



## Gardening Strand

**Rock Outcrops: A habitat hook for teaching environmental science and plant conservation**

Jennifer F. Ceska, The State Botanical Garden of Georgia

Contact: [jceska@uga.edu](mailto:jceska@uga.edu)

<http://www.uga.edu/botgarden/>

**Gardens Galore**

Karen Garland, Georgia Conservancy

Contact: [kgarland@georgiaconservancy.org](mailto:kgarland@georgiaconservancy.org)

[www.georgiaconservancy.org](http://www.georgiaconservancy.org)

**A Five Senses Approach to Sensory Gardens**

Ann Kirk, Keep Smyrna Beautiful

Contact: [akirk@ci.smyrna.ga.us](mailto:akirk@ci.smyrna.ga.us)

[www.ci.smyrna.ga.us](http://www.ci.smyrna.ga.us)

**Love those Natives! Growing & Teaching about Georgia Natives**

Anne Shenk, The State Botanical Gardens of Georgia

Contact: [ashenk@uga.edu](mailto:ashenk@uga.edu)

<http://www.uga.edu/botgarden/>

**Smog-Detecting Gardens**

Karen Wood, Outdoor Classroom Council

## Gardens Garden

When it comes to transforming a schoolyard, the possibilities are endless. Before getting into grids and plans, tools and beds, take some time to dream and let your imaginations run wild.

Many teachers may hesitate to undertake a project that seems too ambitious given their limited resources and time constraints, but here are a few garden ideas that will hopefully spark your imagination, creativity, and sense of adventure. There is no doubt that your garden will expand from year to year, attracting more participation from teachers, students, and the community.

Let's think gardening!

### Before You Begin Checklist

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. **Consider your goals and curriculum.** How you intend to use your garden will affect your design. Ask yourselves what your broad goals are: to beautify the school grounds and neighborhood? to grow food for the school or community? to create a therapeutic environment? and so on. You'll also want to consider how you can use the garden project to reach your curriculum goals. Are there lessons you already teach that might be extended into or enhanced by a garden?

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. **Engage your students as planners and decision makers.** Teachers across the country have discovered that when students are involved in all stages of the process, they are more invested in the project's success and inspired to care for and respect their schoolyard oases. By valuing students' opinions and encouraging them to make decisions, these educators have begun to cultivate motivated, confident, and collaborative learners. How and how extensively you involve your students in planning and decision making will depend on your goals and comfort with letting go, and on their abilities. It might mean that they select which plants to include, or you might give them the reins throughout the entire process.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. **Involve the school and community.** Thriving schoolyard garden projects often involve much, if not all, of the school community, including administrators, who can make or break a garden project, and custodians, who can be your greatest allies. Some or all of the teachers and classes may want to be involved in the design process, or simply take responsibility for specific planting beds or garden areas. Here are some ways of reaching out:

- Survey students, teachers, staff, and/or neighbors to find out who currently uses different areas of the schoolyard, what they would like to see in the space, and what questions and concerns they have about the proposed project.
- Have a curriculum meeting devoted to schoolyard design. How might different teachers use the schoolyard and specific elements (e.g., pollinator garden) to address curriculum goals? How could your design accommodate multiple classes?
- Conduct a brainstorming session with potential supporters including students, teachers, administrators, staff, parents, school board members, farmers, landscape architects, and other interested community members.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. **Set priorities.** Once you have crafted a vision for the schoolyard garden or habitat, it's time to get to work. It's important to start small and set short- and long-term goals so you can stage the process. Ask, what is reasonable to accomplish this year given our funds, equipment, time, and people power? In five years? Try to prioritize your goals and then write down what you hope to accomplish each year so you'll have targets to shoot for.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. **Assess your site.** Before putting your vision to paper and then into action, you'll want to find the best location and assess it in relation to your plan and the basic needs of plants. Use these questions to guide your thinking and then plan accordingly.

- Can the site be reached easily from classrooms?
- Is there access to a reliable water source?
- Is the site well drained?
- Does the site receive at least 6 hours of sunlight per day?
- How healthy is the soil? Do we have at least 6 inches of loose, rich soil? If not, what needs to be done to prepare or enhance it?
- Is the soil free of heavy metals such as lead?
- Is the site big enough for our draft design? Is there room for future growth?
- How long are we likely to be able to use the site?

