

GREAT DIXTER



An Online Symposium

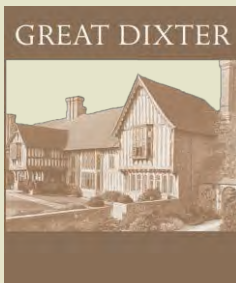
Working the garden the Great Dixter way: gardening from October 2024 to June 2025

The aim of the course is to take participants through the gardening year during the intensive months of October to June. This is a critical time in the garden where you can get ahead and achieve much, redesigning, making adjustments and preparing for next year. In each session, Great Dixter's Head Gardener Fergus Garrett, will outline work for the month, the timing of operations and how the work is prioritised.

This month-by-month series will focus on the practicalities of the work at Great Dixter, giving you an insight into how this garden functions. We will not only look at the practical tasks but also deal with how we analyse and edit the picture. This course is designed to break down the subject matter making it relevant to beginners as well as more experienced gardeners, in gardens large or small.

The sessions will include:

- Storing tender plants for winter
- Growing and using hardy and tender annuals from seed
- Propagating throughout the year – seed, cuttings, splitting, etc.
- Integrating bulbs into borders and for pot displays
- Cutting down and marking of perennials
- Mulching and composting
- Pruning timetable
- Bedding out in a mixed border
- Dealing with self-sowers
- Moving in and out of borders
- Spacing and planting out of plants
- Planting out and aftercare
- Staking and dead-heading
- Editing and Analysing
- Working in all conditions
- Mind Maps for the month
- examples of layering and succession planting



Each session will start with a mind map and current photographs of the garden at Great Dixter followed by the relevant topics for the month. This course will give you an insight into the thought process and creative decision making for the year.

Course Structure

There will be seven pre-recorded lectures (each of 1 hour duration), beginning in October 2024 and finishing in June 2025 (there are no lectures in December and January). In addition, there will be four, live Question and Answer sessions (1 hour each) in December, April, June and July at 8pm UK time. The Q&A sessions will be recorded and made available to all participants.

All lectures and Q&A sessions will be available to view for up to six weeks from their respective release dates to enable participants to make their own notes etc. There will no supplementary material issued, although each session will begin with a mind map from Fergus.

Dates

Lecture	Lecture release date	Live Q&A session
October 2024 Lecture	Monday 21 October 2024	
November 2024 Lecture	Monday 18 November 2024	
		Sunday 1 December 2024
February 2025 Lecture	Monday 17 February 2025	
March 2025 Lecture	Monday 17 March 2025	
		Sunday 13 April 2025
April 2025 Lecture	Tuesday 22 April 2025	
May 2025 Lecture	Wednesday 21 May 2025	
		Sunday 1 June 2025
June 2025 Lecture	Monday 16 June 2025	
		Sunday 6 July 2025

Cost: £450 (some bursary places are available, please contact education@greatdixter.co.uk)

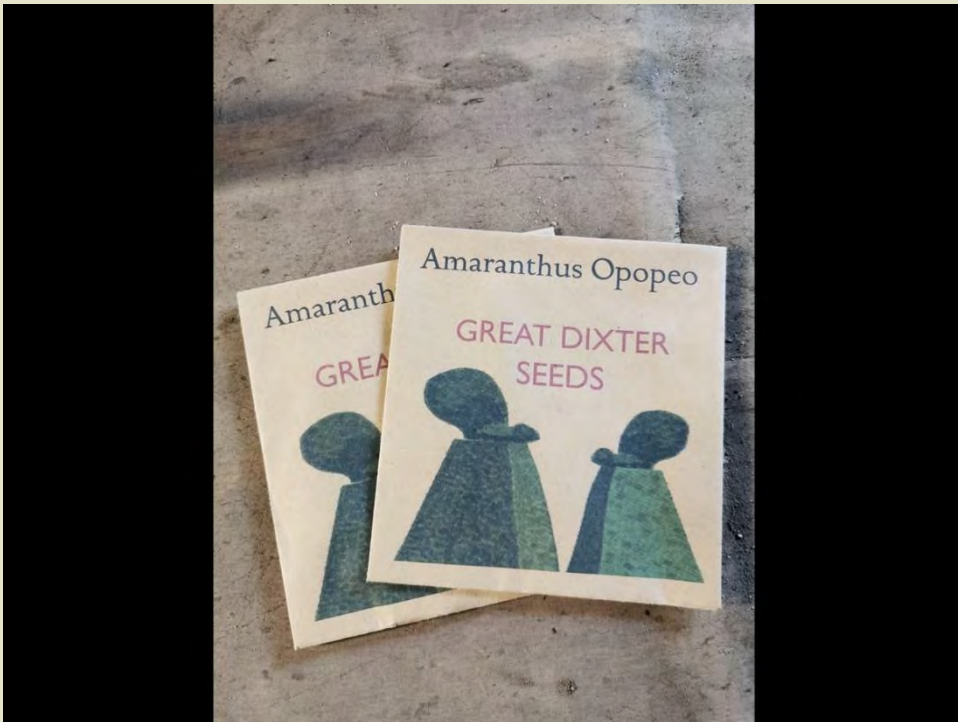
Tickets will go on sale in mid August.

