produce. A vegetable plot is always a priority, although they do also grow some flowers from seeds and our garden has benefited from their generous donations of plants. They have made us very welcome and expressed an interest in PHSThere do not appear to be similar clubs locally. Now there's a challenge!

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Article and Photos by Jan