

THE DESIGNER'S GUIDE TO CREATING THE PERFECT GARDEN

Dream **GARDENS** & LANDSCAPES

Monthly Edition | 1st September 2025



**Be Aware of Bulb
Blunders**

**3 Ways to Enjoy,
Escape and Entertain
in Your Garden**

**Revamp Your
Front Garden**

Welcome,

From mid-August, the pull towards the end of the year became very profound. Notice how the leaves are starting to turn, the mornings are getting darker and the temperature cools.

We are blessed with such intense seasonal change. Just as we begin to wind down for the winter, our gardens do too but with it a diverse range of plants, trees and shrubs reveal their beauty at this time of year unshaded by the vibrancy of summer flowers.

It's a quieter time, with subtle hints of colour from just a few plants that make the

autumn garden special. And as the bare bones of your garden begin to show through, consider it a time to think onto the year ahead.

Over the summer, I am sure you have spent considerable amounts of time in your garden. Now it's time to assess what worked for you, and what hasn't. Make some changes and you'll open your garden up to so much more.

Enjoy the read,

Oscar
Owner at
Marsland-Roberts
Landscapes Ltd.



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September 2025 Contents

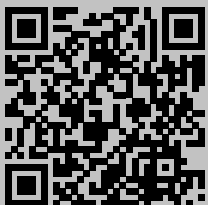
- 4.** Be Aware Of Bulb Blunders
& Jobs For The Month
- 5.** Knowledge Is Power
Right Person, Right Job
- 6.** Planting Design For Autumn
Russet Hues Are Here!
- 7.** From The Outdoor Kitchen
Juicy Blackberry Coulis
- 8.** Healthy Hedges
Time For A Good Trim!
- 9.** Anemone 'September Charm'
What Looks Good This Month
- 10.** 3 Ways To Enjoy, Escape And
Entertain In Your Garden
- 11.** Concrete Vs Natural Stone
What's Best For Your Patio
- 12.** Family Friendly And Fun
Inspiring Featured Project
- 14.** Styling The Autumn Garden
Take Advantage This Season
- 15.** Revamp Your Front Garden
Smarten Your Space
- 16.** Why Leaves Change Colour
In The Autumn
- 17.** Right Plant, Right Place
Trees For Small Gardens
- 18.** Product Of The Month
Tumbled Granite Setts
- 19.** Word Search
Monthly Competition



Cover Photo: Focal Water Feature in a Contemporary Setting

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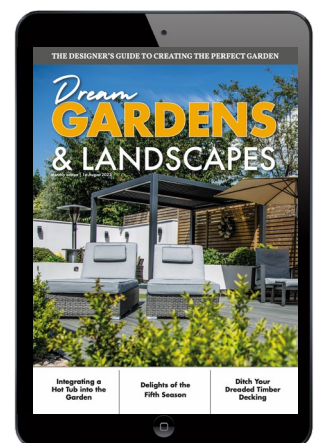
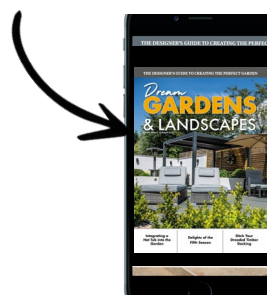
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Be Aware Of Bulb Blunders

While daffodils, crocus and hyacinth can be planted later this month through to November, for tulips it is best to wait until November - December to plant. Tulips are highly susceptible to tulip fire, a fatal fungal disease caused by fungal spores thriving in damp conditions. It is thought that planting later reduces the risk as the soil has cooled, helping slow down the spread of viruses.

Spread your bulb planting over the course of a few weeks if the weather stays mild. This

gives you a succession of colour rather than all your flowers blooming at the same time, extending your spring garden display.

Daffodils are the most versatile bulb and can be planted anytime between late September right up to Christmas if the ground isn't too wet or frozen. Generally, the rule of thumb is to plant bulbs at three times their depth. If you are unsure, it's always best to plant deeper than shallower, preventing squirrels from stealing your prized bulbs.

