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growing guide

Specialized Gardens: Bonsai

Bonsai container gardens can provide an unusual opportunity to test your green thumb and provide a plant that can grow for generations.

General Tips

Watering

The basic rule is: **Never let the tree dry down completely.**

Pest Prevention

Clean your Bonsai by removing dead or unhealthy foliage, especially any brown foliage around the inner branches. Run water through the foliage to wash the plant. Spider mites, very tiny red sucking insects threaten conifers during periods of low humidity. Infested plants will be off-color and, if you look closely, you'll see webbing among the needles and branches. You can also check for mites by holding a piece of white paper under the branches and giving them a firm tap. Dislodged mites will fall on the paper. Treat with an insecticide labeled for spider mites. Check again in four days and repeat as necessary.

Repotting & Styling

Conifer Bonsai will require root pruning only every 2 or 3 years. Occasional trimming & perhaps wiring is also necessary to help your Bonsai achieve the look you desire. When trimming a conifer do not hedge prune. Pinch, or selectively prune unwanted growth. There are a number of excellent Bonsai books available to give you pointers and inspiration.

Fertilizing

The object of Bonsai fertilization is a slow, steady response as opposed to rapid, lush growth. Bonsai respond to frequent feeding during the growing season, spring summer & fall. Slow-release pellets such as Ferti-lome Gardener's Special, scattered or gently pushed into the soil at the rate of one pellet per square inch of soil surface, provide long-term feeding. The pellets are slowly broken down by soil microorganisms to supply general fertilizer requirements for up to a year. But don't neglect direct soil feeding with

an organic fertilizer, fish emulsion for instance, at 1/2 the directed rate about every other week. Organic fertilizers do not allow the buildup of salts in the soil and supply virtually all the minerals the plant requires for strong growth. You'll also see a good response by misting the plant with a soluble fertilizer at 1/4 to 1/2 strength each week.

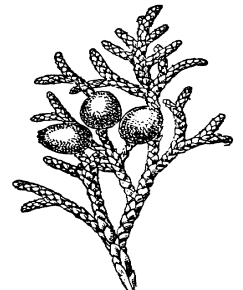
Conifer Bonsai

Conifers are cone bearing trees & shrubs that make excellent Bonsai material. The group includes: Spruce, Pine, Juniper, Cedar, Cypress, Hemlock, Larch, Cryptomeria, Chamaecyparis, & Ginkgo. Most are extremely hardy,

Watering

Never allow the soil to become bone dry, nor keep it constantly wet. Here are a few pointers. Feel & press the soil surface gently every day. If it's moist, don't water. If it's dry, soak the plant thoroughly.

When your Conifer Bonsai is displayed outdoors water from above until the soil is saturated, the water draining through several times. In the winter when surface watering may be messy indoors, you can immerse the plant in water that comes about one-third to 1/2 way up the pot. Water enters through the drain holes, soaking the soil. Usually 30 minutes is sufficient. Water again when the soil is almost dry.



Light

Most Conifers thrive in bright light, defined as at least 4 to 6 hours a day, so you probably can't overexpose your Bonsai. But you can harm it and make it predisposed to various problems by not giving it enough. When outdoors in the spring, summer & fall, light shade is fine but if you keep it inside during the winter a bright south or west window is best.

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Location

Fresh, circulating air is essential to your Bonsai. Conifers do best outdoors and tolerate very cold temperatures, but dry out when exposed to very cold wind. When night temperatures are consistently below freezing it is time to move your Conifer Bonsai into a cool or unheated garage, basement, cold frame, a very cool room in the house or plant it, pot and all.

When night temperatures are above freezing move your Bonsai outdoors. Avoid sunburn by acclimating your tree from its winter position to full sun by gradually increasing its time in the sun.

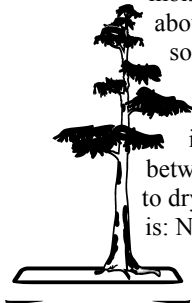
Note: You can keep your conifer Bonsai indoors for one winter only. Next year it will require the natural cooling of winter to sustain good growth. Conifers require a dormant period of at least 40° for six weeks every other winter. During that time it is important to keep the plant moist and in the light.

Tropical Bonsai

The tropical belt surrounds the equator. Trees native to this area include: Ficus, Fukien Tea, Natal Plum, Buttonwood, Bougainvillea, and many others. Because these plants thrive in warm temperatures the year round, they are well suited to indoors.

Watering

Proper watering is critical. Feel the soil every morning. If the surface is dry or only slightly moist it's time to water. Water from above until the plant is thoroughly soaked. During hot, dry weather Bonsai require frequent watering. A few, Ficus and Bougainvillea for instance, like to dry out completely between watering. Some succulents like to dry out for several days. The basic rule is: Never allow the soil become bone dry.