**6. Design/map the site.** Your school garden might be small enough to require a simple planting map or it may entail many different types of features. If you are mapping a large site, you might want to consider a two-step process in which students first map out the "big" picture by identifying buildings, fences, trees, shrubs, play areas, and major pathways, and then create detailed plant maps of smaller areas, such as a rainbow garden. If you have a large project, consider finding a local landscaper or similar professional who is willing to donate time. He or she can make sure you've considered all available options and potential problem areas, and help you move the design forward. Try to find someone who will engage students in the planning and design process.

## Theme Garden Ideas

Imagine the potential for motivating students and inspiring research and investigations when you have a theme around which to weave your garden project. Some school gardeners devote one or more beds to unique themes. Others create entire gardens or schoolyards around one theme. In some cases, each grade level has a chance to create a plot on a topic related to its curriculum. As you and your students consider your teaching and learning goals, think about how a garden designed around a particular theme could help you meet them.

Tip: The students can be divided into groups of six, with each group having a leader/organizer. The students manage their own garden, learning leadership and responsibility. They choose the theme of their garden and the seeds to plant that are directly related to that theme.

### ABC Garden

**A** is for Alyssum and **Z** is for Zinnia.

<b>A</b> - Alyssum	<b>J</b> - Jacob's Ladder	<b>S</b> - Saliva 'Strata'
<b>B</b> - Bee Balm	<b>K</b> - Kale	<b>T</b> - Thyme and Tomato
<b>C</b> - Celosia	<b>L</b> - Love-Lies-Bleeding	<b>U</b> - Unicorn Plant
<b>D</b> - Daisy	<b>M</b> - Marigold	<b>V</b> - Verbena
<b>E</b> - Eggplant 'Neon'	<b>N</b> - Nasturtium	<b>W</b> - Wormwood
<b>F</b> - Four O' Clock	<b>O</b> - Ornamental Pepper	<b>X</b> - Xeranthemum
<b>G</b> - Geranium	<b>P</b> - Petunia	<b>Y</b> - Yarrow
<b>H</b> - Hollyhock	<b>Q</b> - Queen Anne's Lace	<b>Z</b> - Zinnia
<b>I</b> - Impatiens	<b>R</b> - Rose	

### Cereal Bowl Garden

Plants to include are those that can be found in your morning cereal bowl.

- corn for corn flakes
- oats for oatmeal
- rice
- wheat
- rye

### **Crayon Garden**

Features plants that are also the name of coloring crayons.

- Pumpkin 'Autumn Gold'
- Carnation
- Cornflower
- Goldenrod
- Lavender
- Strawberry 'Pink Panda'

### **Dinosaur Garden**

Plants to include are those that survived the dinosaur era. Once very large plants, through evolution they are now small plants (ferns, and Scouring Rushes). Include a "Dino Dig" area to simulate an archeological dig. Other creative ideas include an entrance by way of a crawl through a set of dinosaur ribs. Grow dino gourds over the ribs. Other plants include:

- Elephant Amaranth
- Fern 'Bracken'
- Fern 'Wood'
- Fern 'Cinnamon'
- Fern 'Japanese Painted'
- Equisetum
- Ginko Tree

### **Jack in the Beanstalk Giant Garden**

It's fun to grow giant and unusual plants in your garden.

Visit website for a list of seeds that grow into giant vegetables that can be harvested and enjoyed.

<http://www.seedman.com/giant.htm>.

### **Monet Bridge**

If you're considering a bridge why not make it an exact replica of the bridge in Monet's garden in Giverny, France.

Monet's passion was his garden, he "painted because of flowers." His favorites were water lilies.

Horticulture is defined as the ART and science of growing plants. Plants to include:

- Calliopsis
- Russian Sage
- Flax
- Purple Top Verbena
- Yarrow

### **Mystery Garden**

Plant seeds mixed up, so you don't know what they will be until they germinate. Then have your students identify them.

### **Performing Arts Garden**

Plants **do** things! The plants to include in this garden are active in some way.

For example, The Mimosa leaves collapse when touched; the impatiens seed pods explode when touched.