JOBS FOR THE MONTH



Prune climbing roses and rambling roses once they've finished flowering (unless they are repeat-flowering varieties, in which case leave them until later in the year)



Divide your herbaceous plants if they are becoming overcrowded. This will keep your plants healthy and vigorous year after year and multiply your stock



Net ponds now before autumn leaf fall gets underway to reduce the amount of debris entering the water



THOUGHTS OF A GARDEN DESIGNER

Knowledge Is Power

Three phrases which makes our toes curl...

**"My builder is going to build the garden."
"Why do I need to pay for a pretty picture?"
"I just want a quote."**

Don't be deceived by the job title. A garden designer does much more than draw lines on a page. A trained garden designer understands drainage, levels, soil types, building regulations, budgets, material and plants. A garden design is scaled and calculated to the chosen materials, practically works with the levels of the garden, considers issues such as access, drainage, TPOs and conservation areas. So, it's far more skilled than just 'a pretty picture.'

When it comes to quantifying the garden, how would you know how much materials you need if you didn't know the dimensions, didn't know the gardens incline or decline, didn't know the gardens access. Asking for a quote over the phone or even just from a simple visit isn't a fair request.

For full garden transformations with lots of different design elements and/or changes

of level, a landscaper really does need professionally drawn plans to work from.

Consider all the different disciplines needed to build a house. Could a builder manage without a blueprint?

Houses and gardens are different entities and therefore should be treated that way. You wouldn't dream of employing a landscaper to build your house, so it is baffling why people think it is appropriate to employ a builder to construct a garden.

Undertaking a garden transformation is a huge deal, and a project which you want to get right first time.

Choosing a landscaper or garden designer who doesn't understand your needs can ruin the experience, and asking a builder to construct a garden is even more disastrous as they will often cut corners to make it easier due to not being skilled in landscaping so choose wisely.

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consultation.**

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Planting Design For Autumn

Autumn is arguably the most interesting time of the year for the garden. Although there are considerably less colourful flowers, those which have finished flowering now take on a rusty hue and a swathe of bronzes, red and yellows begin to encompass the garden.

Consider 'Out of Season' Perennials for Autumn Structure

Architectural perennials such as Echinacea, Phlox and Sedum will be beginning to fade right now, but that doesn't mean they aren't serving your garden throughout the winter. Although technically dead, structural perennials still hold their form long after they have finished flowering for the year. Leave them to stand over the winter as they add brassy tones to your borders, create height and look stunning when the frost and dew settles on them later in the year. Also perfect for overwintering bugs which are beneficial to your garden.

Focus on Leaf Colour

Evergreens are popular for the obvious reason that they are evergreen throughout the year, but they simply don't provide the interesting seasonal change many deciduous plants, shrubs and trees do. Some of the best leaf colour comes from Japanese Acers. Green varieties turn bright orange to crimson reds in the autumn before leaf fall and despite being leafless throughout the winter, they are worth it for their colour change. If you are looking for something for the winter too, cornus, or dogwoods as they are commonly known, have amazing colour change in their leaves throughout



Silver Grass Miscanthus

the autumn, but once they have fallen, their vibrantly bright stems are the stars of the show through the winter. So it is possible to get all year round interest from non-evergreen plants.

Glorious Grasses

Much like architectural perennials, many grasses will die back over the autumn but still hold onto their tan toned papery leaves until their annual prune in the spring. Although they lose their green tone, they'll still maintain height and movement throughout the garden during the autumn and winter. Genuses such as Miscanthus and Pennistum are easy to care for options which suit many styles of gardens.



Echinacea

Remember plants, shrubs and trees don't need to be in flower or at the peak season of interest to provide a stunning display or to simply maintain structure in the garden. When you think outside the box and consider all the attributes the plants have to offer, that's when you create the most versatile and interesting garden throughout the year. Don't play it safe with evergreens, although they too still do have their place.

From The Outdoor Kitchen

Juicy Blackberry Coulis

The fruits of your labour - literally - will now be coming into fruition this month. You've gathered all your soft fruit from their canes and now you have an abundance. From overnight oats to this delicious recipe for blackberry coulis, you can make tasty treats for all the family.