Temperature

As you would expect, tropical Bonsai thrive in hot, humid climates and are at their best when temperatures are above 75 degrees. In the winter try to keep them in a location between 65 and 75.

Light

Grow the majority of tropical Bonsai in strong light. Put them outdoors when nightly temperatures do not drop below 60 or 65 degrees. Provide light shade, filtered sun, or direct morning sun but protect them from our drying winds. When indoors keep your tropicals in or very close to, a warm window. If your home cannot provide enough light in the winter, supplement with a growing light. Regular fluorescent light simulates sunlight better and cheaper than expensive "grow"

lights. Place your plant as close to the light as possible for up to eighteen hours a day.

Subtropical and Other Bonsai

Subtropicals, native to climates with hot summers and very mild winters, make excellent indoor bonsai. These include: Serissas, Brush Cherries, Okinawan Hollies, New Zealand Tea Trees, Catlin Elms and many, many others. Another group of plants native to temperate climates such as ours behave like Subtropicals when grown indoors. The most notable of these is Boxwoods and Pagoda Holly.

Watering

Proper watering is critical. Feel the surface of the soil every morning. If the surface is dry or only slightly moist it's time to water, soaking from above until the soil is saturated, draining through several times. During hot dry weather your tree will need frequent watering because direct sunlight and wind cause the soil to dry rapidly. Small Bonsai in small pots sometimes dry out in a day or even hours. Be alert to changing conditions. Allow the soil to dry down but never, ever bone dry.

In the winter surface watering can be messy. If you find it more convenient immerse the pot in a tray of water that comes half way up the pot. Water will enter through the drain holes and soak the soil. The length of time required varies with pot size but usually 30 to 40 minutes is sufficient.

Temperature

Subtropical Bonsai easily tolerate summer heat with adequate watering and do best with winter temperatures between 45° and 65°. Always avoid freezing or near freezing temperatures.

Light

Grow your Subtropicals in very good light. You can place your Subtropical Bonsai outdoors in the late spring when the night temperatures do not drop below 50° and leave it outside until early fall. Filtered or morning sun is ideal for most varieties, though some (especially larger ones) thrive in full sun. When indoors, keep your Subtropical in, or very close to, a bright window. If your home cannot provide enough light in the winter, supplement with a growing light, regular fluorescent light simulates sunlight better and cheaper than expensive "grow" lights. Place your plant as close to the light as possible for up to eighteen hours a day.





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Specialized Gardening: Deer Resistant Plants

Although no plant is immune to being eaten by a deer, several plants have attributes that deter them. Deer prefer plants that have tender, sweet tasting parts. When selecting plants for deer-resistant landscaping, choose those which are prickly, bitter, coarse, toxic, hairy, tough, aromatic, or have a milky sap. Some plants can survive being partially eaten by a deer by growing very rapidly, or reseeding themselves often. If you have plants in your landscape that deer love to eat, you can apply a product such as Liquid Fence or Deer Away to help deter them.

Below is a list of plants that deer tend to resist:

- All Annual Poppies
- Alyssum
- Anise Hyssop
- Astilbe
- Balm
- Baneberry
- Beach Wormwood
- Bee Balm
- Bethlehem Sage
- Bleeding Hearts
- Blue Star
- Butterfly Bush
- Butterfly Weed
- Calamint
- Calendula
- Campanula
- Catmint
- Catnip
- Cinquefoil
- Columbine
- Coneflower
- Coral Bells
- Coreopsis
- Culver's Root
- Cushion Spurge Fern
- Daffodil
- Daphne
- Daylily
- Dead Nettles
- Delphinium
- Dianthus
- English Primrose
- Foxglove
- Garden Sage
- Geranium
- Germander
- Globe Thistle
- Goatsbeard
- Golden Ragwort
- Goldenrod
- Icelandic Poppy
- Iris
- Lady's Mantle
- Lamb's Ear
- Lavender
- Lily of the Valley
- Marsh Marigold
- Meadow Sage
- Mint
- Monarda
- Monkshood
- Montauk
- Montbretia
- Moss Pinks
- Mother-of-Thyme
- Nasturtium
- Northern Bayberry
- Oregano
- Oriental Poppy
- Ornamental Chive
- Ornamental Grass
- Ornamental Rhubarb
- Ostrich Fern
- Pachysandra
- Peony
- Philadelphia Fleabane
- Purple Prairie Clover
- Pussy Toes
- Rose Campion
- Russian Sage
- Sea Holly
- Sea/Common Thrift
- Shasta Daisy
- Showy Pussy Toes
- Siberian Iris
- Silver Mound
- Snapdragon
- Soapwort
- Speedwell
- Spiderwort
- Spurge
- St. John's Wort
- Stonecrop
- Sweet Woodruff
- Tansy
- Tatarian Statice
- Vinca
- White Prairie Clover
- Wild Strawberry
- Wintergreen
- Wormwood
- Yarrow

*Deer love to eat hosta, especially tender spring growth. Some cultivars of Hosta, however, are reported to be deer-resistant: Blue Cadet, Blue Giant, Frances Williams, Golden Tiara, Krossa Regal, Patriot, Sum & Substance, and Wide Brim.

