Garden Design Secrets

Resource Guide

A Collection of the Best Stops on the Internet
# Table of Contents

## Internet Resources for Garden Design .................................................. 3

- Assessing What You Have ........................................................................ 3
- Essential Decisions: Determining Your Needs ........................................ 3
  - Formal Gardens .................................................................................. 3
  - Foundation Plantings ......................................................................... 3
  - Border Gardens .................................................................................. 3
  - Cottage Gardens .............................................................................. 4
  - Walkway Gardens .............................................................................. 4
  - Lamp Post and Mailbox Gardens (Fixture Gardens) ............................ 4
  - Tree Gardens .................................................................................... 4
  - Woodland Gardens ............................................................................ 4
  - Shade Gardens ................................................................................. 4
  - Rock Gardens .................................................................................... 5
  - Ponds and Water Gardens ................................................................. 5
  - Container Gardens ............................................................................ 5
  - Window Boxes ................................................................................... 5
  - Wildlife Gardens ............................................................................... 6
  - Island Gardens .................................................................................. 6
  - Evening (Moon) Gardens ................................................................. 6
  - Tropical Gardens ............................................................................... 6
  - Four-season Gardens ...................................................................... 6
  - Cutting Gardens ............................................................................... 6
  - Vegetable Gardens ........................................................................... 6
  - Herb Gardens ................................................................................... 7
  - More Garden Type Resources: ........................................................... 7

## Getting Ideas for Your Garden ............................................................... 7

- Search Engines and Directories .............................................................. 7
- Online Garden Centers .......................................................................... 7
- Garden Portals ....................................................................................... 7
- Photo Gallery ....................................................................................... 7
- Other Stops on the Internet .................................................................. 7

## Essential Elements of Garden Design .................................................. 8

- Focal Point Resources: .......................................................................... 8
- Color Schemes ..................................................................................... 8
- Drawing Example ................................................................................ 8
- Better Homes and Gardens Free Online Garden Plans ......................... 8
- Selecting Your Plants .......................................................................... 8
- USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map ......................................................... 9
- Annual Minimum Temperature Range .................................................. 10
- Additional Resources for Planning Your Garden ................................... 10
Internet Resources for Garden Design

Assessing What You Have

View a couple of quick tutorials on how to be a great garden photographer:

- http://gardenphotos.com/tips/tips.html
- http://members.tripod.com/ycd/


Essential Decisions: Determining Your Needs

Formal Gardens

- Terragallaria.com has a stunning collection of formal garden photography by QT Luong: http://www.terragalleria.com/pictures-subjects/formal-gardens/formal-gardens.all.html

Foundation Plantings

- Visit AtStecks.com to view a variety of front foundation plantings: http://www.atstecks.com/aphotogallery_2002/front.Foundation/index.htm

Rhododendrons in the winter (You can add interest to the foundation in the winter!)


Border Gardens

- http://www.fernlea.com/samples/bgsamp1.htm
• http://www.smgrowers.com/gardens/garden1.asp

Cottage Gardens
• http://www.gracefulgardens.com/cottagegarden.htm

Walkway Gardens

Lamp Post and Mailbox Gardens (Fixture Gardens)
Mailbox gardens:
• http://www.backyardgardener.com/gd/Colorful%20Mailbox.htm
• http://www.michiganbulb.com/product.asp_Q_pn_E_68605_A_Mailbox+Garden_E_

Tree Gardens
• http://community.webshots.com/photo/135184586/1135192975053597485itSCqo

Woodland Gardens
• http://www.plantdelights.com/About/Images/sld8524.jpg
• http://www.plantdelights.com/About/Images/sld8528.jpg
• http://www.plantdelights.com/About/Images/sld8857.jpg

Shade Gardens
If you’ve always thought that shade gardens are boring, have a look at these:
• http://www.hostaguy.com/OurGardens.html
• http://springhillnursery.com/product.asp?pn=67021
• http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/en/jardin_virtuel/jardins/sous_bois.htm
Rock Gardens

- [http://landscaping.about.com/od/rockgardens/ss/rock_gardens_10.htm](http://landscaping.about.com/od/rockgardens/ss/rock_gardens_10.htm)
- [http://community.webshots.com/photo/52439526/105244236203651179fWgXJd](http://community.webshots.com/photo/52439526/105244236203651179fWgXJd)
- [http://community.webshots.com/photo/52439526/105244395403651179PLNHKn](http://community.webshots.com/photo/52439526/105244395403651179PLNHKn)

Ponds and Water Gardens

These water garden photos say it all:

