

# COTTAGE GARDENING

A Style for Those Who Love Plants and Gardening



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## Why do we have a “Cottage Garden” style?

Origins in old England

An all-purpose kitchen garden of the peasant or working class

A small space (cottage yard) where every inch of plantable space was utilized

Herbs, vegetables, fruits, flowers, fruit trees, fruiting vines, etc. were all grown together to maximize space

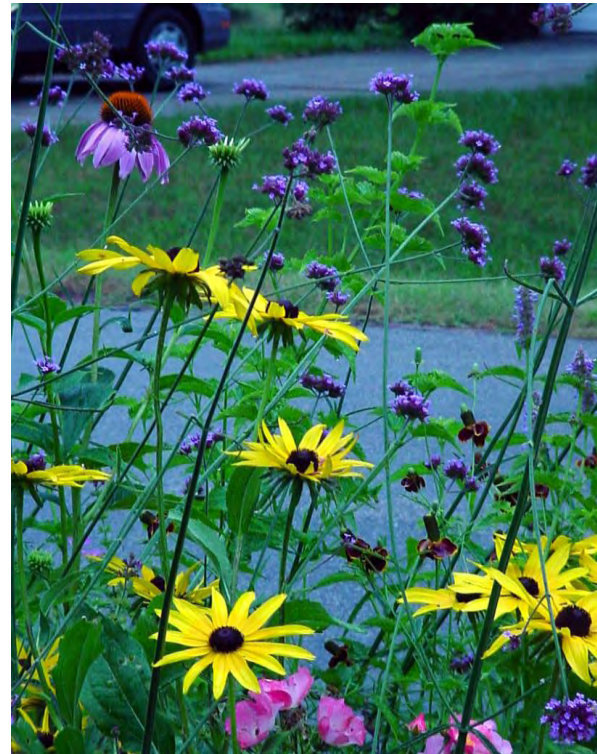
Often had an informal hedge or fence surrounding to keep out livestock (but not necessarily chickens, who would eat slugs and pests)

Trellises, arbors, and containers were used to grow additional plants in small spaces

Paths were used for access to the plants

Companion plants were used to reduce pests and increase yields

Based on functionality, not ornamental design



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## The Cottage Garden Style Evolves From Function to Fashion

As life and fortune improved for the peasant class in England, the cottage garden transitioned to a source of beauty and enjoyment, as well as still serving as more modest kitchen garden.

Colorful flowers became the stars of the garden, as the working class had more time and money for recreational gardening.

The cottage gardens retained their distinctive relaxed, informal, and abundantly-planted look.

The cottage style stood in stark contrast to the formal style. Static, carefully-planned, geometric, and high-maintenance, the formal garden served as a status symbol of the wealthy land owners. It was often designed to be viewed from a balcony above, resembling a tapestry. Clipped lawns replaced pasture land, as the wealthy could sacrifice precious pasture or crop land for non-productive lawns.





By the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the cottage garden style gained popularity as a backlash against the formal garden.

The design was approached not as a mere garden design, but as a way to create a work of art by using plants as paint colors, and the garden as the artist's canvas

The cottage gardens were about color, light, and movement as seen as a whole

The impressionist painter Claude Monet designs and paints his cottage gardens in, Giverny, France

In the same time period, the English garden designer Gertrude Jekyll's cottage style gardens become popular in several countries, including the USA

Like Monet, she approaches garden design like creating an impressionist painting, emphasizing the way light and color interact

The influence of the Arts and Crafts movement inspires the need for garden designs that respect and work in harmony with nature



## The Cottage Garden of Today

Old fashioned in appearance, with loads of charm

Relaxed, rustic, natural appearance: does not look designed

Extravagant plantings with masses of color and texture that emphasize light, texture, and movement

Continual color, ever changing, as the season progresses

A mixture of ornamental trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, herbs, bulbs, vines and even some fruits and vegetables, mixed seamlessly together in beds divided by paths or small lawns

Picket fences, informal hedges, arbors, gates, bird houses, birdbaths, benches and whimsical ornaments and statuary