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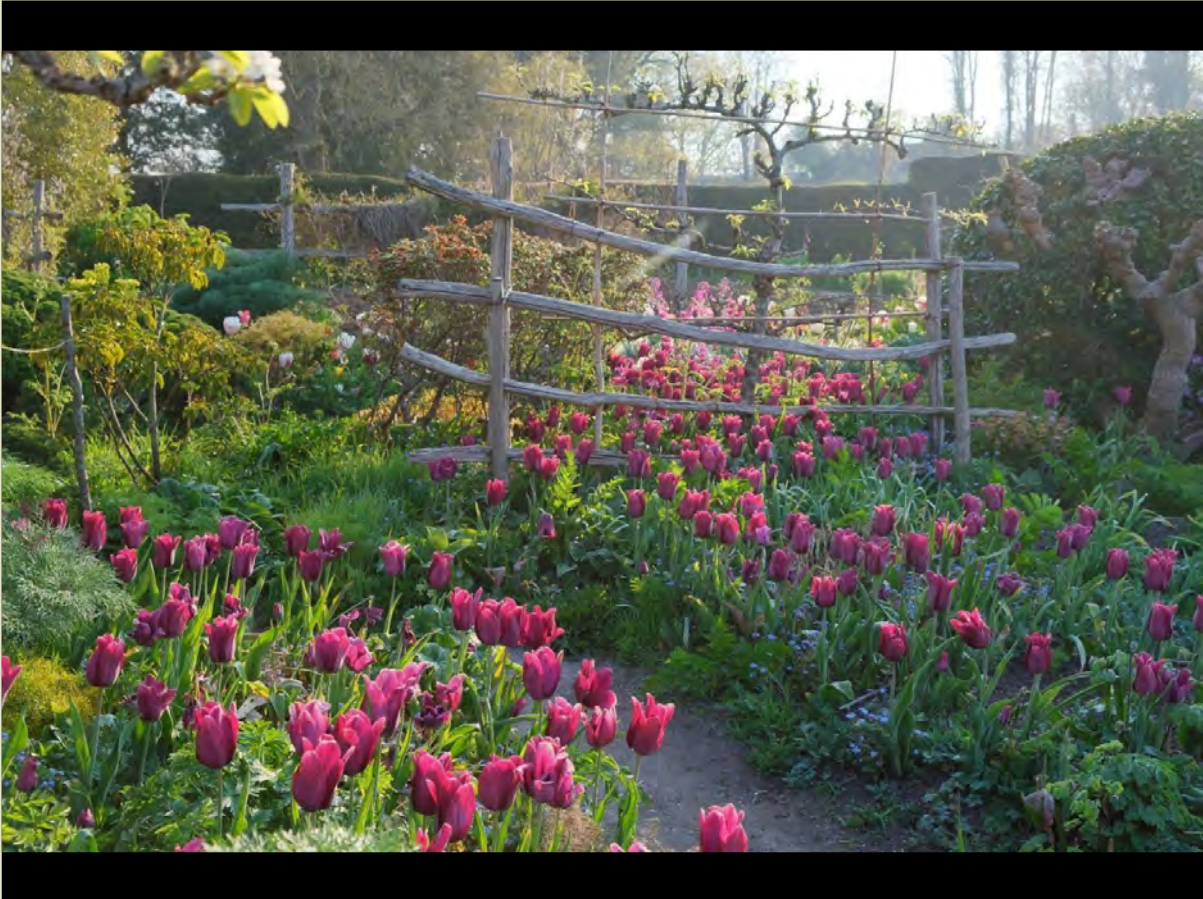
Great Dixter's special loam based potting mix with 3-5mm crushed horticultural grit ready to add. The mixes at Great Dixter are made specifically to suit the plants being potted. The ingredients and ratios will be discussed along with composting and feeding the borders.

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Great Dixter's own home collected seeds. Seed collecting, storing, sowing and pricking out will be discussed during this course.

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Tulip Merlot threaded through the High Garden borders. Bulbs are used throughout the Dixter borders to give us a multi-layered system and a long season.

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Many plants are produced from seeds and cuttings. The timing of taking cuttings, sowing seeds, pricking out and potting on is critical. This is all done by observation so you are reactive to the seasons.

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Crocosmia Lucifer and Verbascum olympicum in the Peacock Garden. Self-sowers including this Verbascum are managed at Great Dixter through editing, mulching, thinning out and moving around.

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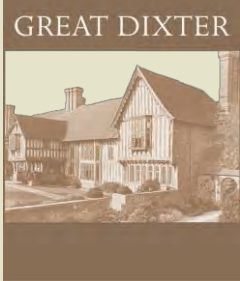


From top left clockwise: *Calendula Radio* with *Antirrhinum Potomac Deep Red*, *Papaver Ladybird* with *Calendula Radio*, *Antirrhinum Potomac Deep Red* with *Lagurus ovatus*, *Artemesia Oriental Limelight* with *Helipterum roseum* and *Silene Blue Angel*, *Lychnis Vesuvius* with *Silene dioica*, all in combination.