- [http://users.owt.com/jjspond/koipond/photos/38.jpg](http://users.owt.com/jjspond/koipond/photos/38.jpg)
- [http://www.koiclay.com/images/buds_pond.jpg](http://www.koiclay.com/images/buds_pond.jpg)
- [http://www.koiclay.com/images/chrissies_pond_1.jpg](http://www.koiclay.com/images/chrissies_pond_1.jpg)
- [http://www.koiclay.com/images/craiganddoug_pond.jpg](http://www.koiclay.com/images/craiganddoug_pond.jpg)

Water container garden in a large barrel:


Container Gardens

- Tropical container garden photos - [http://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/faculty/gibson/Retail_Reflections/Tropical Containers/Tropical_Garden_Photos.htm](http://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/faculty/gibson/Retail_Reflections/Tropical Containers/Tropical_Garden_Photos.htm)
- Collection of container garden photos - [http://gardening.about.com/library/bl_Containers.htm](http://gardening.about.com/library/bl_Containers.htm)
- Exquisite collection of container gardens, some with complete instructions - [http://www.fernlea.com/contain/index.htm](http://www.fernlea.com/contain/index.htm)

Window Boxes

Window box galleries:

- [http://flowerframers.com/Photos.htm](http://flowerframers.com/Photos.htm)
Wildlife Gardens

- Hummingbird garden - http://www.gardenplans.com/02hummingbird.html

Island Gardens

- http://www.freeplants.com/C.jpg
- http://www.freeplants.com/D.jpg
- http://www.gardenplans.com/07mixed.html

Evening (Moon) Gardens

- http://moongardens.tripod.com/design.htm
- http://www.turnerphotographics.com/gardens/moongard.htm
- http://lib.store.yahoo.net/lib/gardenplans/16moonlight-big.jpg

Tropical Gardens

- Tropical garden gallery of photos - http://www.bestgardening.com/bgc/design/styletropical01.htm
- Hardy hibiscus gallery - http://www.flowerpictures.net/hibiscus/hardy_hibiscus/

Four-season Gardens

- View a four-season island garden - http://www.gardenplans.com/03fourseason.html
- Four-season garden - http://www.gardenplans.com/27fourseasons.html

Cutting Gardens

- http://members.tripod.com/sarahheist/
- http://www.gardenplans.com/05cut.html

Vegetable Gardens

- http://www.freeplants.com/B.jpg
- http://community.webshots.com/photo/135184586/1136483424053597485QXInLG
Herb Gardens

- [http://www.thymegarden.com/](http://www.thymegarden.com/)

More Garden Type Resources:

- Martha Stewart Living Theme Gardens - [http://www.marthastewart.com/page.jhtml?type=learn-cat&id=cat577&navLevel=3&navHistory=&site=](http://www.marthastewart.com/page.jhtml?type=learn-cat&id=cat577&navLevel=3&navHistory=&site=) - Browse by garden type. Within each theme, you’ll find many different ideas, based on several criteria.
- [http://www.vivagarden.com/herbs/fgp.html](http://www.vivagarden.com/herbs/fgp.html)

Getting Ideas for Your Garden

Search Engines and Directories

- Start with [Google](http://www.google.com). You can always search on “beautiful gardens,” but try to narrow your search. Suppose that you want a tropical garden, try searching on “tropical gardens,” “hibiscus gardens,” or “tropical garden photos.”

Online Garden Centers

- Van Bourgondien (one of the best mail order houses with an assortment or unusual and rare plants) - [http://www.dutchbulbs.com/](http://www.dutchbulbs.com/)

Garden Portals


Photo Gallery

- Photopics.com - [http://www.gardenpics.com/photos/](http://www.gardenpics.com/photos/) - a comprehensive photo gallery, but you must scroll down all the way to view the entire gallery

Other Stops on the Internet

Essential Elements of Garden Design

Focal Point Resources:

Gallery of Focal Points - [http://gardening.about.com/library/bl_Focal.htm](http://gardening.about.com/library/bl_Focal.htm)


Look through this gallery and pick the focal point(s) in each one - [http://homechannel.aol.com/aolhome/gallery/archive/0,22116,1168443,00.html](http://homechannel.aol.com/aolhome/gallery/archive/0,22116,1168443,00.html)

Color Schemes

While you read through this section, open the Aggie Horticultural color wheel: [http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/floriculture/container-garden/lesson/colorwheel.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/floriculture/container-garden/lesson/colorwheel.html).

