

Godinton House, Ashford

If you're looking for inspiration for your garden, then aim high and look to the experts. This weekend's National Garden Schemes open afternoon at Godinton House, Ashford, will be a delight for those with a heart for horticulture and should set your head spinning with examples of flowers, shrubs, climbers, and herbaceous borders. Godinton is also a fabulous place to take in early spring blossom. The NGS event takes place on Sunday, March 23, from 1pm to 6pm.

Opening times: Gardens open daily for the season, from 1pm. The house will be open from Sunday, April 13. Dogs are not allowed in the garden, but can be taken on leads around the conservation walk in the park

Picture: Nick Sandford



that circles the house and garden.

Prices: House and gardens, adults £8, children under 16 free. Gardens only, adults £5, children free.

Address: Godinton House & Gardens
Godinton Lane, Ashford, TN23 3BP. Just off Junction 9 of the M20.

Info: godintonhouse.co.uk or call 01233 64385.

An idea that will grow and grow

Flowering trees were special to artist Vincent Van Gogh. His famous painting Almond Blossoms shows the delicate blooms of an almond tree against a turquoise blue sky. You could recreate the scene with your own almond tree, grown and sold at Potash Farm, near

Sevenoaks. Grow in a sunny site with well-drained soil and prune at least every two or three years. Grower Alexander Hunt also sells walnut, sweet chestnut and cobnut trees.

Info: www.walnuttrees.co.uk or call 01732 882734.

Did you know?



The may tree or hawthorn is the only British plant to be named after the month in which it blooms. It is thought extremely unlucky to bring hawthorn flowers inside. There are many possible reasons for this, but the most likely is to do with its smell – hawthorn flowers have a heavy scent, similar to the chemicals produced by a dead human body when it starts to decay.