



## **A Modern Cottage Garden**

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Cottage Gardens have been grown throughout history for their beauty, functionality and practical purposes. With edible plants as a primary piece, cottage gardens today versus cottage gardens in the 1400s have remained very much the same aesthetically.

Although cottage gardens may look like they've planted themselves, they of course did not, but the design principles are fairly standard. Every inch of the garden should be considered with additions like herbs, fruit trees, flowers, and vegetables planted intensively for maximum yield, usefulness, pollination, and joy.

Cottage gardens are typically planted in sunny spots usually with gates, walkways, stepping stones, arbors, and arches. Rustic and natural embellishments like benches, bird baths, and sundials are also usually implemented. Furthermore, it is characteristic of cottage gardens to have deep borders of flowers, herbs, other edible plants and trees planted to promote abundance, beauty, and a relaxing retreat for the gardener.

The beauty of cottage gardens is that they should look like they've essentially planted themselves. Rambling, tangled, self-sowing, abundance. Create focal points and highs and lows with texture. Embrace native plants, ornamental grasses, roses, full fragrance flowers and bushes, full foliage, climbing, spreading, self-sowing plants. Aim for artful angles and irregular geometry. Replace your lawn with flowers. Imagine the beds as wide and as wild as you want them to be. Let the gardens grow over the fences and onto the pathways and let the borders and hedges cozy up to your home.

No need to fit your garden into carefully contrived, methodically spaced rows and boxes; let the garden runneth over.

One of my favorite features of a cottage garden is the encouragement of diversity within the landscape. Plants of all kinds should create a natural, relaxed, biodynamic environment with texture and color that enhances the senses and the land.

Plant a variety in beautiful colors and textures with your growing zone, practicality and edibility in mind:

- **Herbs:** sage, thyme, oregano, basil, mint, feverfew, hyssop, mugwort, lavender, parsley, garlic, dill, chives, borage, coriander, caraway, echinacea, chicory, fennel, lemon balm, bergamot, calendula, chamomile
- **Fruits:** apple, cherry, peach, nectarine, pear, mulberry, currant, gooseberry, raspberry, blackberry, dewberry, grapes, pomegranate, fig, kiwi, strawberries, lemon, persimmon, passion fruit, almond
- **Hedging/shrubs:** hawthorn, elderberry, privet, laurels, lilac, snowberry, japonica, artemisia, rhododendron, azalea, camellia, butterfly bush, heather, fuchsias, lavender, veronica, sweet myrtle, rosemary, viburnum
- **Climbing:** roses, honeysuckle, clematis, nasturtium, ivy-leaved geranium, jasmine
- **Annuals,** self-sowing annuals and biannuals, perennials (including bulbs): hollyhock, snapdragon, marigold, sweet william, foxglove, sunflowers, stock, primrose, poppies, lilies, narcissus, alyssum, crocus, snowdrops, hyacinth, gladiolus, buttercups, rudbeckia, daisies, yarrow, anemone, dianthus, hydrangea, balsam, phlox, clary sage, peonies, tulips, campanula, solomon seal, lily of the valley, pampas, etc.
- **Vegetables:** kale, cabbages, onions, potatoes, peas, turnips, leeks, beans, carrot, beets, radish, squash, tomatoes, pumpkins, peppers, garlic, fennel, lettuces, spinach

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