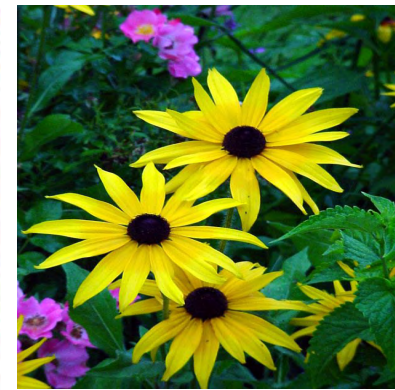
Garden tends to reflect the personality and preferences of the owner

Plants are allowed to spill over into each other, blurring where one plant starts and the other stops

Use of living arbors, such as training a clematis to climb into a crape myrtle tree



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# The Cottage Garden of Today, continued

Vertical gardening: use of containers: hanging baskets, planters, window boxes

Use of garden rooms to create smaller, more intimate spaces



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## Advantages of the Cottage Garden

Low maintenance, once established. Yearly clean-up other than deadheading and light watering/weeding

Bio diverse: eco friendly and self-sufficient, top dress with compost yearly

Reduced lawn: less water, fertilizer, mowing

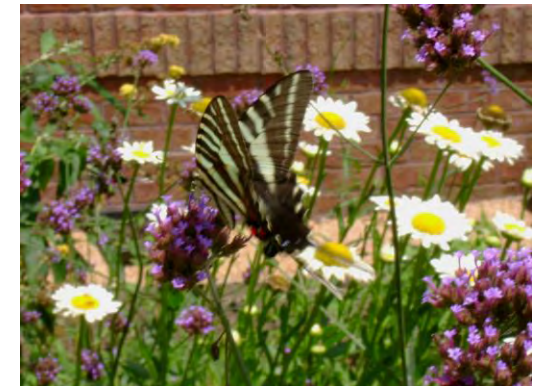
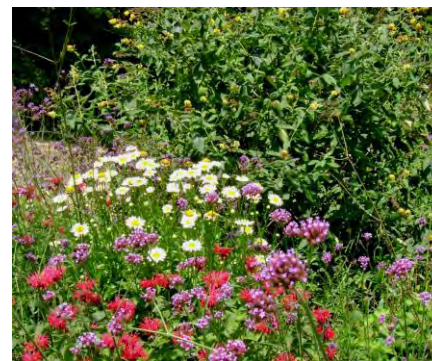
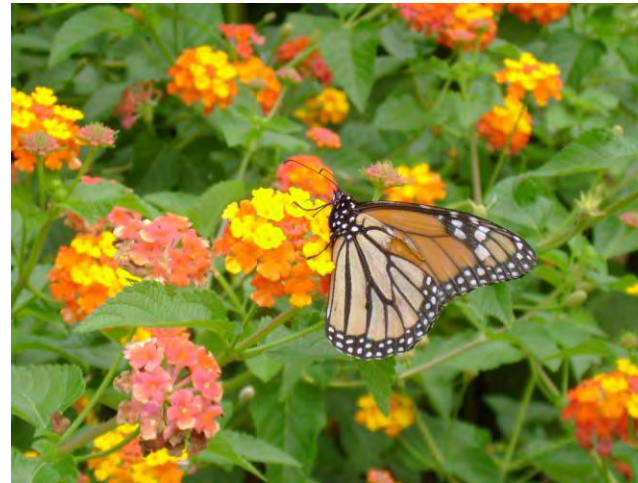
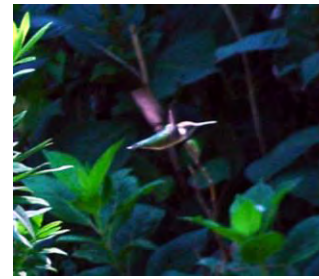
Dense planting chokes out weeds, natural shading replaces mulch

A magnet for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, birds, beneficial insects

Companion plantings for growing vegetables and herbs is easy

Plant attrition not noticeable, such as with formal garden hedge

Many plants can be grown from seed or even traded with other gardeners



## Advantages of the Cottage Garden, continued

Plants reseed and clump naturally,  
providing free additional plants (division  
& seeds)

Restful, relaxed style invites recreation  
rather than “yard work”

English style: no “yards,” only “gardens”

Can be as small or as large as you like

A work of art that is never static and never  
finished: a hobby to last a lifetime

A garden for one who loves plants (plant  
collectors)



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## VERSATILITY and ADAPTABILITY

The cottage garden style can be adapted to any location or architectural style. A colonial, desert, tropical, or even urban setting suggests the cottage look by using plants suitable to the climate, and incorporating elements appropriate to the setting.