Others to include:

- Silver Sage (soft and fuzzy)
- Sensitive Plant (leaves collapse when touched)
- Globe Thistle (spiny and prickly)
- Lovely Leaves (leaves come in all shapes, sizes, colors and textures)
- Lady's Mantle (tiny hairs make water droplets shine like jewels)
- Love-in-a-Puff (makes a ball shaped puff, and the seeds inside have tiny heart marks)

- Evening Primrose ('Tina James' open when the sun sets in 15 seconds!)
- Scotch Thistle
- Obedient Plant (flowers will stay in place when moved, it's obedient)
- Moonflower
- Balloon Flower (opening buds look like a balloon)
- Gas Plant (flowers release a gas at night that may be lit with a match)
- Burdock (the sticking idea for "velcro")
- Compass Plant (leaves line up north and south)
- Portulaca (opens when the sun shines and closes when it's cloudy)
- Chia (forms a gel coat used to cover "Chia" pottery pets)
- Cup Plant (leaves trap water where frogs and toads rest)
- Day Flower (opens for one day)
- Mosquito Plant (may repel mosquitos)

### **Peace Garden**

There's no set formula for designing a peace garden. The main idea is create a space that celebrates peace your way. It can be a whole garden or just a small section. Consider including benches and sculptures like Diana Rhodes to encourage folks to take time out to think about bringing peace to their families or communities.

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/2005.kids.garden.news/pg2.html>

### **Peter Rabbit Herb Garden**

This garden is based on the most popular book for children ever published, and the first source of garden impressions in early childhood. The plants chosen are all mentioned in the Beatrix Potter's **Peter Rabbit** books. To further the theme try making stepping stones with rabbit tracks stamped in the wet concrete.

Plants to include:

- Beet 'MacGregor's Favorite'
- Radish 'French Breakfast'
- Rhubarb 'Valentine'
- Mint
- Lemon Balm
- Tansy
- Lavender
- Chamomile
- Hyssop
- Sage
- Rosemary
- Strawberry 'Pink Panda'

### **Pharmacy Garden**

Includes plants that provide a cure. Plants have been used to help heal us for centuries. Today over 25% of all our medicines come from plants.

Pennyroyal (repels fleas on dogs and cats)

Yew (for Taxol, a possible cancer cure)

Bee Balm (research for Alzheimer's Treatment)

Sweet Annie (used to treat malaria)

Horehound (for cough drops)

Madagascar Periwinkle (used to treat children's leukemia)

Self Heal

Joe Pye Weed (named after a North American Indian Doctor)

Feverfew

Toothache Plant

### **Pioneer Garden**

Plants include vegetables mentioned in the "Little House" books by Laura Ingalls Wilder. These heirloom vegetables, many introduced from European countries, came over with the settlers.

- Scarlet Runner Bean
- Cosmos
- Love-Lies-Bleeding
- Giant Flowering Tobacco
- Pumpkin 'Rouge d'Etampes'  
(the model for Cinderella's coach)

### **Pizza Garden**

Pizza is the most popular choice on the school lunch menu in the United States. Plants to include make up the ingredients: tomatoes, onions, peppers, parsley, basil and Greek oregano. Marigolds are planted around the outside to represent the cheese.

Plants to include:

- Greek Oregano
- Parsley 'Italian Flat Leaf'
- Pepper 'Chocolate'
- Tomato 'Roma'
- Basil 'Dark Opal'
- Basil 'Lettuce Leaf'
- Onion 'Spartan Banner'
  - Its also fun to include plants for a salsa and/or salad garden. Plants to include in a salsa garden:
    - Tomato
    - Pepper
    - Onion
    - Cilantro

### **Rainbow Garden**

Plant includes plants that are the color of the rainbow—red, orange, yellow, blue, green, and violet. At the end of the rainbow plant a pot of marigolds (pot of 'gold.'). Around the rainbow consider planting white flowers for clouds.

- Flowers to consider for a bulb/flower rainbow garden:
  - Red--red tulips, amaryllis, and daylilies such as Little Business and Lily's such as Sphinx.
  - Orange bulbs would be Tiger lilies, orange perfection phlox, and orange butterfly plant also known as *Asclepius tuberosa*.
  - Yellow bulbs could be daylilies, yellow tulips, lilies, and black eyed susans.
  - Green Tulip, green calla lily called Green Goddess, Hair Alliums, cone flowers called Coconut Lime and Green Envy.
  - Blue hyacinth, blue muscari, and blue allium (also known as azure allium).
  - There are purple tulips, purple allium, purple iris, purple crocus, purple hyacinth and grape hyacinth just to name a few.

