

## Sheltered Courtyards

Presented with a sheltered courtyard in the southern UK, we'd select the following:

### Evergreen Trees

*Acacia dealbata* – the Mimosa which must be grown in a sheltered spot, ideally south-facing.

*Cupressus sempervirens 'Totem'* and *Cupressus sempervirens 'Stricta'* – the dark-green, pencil-thin Italian Cypress, reminiscent of the warm Mediterranean and so looking at home with plants which need a sheltered spot

*Eriobotrya japonica* – the Loquat with its large, strongly-veined leaves and creamy flowers in autumn and winter which needs a sheltered location. It can also be grown as a shrub.

### Deciduous Trees

*Acer palmatum* varieties, *Acer palmatum dissectum* varieties and *Acer shirasawanum 'Aureum'* – Japanese Acers, all of which need protection from the wind which can burn their leaves.

*Albizia julibrissin 'Ombrella'* – the Silk Tree, has fern-like leaves that open in the day and close at night, sweetly-fragrant pink, hairy flowers with a yellow centre, is drought resistant and the more sun it gets the better – it just needs shelter from cold winds

*Lagerstroemia indica 'Coccinea'* – the Grape Myrtle is only hardy in the mildest areas of Britain and to be returned to a warm greenhouse in winter, but it's well worth growing in a container in a hot, sheltered spot in a courtyard. The bark is beautiful, the autumn colour a flame-red and after intensely hot summers it bears rose-pink flowers in late summer.

*Magnolia liliifolia 'Betty'* is a small tree that bears spectacular flowers in April – deep purple outer petals open to reveal deep pink inner ones. A wonderful specimen for a sheltered spot.

*Punica granatum* – the Pomegranate which needs shelter if it is to fruit

### Evergreen Shrubs

*Camellia japonica* with its glorious spring flowers and glossy, dark leaves, to minimise the risk of frost damage to the flower buds

*Laurus nobilis* – the Bay Laurel, which needs shelter from strong winds.

*Magnolia grandiflora 'Gallissonniere'* – bears fragrant white flowers in late summer against its large, gloss green leaves with foxy-brown, suede-like undersides.

### Deciduous Shrubs

*Edgeworthia chrysantha* – because the more sheltered it is the sooner its highly-fragranced yellow flowers open.

*Musa basjoo* – the Banana – and Canna hybrids are both ideal for giving an exotic touch to a planting scheme. They need a sheltered site and moist, but well-drained soil and a deep mulch over winter.

### Climbers

*Actinidia chinensis 'Jenny'* - , a self-pollinating Kiwi-fruit which needs a protected site to set fruit

*Trachelospermum jasminoides* – the evergreen Star Jasmine which produces white flowers all summer

*Wisteria floribunda* and *Wisteria sinensis* varieties – because we love them and will grow them anywhere we reasonably can!