Drawing Example

- [http://community.webshots.com/photo/135184586/1136483607053597485aTgelk](http://community.webshots.com/photo/135184586/1136483607053597485aTgelk)

Better Homes and Gardens Free Online Garden Plans


Selecting Your Plants

Berkley.edu photo database of plants

- [http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/flora/](http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/flora/)
### Annual Minimum Temperature Range

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Fahrenheit</th>
<th>Celsius</th>
<th>Example Cities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Below -50 F</td>
<td>Below -45.6 C</td>
<td>Fairbanks, Alaska; Resolute, Northwest Territories (Canada)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2a</td>
<td>-50 to -45 F</td>
<td>-42.8 to -45.5 C</td>
<td>Prudhoe Bay, Alaska; Flin Flon, Manitoba (Canada)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2b</td>
<td>-45 to -40 F</td>
<td>-40.0 to -42.7 C</td>
<td>Unalakleet, Alaska; Pinecreek, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3a</td>
<td>-40 to -35 F</td>
<td>-37.3 to -39.9 C</td>
<td>International Falls, Minnesota; St. Michael, Alaska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3b</td>
<td>-35 to -30 F</td>
<td>-34.5 to -37.2 C</td>
<td>Tomahawk, Wisconsin; Sidney, Montana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4a</td>
<td>-30 to -25 F</td>
<td>-31.7 to -34.4 C</td>
<td>Minneapolis/St.Paul, Minnesota; Lewistown, Montana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4b</td>
<td>-25 to -20 F</td>
<td>-28.9 to -31.6 C</td>
<td>Northwood, Iowa; Nebraska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5a</td>
<td>-20 to -15 F</td>
<td>-26.2 to -28.8 C</td>
<td>Des Moines, Iowa; Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5b</td>
<td>-15 to -10 F</td>
<td>-23.4 to -26.1 C</td>
<td>Columbia, Missouri; Mansfield, Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6a</td>
<td>-10 to -5 F</td>
<td>-20.6 to -23.3 C</td>
<td>St. Louis, Missouri; Lebanon, Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6b</td>
<td>-5 to 0 F</td>
<td>-17.8 to -20.5 C</td>
<td>McMinville, Tennessee; Branson, Missouri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7a</td>
<td>0 to 5 F</td>
<td>-15.0 to -17.7 C</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; South Boston, Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7b</td>
<td>5 to 10 F</td>
<td>-12.3 to -14.9 C</td>
<td>Little Rock, Arkansas; Griffin, Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8a</td>
<td>10 to 15 F</td>
<td>-9.5 to -12.2 C</td>
<td>Tifton, Georgia; Dallas, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8b</td>
<td>15 to 20 F</td>
<td>-6.7 to -9.4 C</td>
<td>Austin, Texas; Gainesville, Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9a</td>
<td>20 to 25 F</td>
<td>-3.9 to -6.6 C</td>
<td>Houston, Texas; St. Augustine, Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9b</td>
<td>25 to 30 F</td>
<td>-1.2 to -3.8 C</td>
<td>Brownsville, Texas; Fort Pierce, Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10a</td>
<td>30 to 35 F</td>
<td>1.6 to -1.1 C</td>
<td>Naples, Florida; Victorville, California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10b</td>
<td>35 to 40 F</td>
<td>4.4 to 1.7 C</td>
<td>Miami, Florida; Coral Gables, Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>above 40 F</td>
<td>above 4.5 C</td>
<td>Honolulu, Hawaii; Mazatlan, Mexico</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hardiness zone map and information courtesy of USDA.

### Additional Resources for Planning Your Garden

- **ColorBlend Bed Area Calculator** – [http://www.colorblends.com/BedAreaCalculator](http://www.colorblends.com/BedAreaCalculator) – Takes the guesswork out of calculating quantities when you buy bulbs. Calculate how many bulbs you need to cover a specified area, regardless of its shape. You’ll also find great use of color at this site - [http://www.colorblends.com/Perennial](http://www.colorblends.com/Perennial).

- **University of Ohio Plant Database** - [Plants of Horticulture](http://www.plants.com) - Photos and text describing over 600 ornamental plants. You’re bound to find plants to suit your taste and situation here.

- **Martha Stewart Living Theme Gardens** - [http://www.marthastewart.com/page.jhtml?type=learn-cat&id=cat577&navLevel=3&navHistory=&site=](http://www.marthastewart.com/page.jhtml?type=learn-cat&id=cat577&navLevel=3&navHistory=&site=) - Browse by garden type. Within each theme, you’ll find lots of different plants, based on several criteria.

• **Little Bit of Heaven** – [http://fp1.centurytel.net/ladybug/](http://fp1.centurytel.net/ladybug/) - Watch a new garden as it matures over several years. You’ll want to see how the young, tender plants will grow and how much room they’ll need. You can always thin as you go along, but gardeners tend to crowd plants for an immediate copious effect.

• **American Horticultural Society A to Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants** - This is a huge Encyclopedia of plants, complete with beautiful photography. It contains over 15,000 plants and over 6,000 photographs. You can search by scientific or common name. This book belongs in any serious gardener’s bookshelf.

• **USDA Plants Database** - [http://plants.usda.gov/](http://plants.usda.gov/)

• **The Old Farmers’ Almanac** – [http://www.almanac.com/garden/](http://www.almanac.com/garden/)