### **Reading Garden**

Gardens and attractive open spaces are good for your mental health and general wellbeing, and are great for encouraging reading for pleasure. Research shows that the right environment matters to many readers, and that reading in gardens and parks is uniquely enjoyable.

<http://www.readingforlife.org.uk/62/>

[http://www.wikireadia.org.uk/index.php?title=The\\_Reading\\_Spaces\\_Toolkit\\_-\\_Introduction](http://www.wikireadia.org.uk/index.php?title=The_Reading_Spaces_Toolkit_-_Introduction)

### **Seeds of Change Garden**

This is a hands-on project that emphasizes the rich diversity that can result from cultural exchange. Through the garden that children plan, cultivate, and harvest, they interact with nature and each other. They learn about the similarities and differences among themselves through the experience of growing, cooking, and eating food; important elements in all cultures. The garden further helps students respect and nurture the Earth and its peoples.

The first Seeds of Change Garden was established at Abingdon Elementary School in Arlington, Virginia, in 1992. That year the student population came from families that spoke 18 different languages making Abingdon the ideal school in which to pilot a cultural exchange project. A project of this sort, however, can be planted, nurtured and grown anywhere; in cities, suburbs, and rural areas.

### **Sense-Sational Garden**

A potpourri of herbs is wonderful to include that may be gently touched and smelled.

Herbs here include:

Basil 'Mini Greek'	Parsley 'Italian Flat	Chamomile
Sorrel	Leaved'	Calry Sage
Dutch Lavender	Oregano	Sweet Fennel
Thyme 'Wooly'	Comfry	Bronze Fennel
Lovage	Basil 'Lettuce Leaf'	Basil 'Spicy
Costmary	Borage	Globe'
Basil 'Fire Leaf'	Pennyroyal	Winter Savory
Chives	Fennel	Curly Parsley
Basil 'Purple	Lemon Balm	Sage 'Berggarten'
Ruffles'	Lavender Cotton	Catnip
Basil 'Spicy Globe'	Garlic 'Society'	Chocolate Mint

### **Sundial Garden**

The plants surrounding a sundial demonstrate bio-rhythm, opening and closing at different times. Four-o'clocks are planted at the 4 block. Magic evening primroses 'Tina James', encircle the area. Flowers open in 15 seconds, quite a spectacular sight! Also include:

- Evening Primroses
- Portulaca 'Sundial'
- Sunflower 'Sunspot'
- Coreopsis 'Sunray'
- Morning Glory
- Thyme
- Four-O-Clock
- Moonvine

### **Scarecrow garden**

Scarecrows have been used by gardeners for over 2,000 years. Plant poppies around the scarecrow along with 'Oz', 'Wizard' and 'Munchkin' pumpkins and Black-Eyed Susan 'Toto' and 'Green Wizard'. Follow the yellow brick road!

### **Ying Yang Garden**

On the Ying side, plant the Nigra Black Hollyhock, the Superstion Iris, the Black Beauty Rudbeckia and the Penny Black Nemophila. On the Yang side, plant while moonflowers, snowball bee balm, white diatris, Snow Queen Iris and White petunias.

Use your own energy to create a balance of power in this new bed, focus on patterns, height, size and fashion to one another, ensuring that all get along in a reasonable season.

## International Gardens

- The **Hispanic-American Garden** includes vegetables introduced from Central and South America, including:
  - Mexican Sage
  - Mexican Tea
  - Tomato 'Matt's Wild Cherry'
  - Tomato 'Big Rainbow'
  - Tomato 'Peace Vine'
  - Tomatillo
  - Ornamental Pepper
  - Cilantro
  - Eggplant 'Turkish Orange'
  - Pepper 'Salsa'
  
- The **African-American Garden** includes plants introduced to the Americas by African-Americans, including:
  - cucumber 'Gherkin'
  - Okra 'Clemson Spineless'
  - Peanuts 'Valencia'
  - Black-eye Peas
  - Watermelon 'Moon and Stars'
  - Geraniums
  - Collards
  - Sesame
  - Sorghum 'Ho K'
  
- The **North American Indian Garden** includes plants growing in the America's by the Indians before 1492 when Columbus made his voyage of discovery.
  - Corn 'Red Stalker'
  - Pumpkin 'Conneticut Field'
  - Navaho Dye Plant
  - Indian Blanket
  - Popcorn 'Mini Blue'
  - Sweet Grass (for baskets)
  - Spoon Gourd
    - **Three Sisters Garden** includes: Corn, beans, squash (and/or pumpkins) The tall corn provides stalks for the beans to climb up. The pumpkin vines keep the soil cool and moist and help control the weeds.
  
