

Grab a deckchair – it's going to be hotter than Tahiti!



FEELING THE HEAT: Sunseekers in Brighton and, inset, a dog covers up. Right: A young England fan enjoys an ice lolly

BRITAIN will celebrate the World Cup with sweltering temperatures today – but it is only the start of a heatwave that will see the UK become hotter than the tropical paradise of Tahiti.

Average temperatures for this time of year usually hover around 70F in London and 64F in Manchester.

But after a balmy weekend with highs of 77F, the heat is expected to soar to 80F by Tuesday before rising into the 80s and 90s on Wednesday – as hot as popular holiday destinations such as Marbella and inching above Tahiti.

The Weather Outlook forecaster Brian Gaze said: 'Computer models show 95F isn't out of the question in England's south from midweek as temperatures continue to rise amid a Spanish plume of warm air.'



Long arm of the lawn

Police help create a burglar-beating garden – with some ideas from a special branch of privet investigators...

1 No sneak thief

Gravel scattered around the garden and near doors will ensure that any burglars approaching the house will crunch it noisily underfoot, alerting homeowners.

2 They're nicked (and cut)

Placed under windows or around the boundary, plants with spiky leaves such as prickly ivy (smilax) or Osmanthus heterophyllus, a variety of olive with holly-like, sharp-toothed leaves, right, will deter the unwary.



3 Inspector coarse

Plants with spiky shoots, such as the spiny firethorn, below, or purple Japanese barberry, left, will cut into the flesh of anyone crawling through the garden.



LEAVES TO STOP THIEVES:

Some of the crimebusting elements you could have in your garden

5 Suspended sentence

With a pergola with poles that rotate, anyone trying to shimmy up the structure will swiftly find themselves falling back down to earth. But roses can still climb it.



6 Crimespotters

Low-voltage lighting means there won't be any shadows in which to hide, but it won't be bright enough to disturb your sleep inside. Add wi-fi CCTV cameras and you watch from wherever you are to see what's going on in your garden – even when you're on holiday. These can be battery- or solar-powered.



7 Privet army

A privet hedge, left, planted around the boundary is prohibitively difficult to get through. Plant it in front of mesh steel fencing – the robust material is too tough to cut through or kick in.

HERE'S the latest weapon in the fight against crime – a privet hedge.

It's one of the features recommended by police as a new garden is unveiled to show how green-fingered householders can use the land around their house as an extra line of defence against burglars.

As well as impenetrable hedges, other suggestions include choosing plants with thorns or spiky leaves to deter crooks or tall, thin trees such as cypress varieties that provide nowhere to hide.

Gravel pathways would make it impossible for anyone to silently creep towards the house, while pergolas can be designed

By Valerie Elliott

with rotating posts to make them impossible to climb.

The crime-busting garden design is one of the exhibits at the Hampton Court Flower Show next month.

Sergeant David Lucy, of the Metropolitan Police's Designing Out Crime Unit, said: 'Many of these simple, affordable tips can prevent burglars getting inside homes.'

With clear-up rate for burglaries last year standing at just three per cent in England and Wales, critics might wonder

if police should be more concerned with the efficiency of the thin blue line than with herbaceous borders.

'Some people will be cynical,' said Sgt Lucy. 'But we have to be clever managing police resources. If this stops another elderly lady being a victim, then it's worth it. We're doing this for the right reasons.'

Secured By Design, the crime prevention group that contributed to the £20,000 cost of the garden, said: 'This can free up officers to catch criminals.'

The 27ft by 18ft garden was designed by horticultural students Jacqueline Poll and Lucy Glover, who said: 'This has

made me much more safety-conscious about my own garden.'

Other tips include robust steel boundary fencing that cannot be kicked in or cut, dusk-to-dawn low-voltage lights to ensure visibility in the garden at night, and wi-fi-enabled CCTV cameras.

Spiky plants can also be grown on shed roofs to stop intruders using that as a way into the house. And to prevent burglars getting into the outbuildings themselves, police suggest alarmed padlocks.

The Royal Horticultural Society's Hampton Court Flower Show runs from Tuesday July 3 to Saturday July 8.