Deer-Resistant Shrubs and Evergreens

- Barberry
- Bird's Nest Spruce
- Black Chokeberry
- Black Hills Spruce
- Boxwood
- Caryopteria
- Clethra
- Colorado Blue Spruce
- Forsythia
- Green Giant Arborvitae
- Lilac
- Mugho Pine
- Norway Spruce
- Potentilla
- Redosier Dogwood
- Rose of Sharon
- Spirea
- Spruce
- Sumac
- Viburnum
- White Spruce
- Yucca

Deer-Resistant Trees

- Bottlebrush Buckeye
- Heritage Birch
- Horsechestnut
- Japanese False Cypress
- Red Oak
- Scotch Pine
- Serviceberry

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If you have plants in the landscape that deer love to eat, such as Hostas, using a product such as Liquid Fence or Deer Away will help deter the deer from feasting. But once again, if the deer are hungry enough, nothing is going to stop them from their natural inclination to eat. The main goal here is to discourage, rather than encourage, a deer buffet.



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Specialized Gardens: Heirloom Selections

You may have childhood memories of bouquets Grandmother harvested from her garden. They brought beauty into our lives, provided ingredients for medicinal purposes, and even added flavoring to our beverages and food.

Flowers have also long been an important part in crafts: pressed for pictures or blended to make fragrant potpourri. Just by seeing or smelling some of the flowers can bring back memories from one's past.

Below is a list of some favorite heirloom flowers:

Annuals

Ageratum*	Alyssum*
Bachelors Buttons	Balsam*
Begonia*	Bells of Ireland
Castor Bean	Cockscomb *
Coleus*	Cosmos *
Dahlia*	Dusty Miller *
Forget-Me-Not*	Geranium*
Heliotrope *	Impatiens *
Love In A Mist*	Marigold *
Morning Glory*	Moss Rose*
Nasturtium*	Pansy*
Petunia *	Salvia*
Snapdragon *	Strawflower*
Sunflower	Sweet Pea
Sweet William*	Tobacco, Flowering*
Zinnia*	

Perennials:

Asters*	Baby's Breath*
Butterfly Weed*	Calendula
Cardinalflower (Lobelia)	Columbine *
Coneflower*	Coreopsis*
Daisy, Shasta*	Daylily*
Dianthus*	Foxglove*
Hollyhock*	Iris*
Larkspur*	Peony*
Phlox*	Poppy*
Salvia*	Statice (Sea Lavendar)*

Shrubs:

Japanese Kerria*	Beautybush*
Forsythia *	Mockorange *
Lilac *	Pussywillow*
Bridal Wreath Spirea*	Hydrangea*
Roses*	

*Seasonally available from our garden center



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SPECIALIZED GARDENS: Herb Lore

Herbs, Aromas and Mood

Fragrant herbs have probably been used since the beginning of mankind to alter moods. From soothing sore muscles to luxuriating in fragrant pools, to concocting medicinal remedies: herbs are some of the most powerful plants on earth.

Amorhas are all around us, Lucky for us at Hoerr Nursery, we are treated to the magnificent aromas of the flowers as well as the revitalized air from the oxygenation taking place.

Aromatherapy is gaining acceptance in part because so many people benefit from the natural mind enhancement due to exposure to aromas. As you visit us at the nursery, don't forget to stop and smell the roses, and the iris and the rosemary and the peppermint. . .

Herb Folk Lore

Basil

Helps with anxiety, fatigue, fear, pain, rejection. Plus it's an incredibly tasty herb. In Italy a favorite salad is made from slices of fresh mozzarella, slices of tomato, and fresh basil on toast. Sometimes sprinkled with balsamic vinegar -- it's superb.

Chamomile

Calms you when you are feeling stressed. Leaves can be dropped into bath or made into a tea.

Lavender

Represents "knowledge." It also signifies defiance, and strength; the ability to survive in diverse climates. Some say it stands for endurance and steadfastness. Known for releasing tension. It is frequently used in pillows tucked by your head at night, tucked in a pillowcase, or nestled in a lingerie drawer. The Romans used it in their baths, and many times today it is included in shampoos, soaps and fragrances. In a practical side, it is known to repel moths. And it was Queen Victoria's favorite flower.

