



Malus domestica 'Bright Future' Espalier

A free standing espalier is a great way to provide a see through barrier, particularly useful in a small space, it is a light handed way of separating one area of the garden from another without feeling cut off. Apple trees have blossom in spring and pretty apples in autumn and the espalier form develops gnarls and character as it matures.





Thymus serpyllum 'Pink Chintz' 'Breckland Thyme'

One of many creeping varieties of thyme used in this design, *T. serpyllum* is a subtle, understated plant that attracts wildlife, can be used in soups and stews as well as provides a lovely scent where foot traffic occurs. Mauve flowers carpet the ground and appear in the heart of the summer attracting honey bees and bumblebees. Small dark-green leaves remain year round filling gaps between the stepping stones.



Lavandula angustifolia 'Hidcote'

In front of walls is often a good place to plant lavender, the wall makes a good backdrop, the plant and the wall benefiting from their association. As a Mediterranean plant which likes hot dry conditions, in the North of Scotland where this garden is, we can dupe the lavender into thinking the base of wall, hot and dry, is the South of France. *L. a.* "Hidcote" has particularly dark purple-blue flower spikes. Left until April or even early May to cut back, the lavender adds its own note to the quieter orchestra of winter colours.