- The **Asian-American Garden** is includes plants that were introduced to the U.S. by Asian immigrants. These "stir-fry" plants include pac choi, snow peas, Chinese cabbage and yard long beans.
  - Chinese Okra
  - Snow peas
  - Chinese cabbage
  - Asparagus Bean (Yard Long Bean)
  - Basil 'Japanese Red Shiso'
  - Basil 'Thai'
  - Eggplant 'Bride'
  - Eggplant 'Ping Tung Long'

- Vietnamese Mint
- Chinese Cabbage Pac Choi
- Peas 'Super Snappy'

## Miscellaneous

- "The Giving Tree," by Shel Silverstein, can be used to help students learn about the benefits of trees.
- Grow a variety of flowers for Valentine corsages or to be used on Random Acts of Kindness day when the flowers can be passed out to members of your community to wish them a happy day.
- "Plant a Row for the Hungry" vegetable garden. For more information visit [http://www.acfb.org/projects/community\\_garden/plant\\_a\\_row/](http://www.acfb.org/projects/community_garden/plant_a_row/).
- Container gardening in a variety of containers: wheelbarrows, boots, bed frames, etc. Your imagination and creativity are your only limits.
- Keep your gardens producing in the summer by offering summer programs.
- During the winter months start seeds under lights while also tending plants they are wintering over and plan for the coming growing season.
- In May and September have a "Farmer's Market" in conjunction with a school carnival. Make items (such as soap and paper), sell fresh produce and seedlings, and have a salad bar. Also have boxes in each room for worm composting and sell the castings as well.

## Books

A Child's Garden: Enchanting Outdoor Spaces for Children and Parents  
 By Molly Dannenmaier  
 ISBN: 0684837250

A Zoo Garden: 40 Animal-Named Plants Families Can Plant Together  
 By Chris Hastings  
 ISBN: 1563523930

Roots, Shoots, Buckets, and Boots  
 By Sharon Lovejoy  
 ISBN: 0761110569

## Creating a 4 x 8 Raised Garden Bed By Michaela D'aquanni

### Materials Per Bed: (Purchased from Home Depot)

- 48' – 2 x 6 Dimensional Composite Lumber - Trex Board.
- 2 - 8' Trex Board Decking Lumber (Braces and corners)

