

## Placement: Health and Quality of Life | Garden and Green Spaces

### GARDENING: THE NATURAL STRESS RELIEVER

Gardening is an effective way to reduce stress levels by providing people with a natural and enjoyable way to channel everyday frustrations into a positive activity that gives them pleasure. The act of nurturing and helping a living thing grow is an important part of the process, as is the feeling of accomplishment in creating a beautiful result. Whether it is growing a balcony vegetable garden, a flower garden, maintaining a lawn, caring for potted plants, or looking after the landscape around the house, the effect is similar. Studies have shown that people who nurture plants have less mental distress than others.

Gardening is good exercise providing frequent and regular opportunities to stretch and give the body a moderate cardiovascular workout. Fresh air and pleasant surroundings are also conducive to relaxation and reducing stress.

Plants Love You™ and show it by transforming everyday stress and helping you cope.

#### Resources:

Adachi, M., C.L.E. Rohde, and A.D. Kendle. 2000. Effects of floral and foliage displays on human emotions. *HortTechnology* 10:59-63.

Bringslimark, T., T. Hartig, and G.G. Patil. 2007. Psychological benefits of indoor plants in workplaces: Putting experimental results into context. *HortScience* 42:581-587.

Criley, R.A. 2008. Ornamentals – more than just beautiful. *Proceedings of the International Workshop on Ornamental Plants* 788:23-28.

Iles, J.K. 2003. The science and practice of stress reduction in managed landscapes. *Environmental Stress and Horticulture Crops*, p. 117-124.

Kweon, B.S., R.S. Ulrich, V.D. Walker, and L.G. Tassinary. 2008. Anger and stress – the role of landscape posters in an office setting. *Environment and Behavior* 40:355-381.

Charles R. Hall, Madeline W. Dickson. 2011. Economic, Environmental, and Health/Well-Being Benefits Associated with Green Industry Products and Services: A Review.