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Alliums, *Gladiolus communis byzantinus*, Beth's poppy, cow parsley, amongst the topiary peacocks in the Peacock Garden.



An informal look with self-sown cow parsley across the Peacock Garden.

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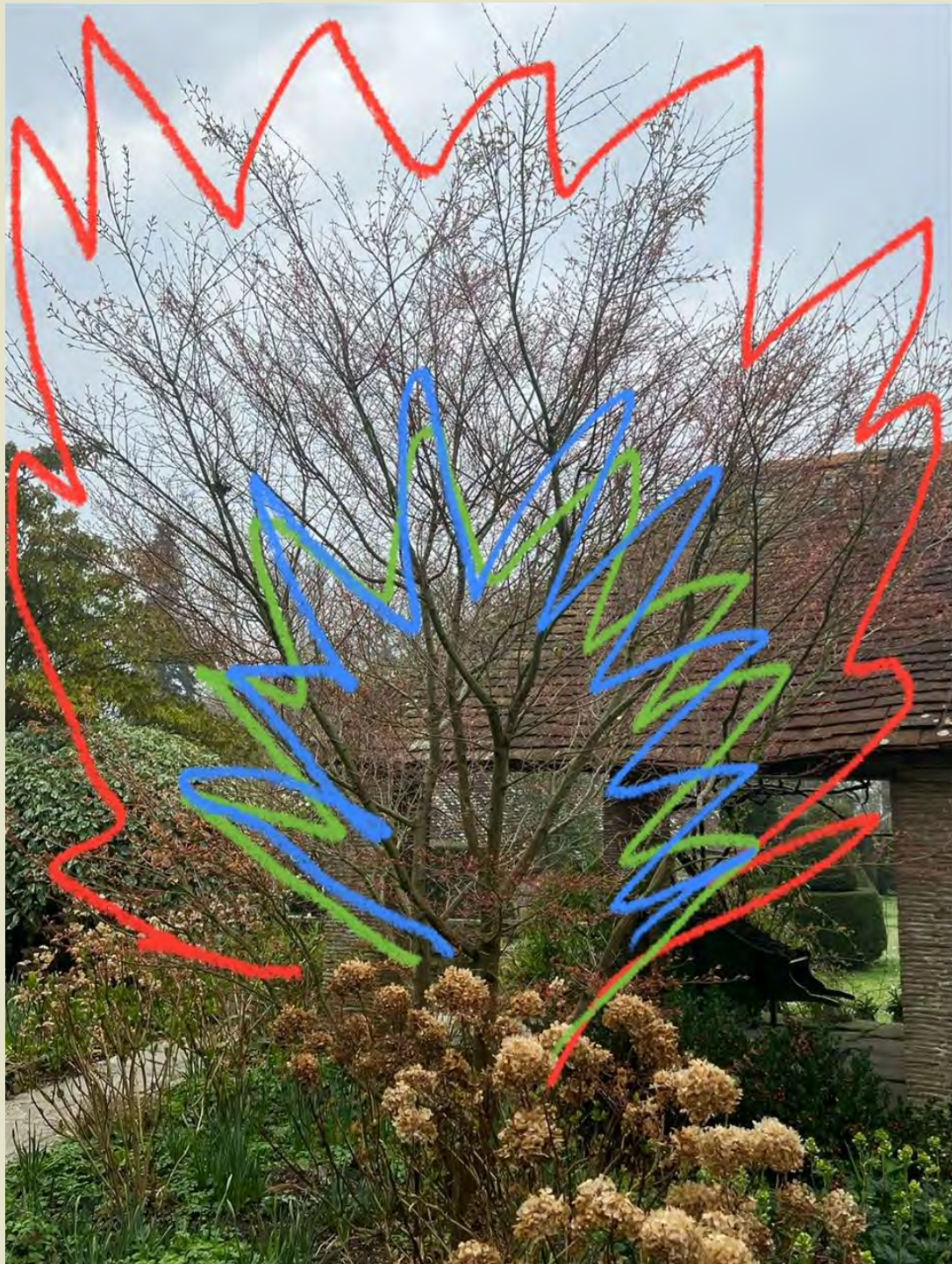


Diagram to show how to reduce a Japanese maple.

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The Long Border, which is a mixed multilayered border, will be featured throughout this series. Here the border in June with lupins, Ladybird poppies, Miscanthus Cosmopolitan, and Ligustrum x vicaryii.

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The Long Border in early June.

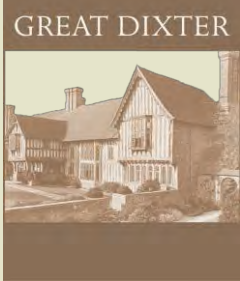
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The pruning of *Myrtus communis*.



A mind-map for the second week of March. Each session of this course will start with a mind map.



Larkspurs placed on a path to demonstrate high density/low density planting.