## Before You Pick Up A Shovel

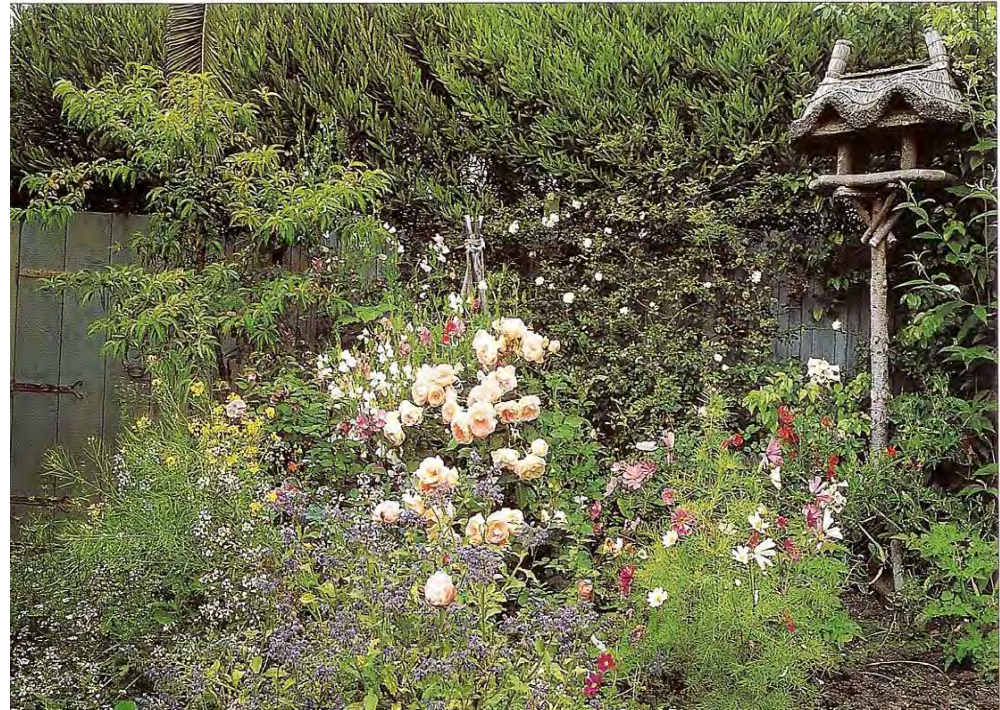
1. Identify the place(s) in your yard where you will begin to remove lawn and install borders
2. Use graph paper and sketch out a site plan that will eventually also include initial plants
3. Your plan should be phased over several seasons, if large:
  - Dig, amend soil, and plant in smaller sections
  - Let nature help you: dig and amend a new bed in fall for spring planting
  - Allow one section to become established before adding another to reduce watering and weeding and to obtain more plants from division and seed
4. Evaluate your site: sunny, shady, wet, dry and plan to work with nature, not against it
5. Make sure your plan will compliment the architecture and scale of your home
6. Cool season lawns work better with beds—warm season grasses will creep into borders
7. Use hoses or strings to lay out beds, then mark with spray paint before you dig
8. Call Miss Utility before you dig
9. Get a soil test before you dig
10. Have a budget: time and money
11. Eliminate weed whackers



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## A Few Pointers on Landscape Design

1. Mixed borders consist of trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, annuals, and bulbs
2. Think in terms of taking a group photo: you want to be able to see the shortest guy;  
In a border: trees go in back, then shrubs, then flowers according to height  
In an island bed: trees in middle, then shrubs and flowers radiating out from center
3. Pay attention to evergreen vs. deciduous in shrubs - it makes a difference in winter
4. Try to choose plants that will bloom at different times of year for continuous color
5. Read plant labels and allow sufficient room for plants at maturity
6. Textures and leaf colors are important
7. Odd numbers create balance
8. Repeating drifts of color “color echoes”
9. Hot colors vs. cool colors
10. Colors that work and transitions
11. Focal points and embellishments
12. Respecting your home’s style and colors
13. Do not plant in straight lines
14. Let your personality shine through your garden