### Gardener's Supply Catalog: Bed Corners ([www.Gardeners.com](http://www.Gardeners.com))

- 2 sets - Catalog # (38-143) 12" Raised Bed Corners, Set of 2

### Fertile soil :

- 1.5 cubic yards

### Cut:

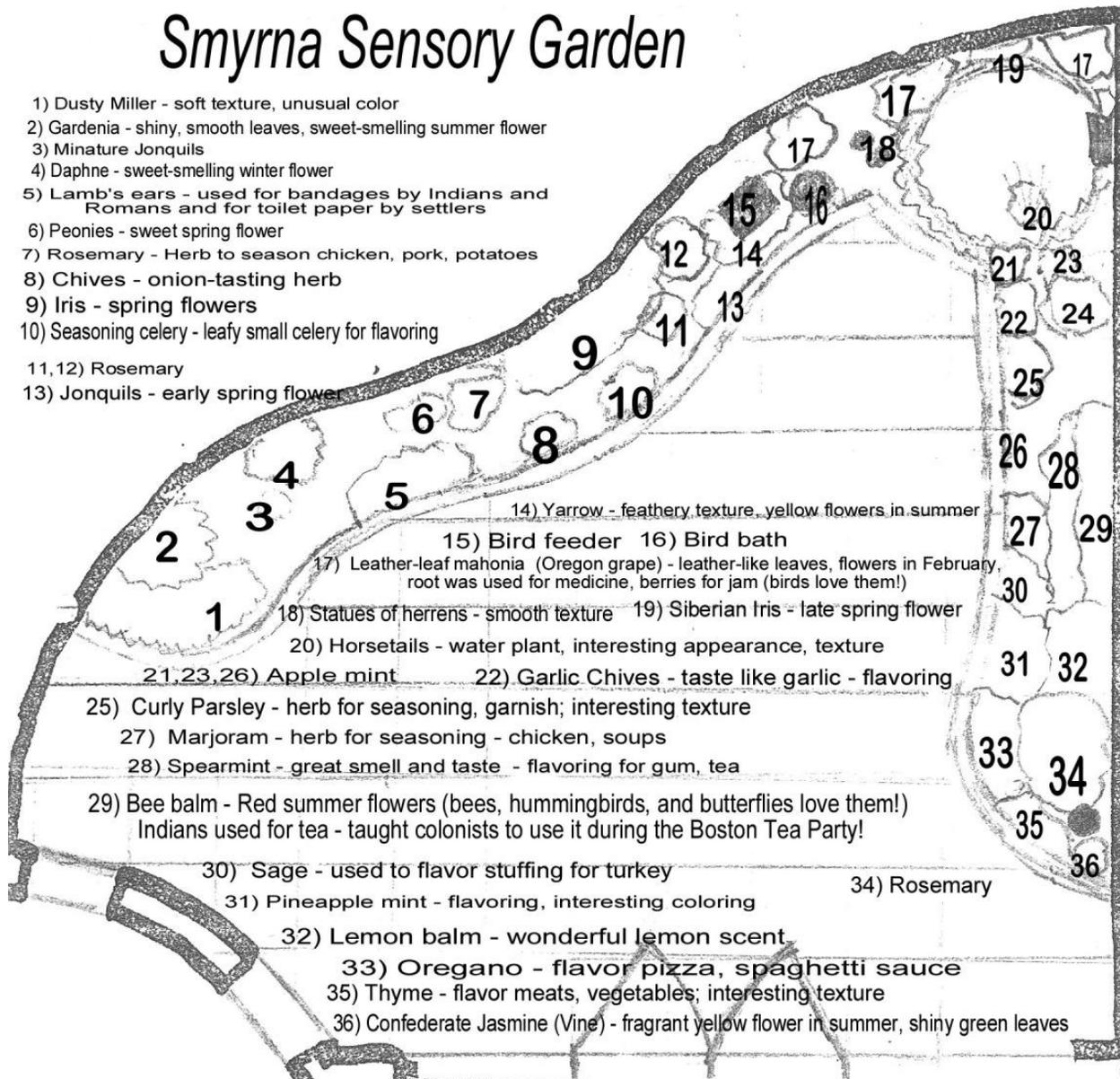
- 4 – 8' 2 x 6 Dimensional Composite Lumber - Trex Board
- 4 – 4' 2 x 6 Dimensional Composite Lumber - Trex Board
- 1 - 4' 4" Decking Lumber piece
- 4 - 9" slats Decking Lumber
- 4 - corners Decking Lumber

Assemble bottom portion of the bed with grain of Trex lumber facing out – screwing in corners on the lumber. Cut notches in the center top of the two Trex Dimensional Lumber sides to fit and screw in the decking board as a brace to keep the sides from bowing out. Add the top level of the bed and screw in the four braces towards the middle, on the inside of the beds, to hold the two levels together. Screw in the corners on the top level. Cut and screw on the corners on top of the corner braces. Add the dirt.



# Smyrna Sensory Garden

- 1) Dusty Miller - soft texture, unusual color
- 2) Gardenia - shiny, smooth leaves, sweet-smelling summer flower
- 3) Minature Jonquils
- 4) Daphne - sweet-smelling winter flower
- 5) Lamb's ears - used for bandages by Indians and Romans and for toilet paper by settlers
- 6) Peonies - sweet spring flower
- 7) Rosemary - Herb to season chicken, pork, potatoes
- 8) Chives - onion-tasting herb
- 9) Iris - spring flowers
- 10) Seasoning celery - leafy small celery for flavoring
- 11,12) Rosemary
- 13) Jonquils - early spring flower