Recipe

- 250g Blackberries
- 50g Golden Caster Sugar
- ½ tsp Vanilla Extract

Method

1. Put the blackberries and sugar into a small pan with 100ml of water
2. Bring to the boil, then simmer for 5 mins until the fruit is soft. Stir in the vanilla, remove and cool a little
3. Tip the contents of the pan into a blender or food processor, and whiz to a puree, then strain through a sieve, rubbing it through with the back of a ladle or spoon
4. Serve warm or chilled. Keeps in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 3 days or freeze for up to 3 months



Growing and Harvesting Blackberries

Blackberries fruit on two year old canes, so when you tie them in, keep new growth separate from the older fruiting canes to prevent any fungal diseases spreading from older foliage.

In the first spring, when new canes emerge from the base of the plant, cut back any old wood to soil level. In the second summer you could be tying in numerous canes. They'll flower and then fruits will follow. After fruiting, cut fruited (i.e., two year old canes) down to soil level. For maximum sweetness, let the fruits swell to full ripeness. Gently pull them off the canes and pop them into a shallow dish to avoid crushing them. Watch that the juice doesn't stain your clothes.

Growing blackberry bushes is rather simple once the plants are in the ground. The plants will produce berries for 15 to 20 years if you take care of them. An investment bound to pay off with proper care and maintenance. The year following planting, fertilise the ground as soon as you can in the spring and give the growing blackberries plants about 2.5cm (an inch) of water per week.

Healthy Hedges

Now that the summer has passed, you can safely give your hedge a good trim without the risk of disturbing nesting birds. You should be pruning your hedge at least once a year, not only to maintain its appearance but also to improve its vigour.

Leaving your hedge uncut for a long period of time, perhaps over a course of a few years, will cause its branches to get too thick and lose its shape. In which case, a hard, rejuvenation pruning is beneficial. Most hedge types do follow similar cutting

techniques, but be sure to read up on your type of hedging beforehand so you know how hard back you can prune.

For an annual prune, trim the new summer growth back and trim the top of the hedge at a slight angle. This is known as a 'batter.' Keep the bottom of the hedge slightly wider than the top so sunlight can reach the base growth. Look along the line of the hedge every few cuts so you can make sure you're staying even.

IN THE VEG GARDEN

Timeout for Tomatoes

Outdoor tomatoes will be nearing the end of their useful life this month. Even in sunny, warm weather, they are unlikely to produce any more fruits and the aim should be to ripen those that there are. Ripening can be helped along by cutting away the leaves which cover the fruiting vines to allow more sunlight in to ripen the fruits.



Anemone 'September Charm'

What Looks Good This Month

Japanese anemone are outstanding plants for the late summer and autumn garden. One of the longest blooming perennials from August to October, it provides weeks of colour when many perennials are starting to fade. Flowers are held well above the foliage on tall, upright stems which hold their own. The branching stems of poppy-like flowers are superb for cutting and have good resistance to most insects and diseases. Mixing well with ornamental grasses, they're well suited for borders in cottage gardens, naturalistic areas, or prairie and meadows gardens. Their open flowers are incredibly attractive to bees and butterflies and their pale rose pink flowers glow in the low light of the autumn evening and mornings.

Where to Plant:

A gem of a plant for a semi-shady position, preferring a rich moist site, tolerant of most soil types but avoid excessive winter wet. Slow in its first year, but when established rapidly form a large colony. However, it does despise being moved.

Plant With:

Since the leaves of Japanese anemones emerge late in spring, they are great partners for flowering bulbs or perennials which bloom earlier in the season, such as tulips, daffodils, lily of the valley or charming Dicentra with



Japanese Anemone

their ferny foliage. Equally, if you have a shadier border in the garden that gets only a little sunlight, Japanese anemone look lush next to verdant planting such as ferns and hosta.

Care:

Native to central China, although it has been naturalised in Japan for hundreds of years where it has picked up its common name, this stunning and long-lasting cottage garden plant may pose a disadvantage in that it can spread aggressively once established and can sucker underground to pop through any nearby plants. However, Japanese anemones are easily controlled if you don't let it get away from you. This potential side effect shouldn't put you off having such a valued plant in your garden. Remove suckers by digging them out while young to control spread.



Generously Golden



3 Ways To Enjoy, Escape And Entertain In Your Garden

Your garden is a place to unwind, relax and enjoy rather than tirelessly trawling through weeds and fixing deteriorating woodwork, for example.