Lemon or Lemon Balm

Helps relax you when you are feeling stressed. Can be used in tea or in sachets. Refreshing. Can help with addiction, amnesia, depression, dementia, insomnia, stress, trauma.

Marjoram and Oregano

Each of these helps in digestion.

Parsley

Helps you make friends. Parsley is not only a decorative garnish for most any platter, but has often been used as a breath freshener. Try all sorts of different varieties of parsley from flat leaf to curly.

Rosemary leaves

Mildly antibiotic and absolutely delicious. You can take the stem from rosemary and use it for the "stick" in your shis-kabobs.

Rose petals

Help you make strong friendships. Roses stand for love, friendship, kindness. Rose hips are a part of the rose after it has bloomed and they have traditionally been used for teas, jellies and stews.

Sage

Good for pain and very calming. Also in this country so equated with Thanksgiving, that sometimes just a whiff of it can conjure up a turkey dinner!

Tarragon

Means little dragon, and has been used since the 16th C for flavoring and treatment of toothaches.

Thyme

Used to treat disorders from whooping cough to arthritis. Helps you with sore muscles and helps you feel healthy. Helps with confusion and memory. Another herb that has numerous varieties. Throw stems of it into stew or with roasts and fish out the sticks before serving. (To take the leaves off, pull backwards against the stem.)

More About Spices

Capers are an aphrodisiac.

Chocolate is thought to be food of the Gods.

Garlic and Ginger ease sickness, helps you recover from colds and flu.

Nutmeg was thrown in the streets in times of coronations to help create a festive, aromatic event.

Vanilla bean - member of the orchid family.

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Specialized Gardens: Herbs on Your Windowsill

Windowsill gardening can be done any time. Many people are especially interested in having a windowsill garden in the winter, but you can actually keep herbs indoors all year.

Herbs are an ideal selection for windowsill gardening.

Dill, parsley, thyme, chives, oregano, sage, basil, anise, cilantro, and mint are all easily grown in a sunny window. Though they can get big outside (Dill can reach 6 feet!) that won't happen in the confines of a small pot. In fact many herbs are so aggressive in the garden that they are best cultured as pot-grown plants all year; simply bring inside in the fall and transfer back outside (in the pot) in the spring -- this is a good technique for rosemary.

Cuttings, Divisions, Seeds & Plants

How you get started is up to you. Basil, mint, sage and oregano root quickly from cuttings taken before a killing frost but most herbs are easy to grow from seed. Or you can buy the containers of herbs, or individual herbs and tuck them into a container together.

If you get seed packets, follow the instructions, but generally it is a simple matter of putting the seeds barely beneath the potting mix, and misting with water.

Put in a sunny window and keep moist -- not wet, but moist. Often it is helpful to cover with a piece of plastic wrap to conserve the moisture and heat. But do not let it stay too wet or, if the sun is particularly robust, it get too hot. Be attentive to the germination and sprouting in your windowsill garden.

Divisions work well, too, but cut the tops back and wash the soil from the roots before repotting inside.

Potting & Growing

Naturally, use clean pots with drain holes and a good soil-less potting mix for strong root growth. Regular garden soil is too heavy for container culture of any plant. There are several choices for potting mix at Hoerr Nursery -- Miracle

Grow is a good choice, or you can make your own with components at the nursery.

A warm, bright location away from direct sunlight is best for starting seeds or rooting cuttings. After germination or rooting move the plants into bright, direct light, full sun if possible. The concentration of the oils that provide herbs with their distinctive flavor is partially dependent upon the amount of sunlight the plants receive.

Once your plants are growing vigorously you may be tempted to fertilize or overwater. Don't overdo it! Keep them on the "hungry" side and somewhat dry for optimum flavor.

Have fun with herbs!



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Specialized Gardening: Nectar Sources

It's easy to attract and keep hummingbirds, butterflies and caterpillars in your garden.

Tips

In general, Hummingbirds prefer tubular or bell-shaped red & orange flowers. Once in your garden they will happily explore every flower.

Butterflies like pinks, reds, oranges, yellows & purples. they see large masses of colors versus a few spotted areas.

Plant a wide variety of flowering plants for cover & shelter. Many butterflies fly only when the temperatures are above 60°. Include woody shrubs such as Viburnum, Butterfly Bush, Serviceberry, Dogwoods, etc. in your gardens. Some species of butterflies seem to prefer native plants. Include a few in your plans or, in rural areas, let the weeds grow along the fence-lines or boundaries. Size is not important. You can attract butterflies & hummingbirds to a window box garden.

Provide water, even an area of wet sand. Butterflies love to bask in the sun near water. And, of course, birds need water too.

