

In the news

The big gardening stories of the week



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Aussie's green wall is sky high!

THE WORLD'S highest green wall has been created in downtown Sydney, Australia. The astonishing scheme at One Central Park is the creation of Patrick Blanc, world expert on green wall technology, and architect Jean Nouvel.

There are two adjoining 116m (380ft) residential towers connected by terraced gardens, over a retail centre. The 21 planted panels attached to the sides cover an area

of 1,120 sq.m (12,056 sq.ft), stretching from the 2nd to the 33rd floor. On the 24th floor a huge sky garden projects 30m (100ft) into space,

while the cantilever acts as canvas for an LED light display. Reflectors project sunlight onto surrounding gardens. Plants were carefully selected, mimicking vegetation found in the Blue Mountains to the west of the city. Some are familiar, such as acacia, grevillea, dianella, viola and sedges.

Plants are rooted in a synthetic, multi-layered matting. An alarm system alerts gardeners to failures within minutes. The gardens will be irrigated via a recycled water facility.

"It's very similar to other types of gardening, except here you're hanging 30 floors in the air sometimes," said Andrew Wands, who leads the maintenance crew. The walls are due for completion in around three months' time.

• The world's largest green wall at 5,300 sq.m (57,000 sq.ft) and 35m (115ft) high has recently been created in Singapore.