Here's three easy ways that will not only improve how your garden looks, but also increase quality time spent in the garden relaxing!

Bioethanol Fire Pit: Log burners are great. They're inexpensive to buy, look the part but they need an endless supply of wood to keep them burning all night. This makes it very difficult to regulate their temperature, but additionally who really wants to get up and down all night to fuel a fire?

This is where splurging on a bioethanol fire pit has its benefits. Easy to light, comes in all shapes, sizes and styles to suit any garden, and all you need to do is switch it on at the start of the night and turn it off when you're done. With no ashes to clean out, they're easy to maintain too. Just add more fuel when it's empty.

Outdoor Styling: Add character with textiles. Outdoor cushions and rugs are all the craze at the minute. More hard-wearing and generally water resistant, they bring a little of the inside, out. You can really show off your personality here with the colours and prints you choose. Laser cut steel dividers add to the outdoor room feeling. These can be purchased in pre-made patterns, or tailor made if you have a design in mind, and they're super easy to install! Add to the sides of a pergola or create a fenced off area around a patio for a cosy seating area.

Just Add Water: There's nothing more relaxing than bringing the sound of water into the garden. Not only is it relaxing, but running water helps mask the sounds from beyond your boundary. So, if neighbours or a barking dog are a problem, a water fountain can help you relax. If you're looking for something simpler than a fountain, shallow water bowls will give your garden a cool feel when it's really hot and attract all important wildlife, such as birds for a drink.

Concrete Vs Natural Stone

Cost effective concrete paving can be tempting but it is important to understand the pros and cons before choosing any landscaping material.

If you are considering replacing or adding a walkway, patio, or driveway to your outdoor living space, you may be overwhelmed by the options available. When it comes to planning a patio, the slabs are arguably the most critical component, and the choices are endless. Some paving materials are more cost-effective than others, and certain types are more durable and easier to maintain.

The general rule is that concrete paving slabs are at the more affordable end of the market and aim to replicate the premium, more expensive natural stone slabs. With modern manufacturing methods being

as high tech and advanced as they are nowadays, you may wonder what makes the natural stone paving slabs so much better.

Whilst modern day concrete slabs certainly can look the business, they can't quite match the individual beauty of natural stone. While a concrete slab is more affordable upfront, the long-term costs for repairs and/or replacements will almost always outweigh the initial savings.

Once installed, natural stone will last for an incredibly long time whilst still maintaining its elegant and unique finish, unlike concrete which tends to fade over time. Natural stone is also easy to clean and can be pressure washed without the worry of it losing its finish or colour unlike concrete.





Modern Country Garden

Wrapping around a beautiful barn conversion, the garden lacked direction and versatility. The garden was exposed and baked in the sun, with children's play equipment the dominant feature in the ample garden. As big Leicester City fans, our clients wanted their own football pitch for their children to match former LCFC midfielder, James Maddison.

To zone the garden, a large formal lawn, centralised the main viewpoint from the house. A new patio around the summerhouse created a usable seating, dining, cooking and general socialising

After



zone at the back of the garden, utilising the existing summerhouse. Trellis and planting screens this part of the garden from the play equipment in the top right corner.

A focal point to the side of the new patio next to the house focuses the eye on a trickling sphere water feature. Modern timber archways were designed to create a scented walkway and a filtered backdrop, masking the sunken trampoline behind. Down the side of the home is where the large artificial football pitch was built for the football mad children to play their own matches on.

Finishing touches privatise the garden from neighbours and the main road. Pleached trees and linear trellis increase the boundary heights, buffering road noise and the views in.

The family can now make full use of the garden with three separate but interconnected zones for all the family. Careful consideration of view points helps the garden become private and inclusive.

Get The Look

- London Stone Florence White Porcelain Paving
- Marshalls Pennant Grey Tegula

Before





Styling The Autumn Garden

It feels like you've only just busted out your garden furniture before you feel like you're putting it away again for the winter. But before being too hasty, we've got some great tips on how to style your garden so you can still use your space into the autumn and take full advantage of this stunning season.