## Mixing It Up To Create Focal Points, Interest, and Harmony



High and Low:

Blending and Transitions, Mixing Plants with Architecture and Hardscapes

Form Following Function

Color Echoes



## Working With Color and Texture



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Cool Colors: Working With Blues

And

Going Up and Going Down



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## Clash of the Titans



Too Much of a Good Thing



## Containers:

Small Spaces

Patios

Absence of Garden or Lawn

Growing Herbs or Veggies

Expressing Your Personality

(Vines/rosetes on walls are supported with “invisible”

Wires attached to eye screws in mortar)



Flower Boxes Are A Charming  
Alternative to Hanging Baskets



And Are Designed Using the  
Same Principles as a Border

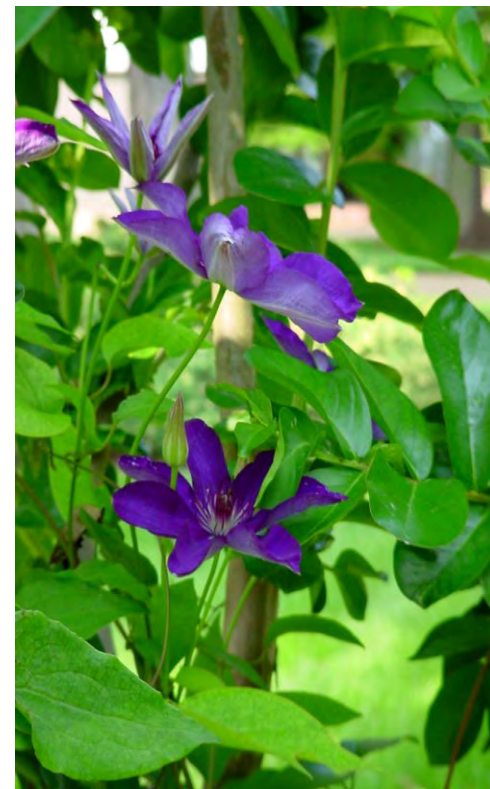
Rustic and Natural  
The Undesigned Design



A tree stump can be a focal point,  
and a garden of flowers and  
vegetables works thanks to the  
repeating use of red

## LIVING ARBORS TREES

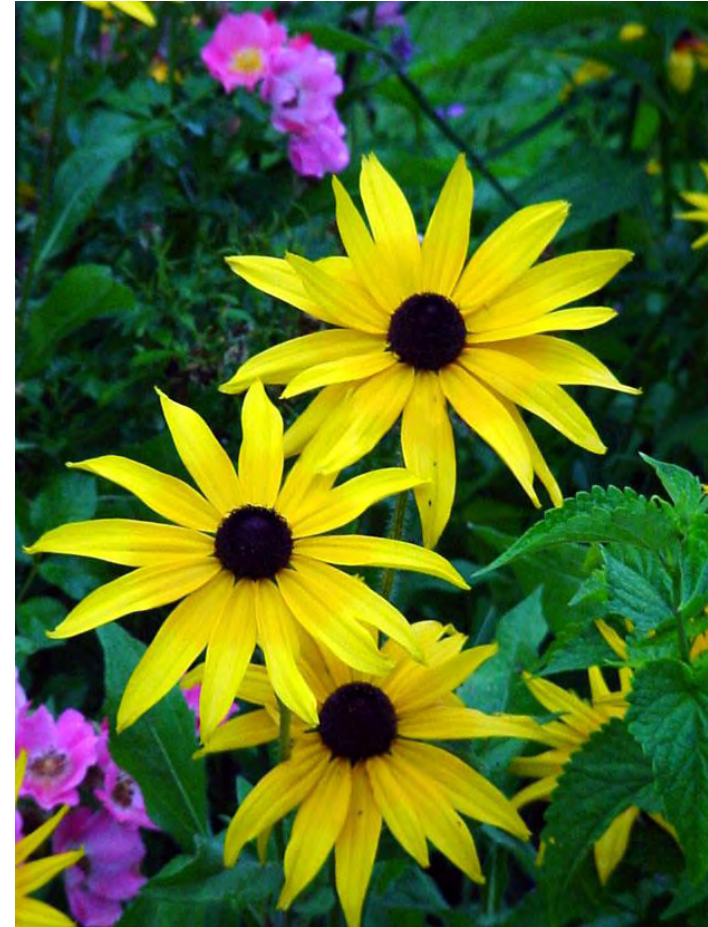
A rose and a wind chime share a branch; a container looks happy in a tree (use a nail, NOT a strap to for attachment) and a clematis sprawls happily into a crape myrtle)



