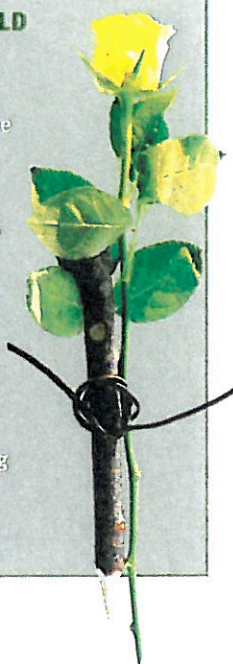


WHO OR WHAT IS YOUR ABIDING INSPIRATION?

Piet Oudolf, for his wonderful use of grasses and perennial plants, below, and Jacques Wirtz, for his sculptural green gardens.

**WHICH TOOLS COULD YOU NEVER BE WITHOUT?**

Crucially, my Featherstone and Durber pocket knife, Felco secateurs (obviously) and Flexi-tie, right, £5.50 from Flexi-tie, (01629) 636945; flexi-tie.co.uk. I also always like to have a high-quality camera handy, especially when I'm out and about, visiting different gardens and gathering inspiration.

**WHAT WOULD YOU RECOMMEND ALL GARDENS HAVE?**

Seating, such as these driftwood chairs, above, from Kate How's Garden Door, (020) 7229 2405. Not only are they comfortable but they make great focal points. I also like to create inviting views with sculptural objects.

TRADE SECRETS

Caspar Gabb



Landscape designer and first-time winner of a Gold Medal at this year's Chelsea Flower Show on what inspires him and what tools he cannot live without

WHICH GARDEN DO YOU FIND IRRESISTIBLE?

The Black and White Cottage in Dorkley, Surrey, (01306) 627269, is home to landscape designer Anthony Paul and his wife Hannah Pascher, whose wonderful Sculpture Garden is full of inspiration for me.

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT GARDENING PASSION?

Wild, shady green gardens where the focus is on foliage texture, and contrasts with simple hard landscaping structure. This was the main theme behind my 2006 Chelsea show garden, The Green Room, below.

**WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE SUPPLIER?**

For plants, I'm a big fan of North Hill Nurseries in Chobham, Surrey, (01276) 858800. They grow their own trees, some 125 varieties, as well as climbing plants, shrubs and hostas – a big feature in my Chelsea show garden this year.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE PLANTS, SHRUBS AND TREES?

For a tree with textured leaves, I like *Liquidambar styraciflua*. On the perennials front, *Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost', right, has large heart-shaped leaves, which always lift a shady corner.

