



Top Tips For Plant Support

Which Plants need support?

Tall plants, those with soft stems or very full flowers tend to need some extra support in the summer.

This could include:

- Peonies
- Delphiniums
- Some Phlox
- Tall Campanulas
- Hesperis matronalis
- Globe Thistle

Put in your supports during April before the plants are fully grown, so they will grow through the supports.

Types of support

Rather than putting in sticks/canes and tying plant stems to them you should put in a supporting structure (scaffolding) around the plant that the stems can grow through and flower above. If you put your supports in place in April you should not be able to see them by June.



What type of support to use?

Natural materials

These blend well with the surrounding plants. They should be installed at about half the eventual height of the plant. This way they can support the plant, but be covered up by leaves.

Willow and young tree stems – use pencil thick freshly cut stems which you can bend into shape over the plant or create a taller support. Tie in with garden string. Make sure that the part of the stem that is underground is stripped of bark or it will root and grow!

Bamboo and string – cut the bamboo canes to size and place several around the plant, then tie the string around the bamboo uprights to create a firm structure.

Metal

These supports are expensive to buy but can last many years; some are covered in plastic to prevent rust. Take the supports out of the ground in the autumn and store in a dry place over winter to re-use in the spring.

P.S. I find that plastic supports are often ineffective as they don't provide a strong enough structure.