- 14) Yarrow - feathery texture, yellow flowers in summer
- 15) Bird feeder 16) Bird bath
- 17) Leather-leaf mahonia (Oregon grape) - leather-like leaves, flowers in February, root was used for medicine, berries for jam (birds love them!)
- 18) Statues of herrens - smooth texture 19) Siberian Iris - late spring flower
- 20) Horsetails - water plant, interesting appearance, texture
- 21,23,26) Apple mint 22) Garlic Chives - taste like garlic - flavoring
- 25) Curly Parsley - herb for seasoning, garnish; interesting texture
- 27) Marjoram - herb for seasoning - chicken, soups
- 28) Spearmint - great smell and taste - flavoring for gum, tea
- 29) Bee balm - Red summer flowers (bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies love them!)  
Indians used for tea - taught colonists to use it during the Boston Tea Party!
- 30) Sage - used to flavor stuffing for turkey
- 31) Pineapple mint - flavoring, interesting coloring
- 32) Lemon balm - wonderful lemon scent
- 33) Oregano - flavor pizza, spaghetti sauce
- 34) Rosemary
- 35) Thyme - flavor meats, vegetables; interesting texture
- 36) Confederate Jasmine (Vine) - fragrant yellow flower in summer, shiny green leaves

# Sensory Gardens

By Ann Kirk, Director of Keep Smyrna Beautiful, City of Smyrna, P.O. Box 1226, Smyrna, GA 30081  
770-431-2863, akirk@ci.smyrna.ga.us



## What is a Sensory Garden?

It is a hands-on garden for all to enjoy, including the young, the old, and those with and without impairments to sight, hearing, mobility, and smell;

It is also a garden to encourage a richer enjoyment of the beauty and wonder in the world by the fuller use of all of our available senses.

A Sensory Garden is:

- Designed with a year-round variety of plant textures and smells, and a water feature and wind chimes for sound
- Planted in a raised bed for easy access to the blind and low vision population, to those with mobility challenges, and to small children
- Located in a safe and accessible area.



The model for the Smyrna Sensory Garden is in the Pennington Gardens in Augusta, GA.

**The Smyrna Sensory Garden** is located in a 450 square-foot enclosed patio area off of the Game Room, on the main floor of the Smyrna Community Center, 200 Village Green Circle, in Smyrna.



**Yours** could be in any spot where a garden would grow and could be tended such as a church, a school, a park, a hospital, or a home.

**Important!** Check legal property boundaries carefully. You also want to consider access to water and accessibility for visually and physically impaired individuals, as well as loading and unloading of tools, mulch, and plant materials.

## Construction

For the Smyrna Garden:

1. We used the existing flooring, which consists of porous tiles made from recycled tires.
2. Brick planters were constructed incorporating adequate drainage holes.
3. Approximately 14 inches of gravel were laid as a drainage base and covered with a layer of landscape fabric. The planters were then filled with a 50/50 mixture of regular dirt and potting soil as recommended to us by the UGA Cooperative Extension Service.
4. An irrigation system was installed and connected to the system for the existing grounds.
5. Wiring was installed for the pump for the fountain in the splash pond, the remaining brickwork was completed and the pond was installed.
6. The design plan for the plants was completed. The plants were installed and a slow release fertilizer was added to the mix before mulching with pine straw, Natures Helper, and decorative stone (depending on the plant.) No chemicals were used so that students under supervision can actually taste the herbs if they wish.

Over 30 different species plants and herbs were chosen based on fragrance, texture, blooming times, historical interest, availability, appearance, and required maintenance.

Keep Smyrna Beautiful and Garden Club volunteers conducted the plant installation and do the maintenance, with guidance from the Cobb Extension Service.

The construction took about 6 months and total cost was around \$5000, with donated soil, and labor.

Nickajack Elementary Sensory Garden had a much simpler and less expensive construction, using prefab stacking stones available at home improvement centers and no irrigation (but with close access to a hose outlet).



Get the team of stakeholders together, select a location (or several options), plan your project and then ask for funds, materials and volunteers.

### Sources for funding, supplies and volunteers:

Outdoor classroom grants (Lowes, Home Depot)  
Local landscapers  
Cooperative Extension Service, Master Gardeners

Local foundations and PTA's  
Garden Clubs  
Keep America Beautiful affiliates

You need to consider:

Sustainability of materials - i.e. don't go for the cheapest –add to the garden later if necessary. Do not use cross ties or pressure –treated lumber. Both contain chemicals which should not be used where growing foods or near little hands that go in mouths. Recycled plastic lumber is good but requires special construction techniques.

Accessibility –ADA requirements, maintenance issues, and teacher acceptance.

Please contact me if you have questions. Good luck! Ann Kirk