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stem trees or shrubs. Resist the urge to plant trees on boundary lines, instead place them in the space so you have a sense of being under the tree canopy and surrounded by scent and colour.

2 Try softening garden boundaries with planting rather than hard edges. Planting hedges, wall shrubs, scented climbers or even an espalier fruit tree along one of the borders can help to soften the boundary between neighbouring gardens.

3 Break the tradition of having a hard landscaped terrace leading immediately from the house and try



Flower power!
 Meadow lawns deliver life beyond the summer and provide pollen for bees



provide too much shade. Opt for plants with nectar-rich, single flowers rather than double blooms, which are harder for pollinators to access. Aim for a range of plants to provide nectar and pollen from early in the growing season, right through to the very end. Both native and non-native plants can be valuable sources of nectar and pollen.

5 Introduce loose flowering shrubs in addition to clipped or hard forms. Planting for pollinators, birds and small mammals is also important. Plants bearing fruits, berries and single flowers are ideal and will create a lovely atmosphere in the garden.

6 Introducing traditional crafts into a more naturalistic urban plot can create a country garden feel. Craftsmanship is very apparent in the Morris & Co Garden at RHS Chelsea where traditional arts and crafts will feature alongside modern-day crafts.



to plant right up to the windows. Alternatively green-up your terrace with pots and climbers.

4 Even a tiny bit of lawn can provide interest. Consider a meadow lawn or, for really small spaces, a meadow strip to bring a feeling of the countryside into your garden. Meadow lawns can have a life beyond the summer months if they are studded with bulbs, such as crocus, which in turn provides early pollen for bees. If you are introducing a wildflower strip, be careful not to site it under a tree canopy which could

7 Place your garden in its wider context and try to complement and enhance neighbouring gardens. If your neighbour's garden on has a pear tree on one side and the other side has an abundance of ivy, you might consider introducing a summer flowering tree. This would provide general year-round interest across the gardens. □

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