Adding Natural Warmth

Now the weather is cooling, come late afternoon there's often a slight nip in the air. But before you retreat inside, consider adding a heat lamp to your patio space for a cosy afternoon. Upright burners are great if you have an open patio and attachable strip lamps are perfect for adding onto a pergola beam. Fire bowls are fantastic additions to any garden and all the family will enjoy sitting around the fire. Inexpensive fire bowls can be moved around or put away, or built in gas options are invaluable if you don't like the smell of a burning fire or don't want to keep loading it with wood.

Textural Textiles

Scatter soft, fluffy blankets and cushions onto your outdoor furniture so you can snuggle under the stars with your loved ones for an unforgettable experience. Teamed with a fire pit you can create a very cosy space in your garden. If you have a timber pergola you can purchase sides and roofs for temporary shelter.

Create and Ambient Mood

We always say garden lighting is transformative, not only is it practical for safety but it also transitions your garden from day to night and from season to season. Lighting in your outdoor space helps you feel warm, and it also showcases your garden when daylight hours are reduced. Remember, warm white light brings a sense of comfort while stark white light may feel a little cool during the autumn/winter months. There's something very romantic about garden lighting during the colder months.



Revamp Your Front Garden

Effortless Ways To Smarten Your Space

Your front garden says a lot about you. It sets the tone for your home, it's the first thing to welcome you home and the first impression you give to your neighbours, friends or family. With a bit of care your front garden can be transformed with little effort. The key point to remember is a simple design is most effective and practical for this area of your home.

Refresh Your Beds

One of the easiest and best ways to inject a little life into your front garden is to introduce greenery. Less is more for front gardens, so opt for a selection of just two to three reliable plants. Mound forming evergreen are the perfect choice for low maintenance all year-round structure. Replant these throughout the space.

Add Colourful Containers

If you have an all paved driveway, a quick way to make your entrance welcoming is to

plant bright seasonal bedding plants into two symmetrically styled pots either side of your front door.

Hot reds, yellows and oranges work well or for a lighter fresher look, try whites and blues.

Enhance Privacy

Now is a great time to improve the privacy in your front garden with planting. Tall grasses create a light screen even through the winter and move beautifully in the wind.

Hornbeam hedging is also a great choice for boundary planting. Although not technically evergreen, it will hold onto lovely brown leaves throughout the winter until new growth in the spring and maintain a good amount of privacy without a big, bold wall of hedge blocking your light or windows. Try bare root options from November to March to help save costs.

Why Leaves Change Their Colour In The Autumn

There is a scientific answer to why leaves change colours in the autumn.

As the days get shorter, the tree does not have enough sunlight to make food for itself. Rather than struggle to make food through the winter, it shuts down. It stops producing chlorophyll and allows its leaves to die.

When the tree stops producing chlorophyll, the green colour leaves the foliage and you

are left with the “true colour” of the leaves. Leaves are naturally orange and yellow. The green just normally covers this up. As the chlorophyll stops flowing, the tree starts to produce anthocyanins.

This replaces the chlorophyll and is red coloured. So, depending at which point in the autumn leaf life cycle the tree is in, the tree will have green, yellow or orange leaves, then red autumn leaf colour.

Right Plant, Right Place

Trees For Small Gardens

With autumn kicking in this month, trees in the garden really come into their own with some fantastic autumn berries and leaf colour changes. If you have a smaller garden, or even an average sized one, introducing trees can improve the feel of your outdoor space.

Bringing height into a smaller garden is a great way to create balance and make your garden actually feel bigger. And it goes without saying the amount of wildlife it will bring in will only benefit your garden.

Delicate habits such as those from Himalayan birches, Amelanchier and Malus trees create height, habitats and a feeling of seclusion without blocking the light or feeling overpowering.

In fact, their open habits often allow you to slightly see through them, thus forming a translucent screen and dappled shade. These trees don't have major root systems so are ideal for near boundary walls or closer to the house.

The main thing to consider is the overall height and spread of the tree. Where sunlight might be at a minimum in a smaller garden, placement is crucial. It is important not to block too much, but if your garden is exposed, having a tree in the right position will help bring in that much needed shade.