Restrict or eliminate your use of pesticides.

To keep butterflies in your gardens, be sure to include caterpillar food sources, too.

Annual Nectar Sources

- Asclepias
- Cat Whiskers
- Cleome
- Heliotrope
- Impatiens
- Lantana
- Marigolds
- Nicotiana
- Salvia
- Snapdragons
- Sunflowers
- Tithonia (Mexican Sunflower)
- Verbena
- Vining Licorice Plant
- Zinnias

Perennial Nectar Sources

- Asters
- Bee Balm (Monarda)
- Blanket Flower or Gallardia
- Butterfly bush *Note: If you only have room for one plant, this is it! Attracts Hummingbirds & Butterflies like a magnet.*
- Butterfly weed
- Cardinal Flower (Lobelia)
- Catmint
- Coneflowers
- Coreopsis
- Foxglove
- Garden Phlox
- Goldenrod
- Hardy Hibiscus
- Hardy Salvia
- Joe Pye Weed
- Liatris (Gayfeather)
- Lobelia
- Russian Sage
- Scabiosa (Pincushion Flower)
- Sedum
- Speedwell
- Veronica
- Yarrow

Tropical Plant Nectar Sources

- Bougainvillea
- Hibiscus
- Passion Vine
- Shrimp Plant

Vining Nectar Sources

- Honeysuckle
- Trumpet Vine

Easy-to-Grow Caterpillar Food Sources

- Angelica
- Asters
- Clovers
- Dill
- Fennel
- Hollyhock
- Parsley
- Parsnip
- Queen Anne's Lace
- Common Rue
- Snapdragon
- Sunflowers
- Violets

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Specialized Gardens: Rock Gardens

Rock gardens can be an excellent addition to any landscape. You can use rock gardens to:

- Finish an edge of a corner lot
- Manage a slope that is struggling to hold grass
- Create a transition from one "room" in your outdoor living space to another
- Give you great little crevices and surfaces to feature some of your favorite ground covers or small spreading plants
- Display some of your favorite rocks, such as geodes, sparkly rocks or those with unusual patterns or formations
- Display some of your favorite garden gnomes, fairies, miniature furniture or dwarf varieties of plant material

What Materials do I need?

You will need some topsoil and some rocks. You might want to have some mulch too to sprinkle in around the plants you are including. Start small – this will take some hard work. You can always add to your project.

How do I begin?

This project is great for your landscape but can also be created in a concrete planter or other container too.

- 1) Collect rocks or stone that you enjoy looking at and working with.
- 2) You will need some larger stones or boulders and some smaller stones. (The scale you are working with will determine the quantity of material that you will need.

Limestone is a good choice. Since it is porous, it allows moisture to seep through it and some plants actually have a strong enough root system to make their way through the rock.

- 3) Start at the lowest point in front and work your way upward – using enough soil

as you go to secure each rock in place.

- 4) To add some interest, try burying some of the rocks so they give the illusion that they have always been there.
- 5) Give the soil a few days to settle and then you can start to plant.
- 6) Low growing flowers are the best – using perennials will reduce your cost in the long run because they return each season.
- 7) As in any garden – remember to cut back leggy plants. Deadhead and divide when the clumps become too large.
- 8) Rock gardens need protection in the winter. One to two inches of mulch should be applied at the first frost in cold climates.

Have fun with your new rock garden!

Try working some of these plants into your rock garden!

<u>Annuals</u>	<u>Perennials</u>
Lobelia*	Balloon Flower*
Moss Rose (Portulaca)*	Dwarf Grasses*
Summer Savory*	Creeping Phlox*
Sweet Alyssum*	Creeping Thyme*
	Forget-me-not*
<u>Evergreen Shrubs</u>	Lavender*
Blue Rug Juniper*	Lamium*
Miniature Conifers*	Creeping Baby's Breath*
	Sedum ground-cover*
	Cranesbill, Dwf.*
	Candytuft*
	Iris, Dwf.*
	Toadflax*

*Seasonally available from our garden center

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Specialized Gardening: Shade Gardening

As the following lists show, many plants adapt to partial or mottled shade, some even appreciate protection from the searing sun.

