



KATHERINE CROUCH GARDEN DESIGN

Katherine in Cornwall, 2040

There I was, pottering about in my sunny garden, when this oddly dressed bunch of media wallahs appeared from nowhere and, trying not to stare, asked me to design a tiny border, in keeping with the present day climate!

The young producer (well, I suppose everyone's young when you're 81) passed me a seven page catalogue from what is now King William's Royal Nursery up the road.

I creaked up from my kneeler, adjusted my optical correctors and had a look, and bless me if it wasn't in prices from back in 2008! £300 wouldn't even fill up the old transporter with depleted uranium.. I'd used the rusty parts for garden ornaments.

Anyway, it turns out that they'd time-morphed from 2008 and wanted to know what thrived in today's climate.

It was early September and they wanted the border immediately. All the early season plants with boring leaves had to go, and anything I knew would rot away in the winter wet, however frost hardy.

I eliminated all the big expensive tropical items, what with my tiny pension, even at the old prices. Forget plants that like a cool moist root run in the summer, we dry out too much for astilbes, astrantias, rogersias, lobelias, adantiums, ligularias and suchlike.

By this time I'd whittled it down to a few favourites, but I think you'll agree I've used a good selection of forms and colours, with some utterly dependable old familiars such as brachyglottis and hebe to keep the maintenance down, and just enough risk of a few things dying due to wet or drought to keep me paying attention.

It was only after they left that I remembered we used to garden with our clothes on, back in the old cold days. No wonder they stared.....

Kath