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## Color, Light, Texture, Movement

Pumpkins sprawl into geraniums and black eyed susans dance between roses and herbs



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## Cottage Gardens:

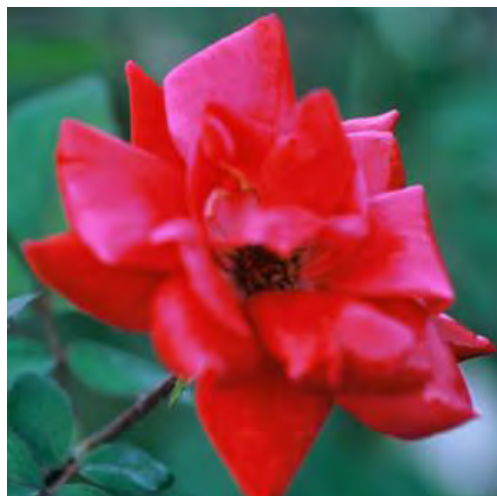
### Painting with plants on a garden canvas

A lovely portal beckons visitors to come in and rest on a rustic bench. Color, texture, and light dance through the flowers that spill informally onto a path that transitions upward, giving way to a green carpet of lawn. Living vertical accents create a coziness to the space.

The focal point, the bench, becomes a destination. The slightly offset pathway to the bench slows the eye, promising the journey through the garden will be an unhurried, meandering one.

Placing a watering can informally on the step is an unexpected hint that the gardener who created this living work of art may be just up the stairs, and just out of sight.

## Easy, Own Root Roses for Peninsula Borders



### Mutabilis (Butterfly Rose)

*China*

Knockout

*Shrub*

New Dawn

*Climber*

Abraham Darby

*English*

Scarlet Meidiland

*Groundcover*



Substitutes for Traditional Lupines:  
Baptisia (wild indigo) and Carolina Lupine





Substitutes for traditional delphiniums:

Fall-blooming perennial Monkshood and annual  
summer blooming Larkspur

(All plants are poisonous: do not plant where  
pets or children can taste them)



## Growing Hollyhocks on the Peninsula

Single Barnyard are perennial, but rust is a problem. Substitutes: malvas or mallows



## Easy From Seed

(But they did not make it  
onto the Extravaganza disk)

Rose Campion perennial

Agastache perennial

Burpee Rudbeckias  
annuals

Zebrina Malva

biennial



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## Small Flowering Trees for Cottage Borders

Fringe tree (Yorktown Snowflower); Red Buckeye; Kousa Dogwood; Native Dogwood, Little Gem Magnolia; Forest Pansy Redbud; Crape Myrtle





## HYDRANGEAS

Likes shade and water

Soil pH determined by soil acidity (except for the white "Annabelle")

Mophead or Lacecap



## SHRUBS

Doublefile Viburnum "Shasta"

Weigela "Wine and Roses"

Butterfly Bush "Honeycomb"

Camellias Japonica later winter/early spring bloom. Sasanqua fall bloom





## CLIMBERS

Goldflame Honeysuckle

Perennial Sweet Pea

Clematis "Ramona", "Niobe",  
"Snow Queen"

Star Jasmine

Wisteria "Amethyst Falls"





## GROUNDCOVERS

Hosta: Sun and Substance, Fragrant Bouquet, Guacamole

Periwinkle (vinca), Verbena: Old Homestead Purple, Georgia Blue



## BULBS

Allium (onion), Daffodils, Iris,  
Oriental Lily, Snowdrops, Wood Hyacinth