Shrubs

- Alpine Current
- Barberry
- Bayberry
- Bottlebrush Buckeye
- Carolina Allspice
(Sweetshrub)
- Chokeberry
- Dogwood, Redtwig
- Dogwood, Variegated
- Fothergilla
- Fragrant Sumac
- Hazelnut, Contorted
- Holly, Deciduous
- Hydrangea sp.
- Japanese Kerria
- Privet
- Rugosa Roses
- St. Johnswort
- Stephanandra
- Summersweet
- Sweetspire
- Viburnum, American
Cranberrybush
- Viburnum, Arrowwood
- Viburnum, Blackhaw
- Viburnum, Birkwood
- Viburnum, Common Snowball
- Viburnum, Doublefile
- Viburnum, European
Cranberrybush
- Viburnum, Fragrant
- Viburnum, Judd
- Viburnum, Koreanspice
- Viburnum, Nannyberry
- Viburnum, Leatherleaf
- Viburnum, Pragrense
- Viburnum, Sargent
- Viburnum, Wayfaringtree

Evergreens

- Arborvitae
- Hemlock
- Spruce, Dwarf Alberta
- Spruce, Dwarf Norway types
- Yew*

Broadleaf Evergreens

- Azalea
- Boxwood
- Euonymus, Emerald Gaiety

- Euonymus, Emerald 'n Gold
- Euonymus, Moonshadow
- Euonymus, Sarcocoe
- Euonymus, Vegetus
- Holly
- Oregon Grapeholly*
- Pieris
- Pyracantha
- Rhododendron

Small Trees

- Amur Maple
- Corneliancherry Dogwood
- Flowering Dogwood
- Fringetree
- Japanese Maple
- Kousa Dogwood
- Persian Parrotia
- Redbud
- Saucer Magnolia
- Serviceberry
- Star Magnolia
- Sweetbay Magnolia
- Witchhazel

Perennials

- Astilbe*
- Barrenwort* (Epimedium)
- Bergenia*
- Bleeding Heart
- Brunnera*
- Cardinal Flower
- Campanula sp.
- Chameleon Plant (Houttuynia)
- Cimicifuga
- Columbine
- Crambe cordifolia
- Cranesbill
- Daylily
- Dead Nettle*
- Eupatorium (Joe Pye Weed)
- Ferns*
- Fernleaf Peony
- Foxglove
- Germander
- Wild Ginger* (Asarum)
- Goatsbeard* (Aruncus)
- Helleborus
- Heuchera
- Heucherella
- Hosta*
- Jacob's Ladder
- Lady Bells
- Leopard's Bane
- Ligularia*
- Lily-of-the-Valley*
- Lobelia

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Pasqueflower
Penstemon
Rodgersia sp.
Snow-on-the-Mountain
Solomon's Seal*
Sweet Woodruff
Tiarella
Toadlily
Tree Peony
Virginia Bluebells*
Veronica
Viola (Violet)
Yellow Waxbells

Groundcovers

Ajuga
Barren Strawberry
English Ivy*
Goutweed, Variegated*
Liriope*
Pachysandra*
Periwinkle
Purpleleaf Wintercreeper*

Vines

Boston Ivy
Climbing Hydrangea
Fiveleaf Akebia
Trumpet Creeper
Virginia Creeper

Annuals

Begonia
Browallia*
Caladium
Coleus*
Impatiens*
Ivy Geranium
Mimulus
Nicotiana
Purple Robe (Nierembergia)
Torenia
Vinca Vine



* *Tolerates Dense Shade*



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Specialized Gardens: Terrarium *Small Space Gardening*

A terrarium is a vessel, generally a bowl, cylinder or box, of glass or plastic, with a tight-fitting lid, featuring plants and sometimes small animals, like turtles, too.

A terrarium creates its own microcosm on your table-top.

Small space terrarium gardens are decorative, easy and even magical. (In this Growing Guide we are only considering a terrarium that features plants.)

They need very little attention to thrive and actually can do better with a touch of neglect. Even those of us with no prior experience can develop a "green thumb" with a terrarium. And, it's a great way to spark a child's interest in gardening.

The vessel you select for your container garden may be as simple as a pickle jar or a grand structure made from leaded glass. What makes a terrarium so magical? Closed terrariums can go a month or more between waterings because they recycle their water.

Many plants do well in terrariums. Slower growing plants require less trimming and are less likely to take over. Diminutive groundcovers are ideal.

Suggested plants include:

- Baby Tears – very aggressive grower
- Small ferns
- Miniature African Violets
- Creeping Jenny
- Boxus (boxwood)
- Wandering Jew – aggressive grower
- Mosses

Planting Instructions:

1. Place a ½ inch layer of small gravel in bottom
2. Sprinkle some activated charcoal on top (optional)
3. Add a layer of good draining potting soil. If soil clumps when squeezed, add perlite or vermiculite to lighten it up
4. Select plants. Number depends on size of container and size of plants. Don't overplant.
5. Install plants. Push soil aside. Place a plant in the depression. Firm the soil around it. Leave room for growth. Repeat for each plant.
6. Water lightly – 3 to 4 oz.

