

Gardening For Fragrance

A fragrant garden is purely a garden planted with the added dimension of scent. It only takes a bit of thought when selecting plants, but be sure to plan your fragrant garden around what you like, not simply what most people consider pleasing. The scent of your garden is personal & an entegral part of its appeal. Blossom fragrances can evoke memories of days gone by & the aromatic foliage of many herbs remind one of a simpler time.

BASE PLANTS

Planning a fragrant garden is much like mixing scents in a perfume vat. Some aromas are heavy while others may be lighter but linger longer. The following is a list of the most pungent plants, which act as your base note. Other scents will ride on these main scents.

Lavender	Daphne odora	Violets
Rugosa Roses	Nicotiana	Basil
Lilies	Rosemary	Gardenia
Sage	Lilac	Hyacinths
Wisteria	Wormwood	Camomile
Stocks	Dianthus	Jasmine
Mints	Southernwood	

COMBINING COLOUR AND SCENT

Fragrance and colour together have a strong affect on ones mood. With a fragrant garden, not only can you surround yourself with your favourite scent, but also the colours you find most pleasing. Bright colours will invariably create a cheerful atmosphere, while the restrained white and green garden imparts an air of elegance. Blues are calming while reds and yellows are exciting.

When planning a fragrant garden start with a couple of your favourite "must have" scented plants and work from there. Planning around the scented plants rather than the coloured plants will leave you with a truly personal fragrant garden.

Remember all of the plants in a fragrant garden need not be scented. Build the colour structure around the strongly scented plants, complement them with the colours of unscented plants while allowing your nose to rest between the plants and enjoy the lingering smell of your main feature. Did you know that with the exception of roses, fragrant flowers are usually light in colour and thick textured.

MIXING AND MATCHING

You can mix similar fragrances to emphasize a specific effect. Try mixing lavender with fennel for a sweet, edible aroma. More experimentally, mix basil, tomato plants and lemon geraniums for a bloody Mary garden! Maybe you want to try a nostalgia theme, how about a garden full of lilacs, lily-of-the-valley, old roses and Wisteria? The possibilities are endless when landscaping for fragrance.

PLACEMENT

Where you place your plants is almost as important as which plants you choose. If the smells are hidden, or placed downwind, the scents are wasted. Use fragrant evergreens to enclose areas and create a pocket of fragrance. Use evergreen climbers to camouflage boundaries and sheds, and plant fragrant pathways.

Place plants that give their scent off in the evening, close to daytime scented plants so they don't compete with each other. Lightly scented plants should be surrounded by unscented plants, so you can appreciate their subtlety.

SCENTS BY NIGHT

Certain plants scent the night air almost exclusively. Nicotiana elata opens it's trumpets in the early evening and releases it's fragrance to moths, and other nocturnal pollinators. These evening plants compensate for their day-time dowdiness by drenching the air with their rich night-time fragrance. Here is a listing of nocturnal plants perfect for the fragrant garden.

Rockery Pinks
Evening Scented Stock
Evening Primrose
Datura

Petunias
Tropical Water Lilies
Crinum lilies
Hosta plantaginea
Osmanthus fragrans



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ANNUALS

Alyssum
Origanum basilicum (Basil)
Calendula officinalis
Chamomile
Cheiranthus cheiri (Wallflower)
Cosmos atrosanguineus (Chocolate Cosmos)
Dianthus (Sweet William)
Heliotropum arborescens (Heliotrope)
Iberis amara (Annual Candytuft)
Lantana
Lathyrus odoratus (Sweetpea)
Tagetes tenuifolia (Marigold)
Nicotiana elata (Flowering Tobacco)
Matthiola (Stocks)
Tropaeolum majus (Garden Nasturtium)

SHRUBS

Buddleia davidii (Butterfly Bush)
Calycanthus floridus (American Allspice)
Chionanthus virginicus (Fringe Tree)
Corylopsis (Winter Hazel)
Daphne odora (Winter Daphne)
Hamamelis (Witch Hazel)
Ligustrum texanum (Wax-leaf Privet)
Magnolia 'Susan' (Purple Deciduous Magnolia)
Magnolia sieboldii (Japanese Magnolia)
Mahonia aquifolia (Grape Holly)
Osmarea x burkwoodii (Dwarf Osmarea)
Pieris 'Florest Flame' (Andromeda)
Philadelphus (Mock Orange)
Ribes (Flowering Currant)
Syringa (Lilac)
Viburnum tinus (Spring Bouquet Viburnum)

BULBS

Crinum x powellii
Crocus
Galanthus (Snowdrops)
Galtonia (Summer Hyacinth)
Hyacinthus
Lilium candidum (Madonna lily)
Lilium orientalis (Oriental lily)
Lilium regale (Regal lily)
Polianthes tuberosa (Tuberose) Osmarea x burkwoodii

PERENNIALS

Asarum caudatum (Native Ginger)
Asphodeline lutea (King's Spear)
Convallaria majalis (Lily-of-the-valley)
Crambe cordifolia (Brassica Flower)
Dianthus (Rockery Pinks)
Dictamnus albus (Gas Plant)
Hosta 'Honeybells'
Hosta plantaginea
Lilium spp. (Lilies)
Mentha spp. (Mints)
Nepeta 'Six Hills Giant'
Paeonia lactiflora
Phlox paniculata (Summer Phlox)
Primula alpicola (Moonlight Primrose)
Primula florindae
Primula vialii (Spear Primrose)
Primula vulgaris (Primrose, especially yellows)
Reseda odorata (Mignonette)
Salvia officinalis (Sage)
Thymus spp. (Thyme)
Viola odorata (Sweet Violets)

TREES

Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut)
Catalpa bignonioides (Indian Bean Tree)
Cercidiphyllum japonicum (Katsura)
Chamaecyparis obtusa (False Cypress)
Eucalyptus (Spinning Wheel Eucalyptus)
Laburnum x watereri 'Vossii' (Dwarf Laburnum)
Picea (Spruce)
Prunus x yedoensis (Yoshino cherry)
Robinia pseudoacacia (Black Locust)

VINES

Akebia quinata (5 leaf Akebia)
Clematis armandii (Evergreen Clematis)
Jasminum polyanthum (Poet's Jasmine)
Lonicera (Honeysuckle)
Passiflora caerulea (Passionflower)
Trachelospermum (Star Jasmine)
Wisteria