



## Fantastic Dubai gardens

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### Carole Binbrek, 66, Scottish


**Lives:** Arabian Ranches

'Our garden is our outdoor home,' explains retiree Carole Binbret. 'We really feel like it's ours, because we designed it. We started by laying interlocking tiles, which I bought cheaply at DragonMart. Then we planted local trees and bougainvillea.' However, Carole says planting local trees such as the neem tree was a mistake. 'The trees have very long roots that grow underground like a carpet. We had to replace the grass twice, but it didn't work, so now we have artificial grass! It's from The Green People ([www.greenpeopleme.com](http://www.greenpeopleme.com)) and, while it was expensive, it will pay for itself in a few years – in summer we used to have to water the old lawn three times a day.'

Carole now focuses on her pot plants. 'I have 150 pots in the garden: bougainvillea and ferns grow very well. I've also found that colius works well around the border, with very little labour. 'My top tip? Don't be in a hurry to plant. This year I was silly and planted petunias around my fountain in late October – I should have waited until mid-December as they've mostly died.' Carole admits she has invested a lot of time and money in her garden – she even has speakers set up so she can listen to soft classical music while gardening. However, she says it's all well worth the effort. 'My husband and I eat every meal out here in the winter and we love it.'

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