

M&G COMMISSIONS AWARD-WINNING DESIGNER ANDY STURGEON TO CREATE THE M&G GARDEN AT THE RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 2019

M&G Investments, the title sponsor of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, has commissioned designer Andy Sturgeon and contractor Crocus to create *The M&G Garden* for 2019's Show.

Celebrating the beauty of nature's extraordinary power to regenerate and colonise all kinds of landscapes with new growth, *The M&G Garden* in 2019 is a vibrantly green and lush environment. It features a biodiverse range of pioneering plant species from around the world – including many unusual plants making their first appearance at Chelsea – all of which are able to grow and thrive in the British climate.

Among young trees and ferns, jewel-like flowers bring colour to this woodland garden, shining through the greenery in rich tones of blue, orange, white and deep purple. The contrasting textures of the diverse planting is enhanced by massive sculptures representing ancient rock formations, fashioned from 50 tonnes of sustainable burnt-oak timber by the British craftsman Johnny Woodford. The regenerative theme of new life and growth is carried through with a series of small pools and clear streams trickling through the garden alongside a staircase of vast English ironstone platforms, ending in a tranquil pool.

Among the trees and plants featuring in the garden are *primordial Equisetum* and *Restios*, *Nothofagus antarctica*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Gunnera killipiana*, *Arisaema speciosum*, and *Disporopsis bodinieri*.

Andy Sturgeon, Designer of *The M&G Garden*, says:

“Our garden this year is living proof of the tremendous power and persistence of nature. I want to show how plants can colonise a landscape to create something new and beautiful, and I hope visitors to Chelsea will be really inspired by it.”

Mike Evans, Chair of M&G Prudential, says:

“It's a great honour for M&G to be working once again with such an imaginative and inspiring designer as Andy Sturgeon. Our garden this year feels extra special because Andy's theme of finding beauty in the regenerative power of nature really reflects the work we

do at M&G to invest in improving people's lives through creating better homes, regenerating communities and inspiring green spaces. With such an exciting project, we feel also very fortunate to be partnering with Crocus for the third year running. It wouldn't be possible without their plant expertise and total commitment to excellence in every detail of construction.”



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FLOWER SHOW**

About Andy Sturgeon and Crocus

This is the second time Andy Sturgeon has designed a garden for M&G at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show; the first was his Gold medal-winning garden of 2012. In all, Andy has won seven Gold medals at The RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2005 – 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2016, and his gardens also won Best in Show awards in 2010 and 2016.

A leading garden designer in the UK and internationally, Andy is known for his distinctive, contemporary style, innovative planting and inventive use of sculpture. As well as undertaking private and commercial garden and landscape commissions, Andy is also a writer, broadcaster, lecturer and sought-after judge of design competitions. He is a Fellow of the Society of Garden Designers and a BALI registered designer.

2019 will mark the third year of collaboration between M&G and Crocus, the largest gardening website in the UK and the only one able to supply a significant range of plants. Crocus have won twenty six Gold Medals at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, and ten of the coveted Best in Show medals, including *The M&G Garden* in 2017.

About M&G Investments

This is M&G's tenth year as title sponsor of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

For more than 85 years, M&G Investments has been helping people to prosper by putting their money to work. On behalf of its customers - including millions of savers and pension-scheme members across the UK - M&G invests for the long term, creating new jobs, new infrastructure and new homes and communities which help improve people's lives and futures.

Since 2017, M&G has already helped improve the quality of life for thousands of people across the UK through its support of the RHS's Greening Grey Britain scheme to brighten community spaces.

In 2019, M&G is also supporting the National Community Land Trust Network in its vital work to help local people take more control of long term investment in their communities and create better places to live; by building affordable housing and managing local assets such as community green spaces, community businesses, and sustainable energy schemes.

M&G Investments is part of M&GPrudential, the leading savings and investments business which manages over £351 billion in customer assets.

For further information about The M&G Garden or M&G's support of the National Community Land Trust Network, please contact:

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