Terrarium Care

1. Neglect it!
2. Water lightly when dry. Generally once every few weeks. Never over-water.
3. Place in bright, not direct sunlight. (Approximately enough light to read by.)
4. Pinch off newest growth to encourage bushier growth. Do not fertilize. As growth slows down, refresh by scraping off the top layer of soil and adding fresh potting soil.



Enjoy your terrarium!

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Specialized Gardens: Creating a Woodland Solitude

Do you have an existing shaded property with large trees, or has the yard become more shaded by maturing trees or other buildings? Or, do you have a special corner that may be quite shady and you are considering creating a small space woodland garden?

Many outstanding plants grow in shade. They can be designed to imitate the appearance of a natural woodland that you enjoyed in a recent walk in the woods.

Especially attractive -- and flexible in terms of plant choices -- is the edge of the woodland where more light is available and the largest variety of plants can be grown. Here's a step-by-step to get you started on your woodland retreat:

1. Evaluate the site
 - A. Sites assets
 - B. Existing vegetative layers
 - C. Degree of shade
 - D. Planting soil
2. Protect the trees
3. Soil preparation
4. Maintenance
5. Design
 - A. Existing site
 - B. Vistas
 - C. Pathways
 - D. Attracting wildlife
 - E. Natural enhancements

PLANT SELECTION:

1. Annuals
2. Bulbs
3. Perennials and groundcovers
4. Shrubs
5. Evergreens
6. Small trees
7. Vines

ADDITIONAL POSSIBLE CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Furniture such as benches
2. Fountains or a water feature
3. Lighting
4. Stone additions (such as boulders) to additionally separate the area from the surrounding landscape.





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Specialized Gardens: Herbs on Your Windowsill

Windowsill gardening can be done any time. Many people are especially interested in having a windowsill garden in the winter to keep a bit of green around as we wait for spring.

Herbs are an ideal selection for windowsill gardening.

Dill, parsley, thyme, chives, oregano, sage, basil, anise, cilantro, and mint are all easily grown in a sunny window. Though they can get big outside (Dill can reach 6 feet!) that won't happen in the confines of a small pot. In fact many herbs are so aggressive in the garden that they are best cultured as pot-grown plants all year; simply bring inside in the fall and transfer back outside (in the pot) in the spring -- this is a good technique for rosemary.

Cuttings, Divisions and Seeds

How you get started is up to you. Basil, mint, sage and oregano root quickly from cuttings taken before a killing frost but most herbs are very easy from seed. You probably even have some ripened seed heads in your autumn garden.

If you get seed packets, follow the instructions, but generally it is a simple matter of putting the seeds barely beneath the potting mix, and misting with water.

Put in a sunny window and keep moist -- not wet, but moist. Often it is helpful to cover with a piece of plastic wrap to conserve the moisture and heat. But do not let it stay too wet or, if the sun is particularly robust, get too hot. So, be attentive to the germination and sprouting in your windowsill garden.

Divisions work well, too, but cut the tops back and wash the soil from the roots before repotting inside.

Potting & Growing

Naturally, use clean pots with drain holes and a good soil-less potting mix for strong root growth. Regular garden soil is too heavy for container culture of any plant. There are several choices for potting mix at Hoerr Nursery -- Miracle Grow is a good choice, or you can make your own with components at the nursery.

A warm, bright location away from direct sunlight is best for starting seeds or rooting cuttings. (Tip: The top of the refrigerator provides bottom heat for fast rooting.) After germination or rooting move the plants into bright, direct light, full sun if possible. The concentration of the oils that provide herbs with their distinctive flavor is partially dependent upon the amount of sunlight the plants receive.

Once your plants are growing vigorously you may be tempted to fertilize or overwater. Don't overdo it! Keep them on the "hungry" side and somewhat dry for optimum flavor. Have fun!



Rosemary... a great fragrant herb for your windowsill



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Cooking with Herbs

Beef:

Basil
Bay leaf
Caraway
Cumin
Fenugreek
Garlic
Ginger
Marjoram
Onion
Oregano
Parsley
Rosemary
Sage
Savory
Tarragon
Thyme

Chicken:

Anise
Basil
Bay leaf
Borage
Chives
Cinnamon
Cumin
Dill
Fenugreek
Garlic
Ginger
Lovage
Marjoram
Onion
Oregano
Parsley
Rosemary
Saffron

Fish:

Anise
Basil
Borage
Caraway
Chervil
Chive
Dill
Fennel
Garlic
Ginger
Marjoram
Oregano
Parsley
Rosemary
Saffron
Sage
Savory
Tarragon
Thyme

Pork:

Anise
Caraway
Cardamom
Dill
Garlic
Ginger
Oregano
Rosemary
Saffron
Sage
Tarragon

Rice:

Basil
Fennel
Lovage
Saffron
Tarragon
Thyme

Tomatoes:

Basil
Bay leaf
Chive
Coriander
Dill
Garlic
Lovage
Marjoram
Oregano
Parsley
Rosemary
Sage
Savory
Tarragon
Thyme



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Specialized Gardening: Vegetable Gardening

Every vegetable garden has its purpose. It may be as simple as a spot of herbs or as ambitious as culinary self-sufficiency.