For more plant selection ideas here's our specialist picks for small garden trees:

FEATURED TREES

Small Trees For Blossom:

- Amelanchier lamarckii
- Prunus 'Pink Perfection'
- Magnolia 'Jane'

Small Trees For Autumn:

- Japanese Acer (palmatum)
- Sorbus vilmorinii
- Malus robusta 'Red Sentinel'

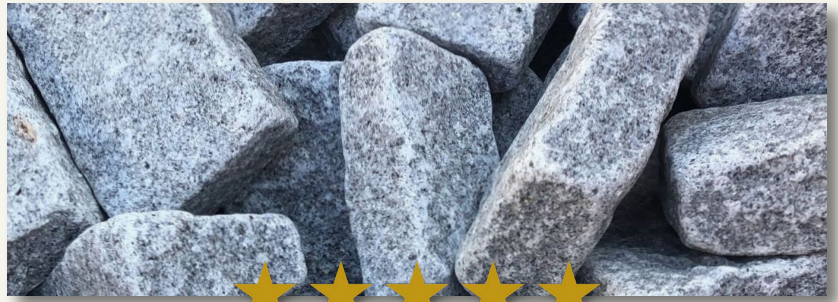
Small Trees Winter Interest:

- Acer griseum
- Betula utilis var. jacquemontii

Acer palmatum

Amelanchier

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH



Tumbled Granite Setts

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Hand cut tumbled setts are perfect for a variety of application from domestic gardens to commercial and public spaces, great for adding feature areas such as paths or borders.

Design Uses

Tumbled granite setts, consistent in colour, and extremely durable, are suitable for paths, driveways and borders to patios and terraces. Perfect for a contemporary look, while the tumbled look is perfect for traditional projects.

Works Well With

Versatile and hard-wearing, tumbled setts perfectly imitate the aged and rustic look of reclaimed materials, contrast beautifully against smooth porcelain or complement riven paving such as sandstone. The black tone is best suited for grey colour schemes.

Pros

Natural black tumbled granite setts create beautiful accents in paving, breaking up the paving and adding extra subtle detailing in a design.

Cons

The irregular nature of the surface can also make access difficult for manual tools such as wheelbarrows, lawnmowers and also wheelchairs. Even relatively flat-topped setts can be difficult to traverse if the jointing is recessed.

INSPIRATION GALLERY



PUZZLE PAGE

Can You Find These 7 September Plants In The Word Search?

K H T Q G U J J Q L R Z N Q U K V T Z Q
J E S O Y U W H V B L R H S Y F K Y M Z
I L S B T I C K I M T S K A T D U L E T
B E J F H K W Q P X E L Z R K X A N E E
U N S Q B L F E G N P Z C H A S T E R X
Q I J I K A K J C Y V Y B X U A J C H T
A U L W K G X L P S P V B P G Y P G H P
L M F T G W K A U Q S M M S E D U M Z F
J B D T T Z N K J D F O T K C L R Y A Z
L E E X B F I B X C Q O S T Q W H Z A E
X E F O F A P P V Z J O Q A D T R R O I
S C N Y P L H D O S V W W L V G J Z D A
M I I Q E Y O U N C Z K V J L F J Z X D
N S U B N Z F H J S U F L O T Z S O G R
O H H P S Z I M C O L C H I C U M S S H
T L W K T C A J Q B J F X A O T G E U A
Z T U V E Q T U N I O H X G L X T B B M
H L H M M L N M Y J X G V R T J O B R A
V L W D O B F Q U W L C R O C O S M I A
O V P J N J N R Q A X T K P Y E Y P A H

Here's Some Clues to Help You

1. An abundance of blue, pink, lilac and white daisy like blooms
2. Bell like flowers on long stems
3. Succulent leaves with dome flower heads, like red cauliflower
4. Fiery, topical looking flowers from swards of strappy leaves
5. Shuttlescock flowers coloured, orange, red and yellow
6. Commonly called red-hot poker for their hot coloured blooms
7. Known as the autumn crocus

Thank You for your continued support...

"Absolutely outstanding service. Every stage of the process, from initial discussions and idea gathering, through the garden design, visual presentations and construction was exemplary."

Autumn is the New Summer

Extend the Pleasures of the Outdoor Season...

With a Stunning, All Year Round, All Weather Garden Design

... Call Our Friendly Team to Arrange
Your Design Consultation Today



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