



Garden Crime

The good weather comes; you're in the garden, the old lawn mower and tools need replacing. So here are few tips to help you keep your property/plants safe from theft.

1. **Got a new lawn mower or other stuff?** Don't advertise this to the thief by putting the box out at the roadside for collection, turn the box inside out or break it down so it fits in the bag.
2. **Mark your property**, tools, lawn mower etc., with your house number/name and post code.
3. **Don't leave lawn mowers** etc unattended in front gardens.
4. **Don't leave your tools**, garden spades etc., out after use for the burglar to come along and use to get into your property.
5. **Don't leave garage doors in public view open** for all to see the contents.
6. Make a note of **model and serial numbers** of bikes, tools, electrical goods and lawn mowers where applicable.
7. If you are putting in a **new shed** try and site it in view of your house.
8. Put a **lock on your shed/garage door and use it**, a shed door can be further secured with a "shed bar" coach bolted through the frame (see www.soldsecure.com or www.securedbydesign.com for approved products).
9. With **larger tools** and bikes consider fitting a shed shackle to the wall or "Eye" type anchor into a concrete floor and chain it to this.
10. Consider a **shed alarm**; they are quite reasonably priced from DIY stores or internet, and effective.
11. If you are **planting expensive plants** consider using a "Rootball Anchor" and where possible plant them within site of your house or neighbours, if they are pot plants make/buy the pots as heavy as possible.
12. With **garden statues** always photograph them with a scale and additional photographs of any identifying features or marks. Fix them securely to a base, where applicable have a cord of soft earth to prevent use of lifting equipment, consider security lighting and alarms.
13. In flower beds by fencing backing onto public areas consider some **defensive planting** (Prickly shrubs) on your side to deter entry.
14. **Secure your gates** to keep intruders out your rear garden, consider topping fences with trellis that will collapse on the weight of someone climbing it, or a spiky topping to fences with the relevant warning signs affixed to the fence.
15. In the rear garden fit some **security lighting** on your house on a movement detector or "dusk till dawn" sensor, also helps with those barbecues and parties.

Don't forget if you see something suspicious please contact the police on 101 or in an emergency on 999, if you wish to remain anonymous you can always call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.