A frequent cause of failure for beginners is a gardening project that proves too large to maintain or that has goals that are unrealistic. If you have not established a vegetable garden before, starting with a few pots of "bush" varieties can be an excellent beginning. If you are starting with a space in your yard, 10' x 10" is a pretty good beginning. It is more fun to try several different vegetables rather than committing too much space to one variety.

Site Selection: Locate your garden where it will receive at least six hours of full sunlight per day. The garden will need about 1 1/2 inches of rain per week. An average thunderstorm deposits about 3/4 inch of water, enough to sustain a garden for four days without additional water. Mulching the garden is a very effective way to maintain soil moisture. Some organic mulches are straw, old hay, shredded leaves, and compost. If you have raccoons, or other nocturnal visitors to your garden, it would be wise to fence in the area.

Soil Preparation: The right time to cultivate soil is when you can squeeze a fistful of it and have it crumble again right away. If soil sticks together, wait until it gets drier. If ground is too dry and hard, soak it to a depth of 6 to 8 inches, then allow it to dry until the soil passes the squeeze-and-crumble test.

The following steps will help you prepare and plant your garden.

- *Eliminate existing vegetation.* Spray sod or weeds with *Round-up*; after seven to ten days use a sharp spade or sod cutter to remove the dead vegetation.
- *Apply fertilizer.* Rake Ferti-lome Gardener's Special lightly into soil.
- *Cultivate soil.* With a fork spade or rototiller turn over and break up the soil 6 to 8 inches deep. Add garden compost or peat moss to improve soil structure.
- *Rake smooth.* With a garden rake, break soil into small pieces.

- If you are planting vegetable plants -- rather than seed-- follow specific instructions on the pot. But basically: *Dig holes for transplants.* Holes should be both wider and deeper than the plants roots. This allows you to gently spread the root system out, backfill partly with soil, and gently tamp out any air pockets. For plants in peat pots, tear the pot down to the soil level. Any exposed peat will act as a wick and dries the soil.
- *Dig seed furrows.* Drive stakes at each end of a planting row and tie a cord between them. Use a hoe handle to make shallow rows, or the blade of the hoe to make deeper furrows. The string will act as your guide in keeping the rows straight, and the seed packet will indicate how deep to plant the seed.
- *Plant seed,* pressing lightly into the soft soil.
- *Cover seed.* Tamp soil firmly on top of seeds.
- *Soak soil.* Water immediately. Keep the seedbed and transplant soil moist until seedlings or new leaves appear on plant.

Try to stay caught up on weeding. Weeds can grow aggressively in your fertile, well-watered vegetable garden and quickly overpower your new plants.

Have fun harvesting your crop!

You may even wish to keep a journal, with photos, to help you make decisions about next year's vegetable garden.

See details on the other side for more information about specific vegetables.



Vegetable	Planting Depth	Seeds per foot of row	Plants	Days to Germination	Days to Harvest
Beans, Snap	1½-2	6-8	2-3	6-14	45-65
Beets	½-1	10-15	2	7-10	55-65
Broccoli	¼	1	plant 1½	3-10	60
Brussel Sprouts	½	10-15	12-18	3-10	80-90
Cabbage	½	8-10	12-20	4-10	65-95
Carrot	¼	15-20	1-2 10-17 60-80	10-17	60-80
Cauliflower	1/16	1	plant 1½	3-10	75
Corn, Sweet	2	4-6	10-14	6-10	60-90
Cucumber	1	3-5	12	6-10	55-65
Eggplant	¼	1	plant 1½	8-21	75
Leeks, Onions	½	4-12	plants 1	10-14	90
Lettuce, Head	¼-½	4-8	12-14	4-10	55-80
Lettuce, Leaf	¼-½	8-12	4-6	4-10	45-60
Peas	2	6-7	2-3	6-15	65-85
Peppers	1/16	1 plant	1½	8-14	90
Potato	4	1	12	8-16	90-105
Pumpkin	1-1½	2	30	6-10	70-110
Radish	½	14-16	1-2	3-10	20-50
Spinach	½	10-12	2-4	6-14	60
Squash, Summer	1	4-6	16-24	3-12	70
Potato, Sweet plants 12-18 120		12-18			120
Tomato	½	1 plant	18-36	6-14	55-90