

Sensory Garden Ideas and Plant Lists Ian Warnock

SMELL GARDEN

Plants with aromatic foliage

Mint peppermint, spear mint, chocolate mint, orange mint, cat mint.
Sage including flowering sages; culinary sage and Russian sage
Lavender
Monarda (Bee Balm; Bergamot)
Chamomile
Geranium ‘Biokovo’ (garden perennial)
Pelargonium (Scented Geranium) - lemon; nutmeg; old spice; mint; apple
Santolina
Marigold
Tomatoes
Rosemary
Thyme - lemon; camphor; coconut; nutmeg; orange
Dill
Fennel
Basil - camphor; cinnamon; lemon; licorice; sweet
Wintergreen

Plants with fragrant flowers

Lilies - Asian; Chinese; Himalayan
Lily of the valley
Dianthus - pinks; carnation
Acidanthera - 'Peacock flower'
Roses
Tuberose
Freesia
Hyacinth
Alyssum
Heliotrope
Sweet Pea
Four-o'clocks
Nicotiana
Petunia
Korean Spice Viburnum
Butterfly Bush
Gardenia
Five-leaf vine
Blue beard
Summersweet
Honeysuckle
Think about using ketchup-style bottles and placing cotton balls dipped in essential oils in an information station/cart
Some plants e.g. mint to be grown in pots to prevent spreading and for ease of changing around.

SIGHT

Colour Wheel - 12 main colours

yellow	marigolds; zinnias; tulips; pansies
yellow-orange	marigolds; zinnias; tulips; pansies
orange	marigolds; zinnias; tulips; pansies
orange-red	marigolds; zinnias; tulips; pansies
red	petunias; tulips; pansies
red-violet	petunias; tulips; pansies
violet	petunias; tulips; pansies
blue-violet	petunias; ageratum; heliotrope; tulips; pansies
blue	petunias; ageratum; tulips; pansies
blue-green	hosta; ferns; tulips
green	zinnias; hosta; ferns; tulips
yellow-green	zinnias; marigolds; hosta; tulips

Warm

colours yellow; yellow-orange; orange; red-orange; red; red-violet;

Cool colours violet; blue violet; blue; blue-green; green; yellow-green

Primary

Colours Red; yellow; blue

Secondary

Colours Orange; green; violet

Contrasting

Colours -for visually-impaired

#1 black; #2 white; #3 red; #4 yellow

Rainbow

Garden ROY G. BIV - red; orange; yellow; green; blue; indigo; violet

Crayola Containers -pots with single colours of plants showing tints and variation of that colour

"Camouflage" - plants with variegated leaves and patterned foliage

Hosta spp and vars

Persicaria 'Painter's Palette' ; P. 'Lance Corporal' ; P. 'Red Dragon'

Canna 'Tropicanna' ; C. 'Striped Beauty'

Use Trompe L'Oueil trelliswork against walls where possible.

SOUND

Plants that make sounds.

Gourds

Bamboo

Grasses

Cattails

Eucalyptus

Uses for plants in music

Reeds; Maracas; Castinets; Drums; Xylophones; Blocks; Bones; Didgeridoo

Wind chimes made of bamboo; wood

Percussion umbrella - patio umbrella-like frame with rattles, shakers, clackers etc hanging down

Plants with musical names - to name a few

Anemone x hybrida	"Serenade"
Aquilegia X hybrida	"Koralle"
Astilbe chinensis	"Intermezzo"
Ballota nigra	"Prancing Jester"
Coreopsis auriculata	"Zamphir"
Dahlia X hybrida	"Figaro Mix"
Geranium cinereum	"Ballerina"
Helenium autumnale	"Coppelia"
Heuchera americana	"Can-Can"
Hosta	"On Stage"
Hosta	"Summer Music"
Hosta	"Harmony"
Hosta	"Honeysong"
Ligularia	"Desdemona"
Ligularia	"Othello"
Lilium	"Ariadne"
Miscanthus sinensis	"Adagio"
Miscanthus sinensis	"Cabaret"
Miscanthus sinensis	"Dixieland"
Panicum virgatum	"Heavy Metal"
Phlox paniculata	"Franz Schubert"
Polygonatum	"Valerie's Song"
Sempervivum	"Carmen"
Stokesia x laevis	"Blue Danube"
Tiarella	"Arpeggio"

Percussion

Bells

Bellflower
Bells of Ireland
Big Merrybells
California Bluebells
Canterbury Bells
Chilean Bellflower
Chile-bells
Chimney Bellflower
Coral Bells
Dalmatian Bellflower
Fairy Bells
Fringe Bells
Grand Bellflower
Grassy Bell
Japanese Snowbell
Least Snowbell
Monastery Bells
Mountain Silverbell
Nettle-leaved Bluebell
New Zealand Bluebell
Oconee Bells
Red Bell
Scottish Bluebells
Silver-bell
Snowbell
Spanish Bluebells
Spring bell
Temple Bells
Yellow bell
Cymbalaria muralis

Drums

Drumstick Allium
Drumstick Primula

Woodwinds

Dutchman's Pipe
Feather Reed Grass
Giant Reed
Bamboo

Brass

Horns

American Hornbeam
European Hop Hornbeam
Hornbeam Maple
Horned Holly
Horned Poppy
Horned Tulip
Horned Violet
Staghorn Fern
Stag's Horn Sumac
Yellow-horned Poppy

Trumpets

Angel's Trumpet
Blood-red Trumpet Vine
Blue Trumpet Vine
Chinese Trumpet Creeper
Golden Trumpet Tree
Herald's Trumpet
Mme .Galen Trumpet Vine
Scarlet Trumpet Honeysuckle
Trumpet Creeper
Trumpet Flower
Trumpet Gentian
Trumpet Honeysuckle
Trumpet Lily
Trumpet Vine

Bugles

Carpet Bugle
Pyramidal Bugle

Strings

Fiddle-leaf Fig
Lyre-leaf Sage
String Beans
Viola

TASTE

Mints -

peppermint, spearmint,
orange, chocolate

Basil - camphor; cinnamon; lemon; licorice; sweet

Strawberry

Raspberry

Blueberry

Wintergreen

Vegetables - lettuce, brussel sprouts, radishes, peas, snap peas, beans,
green onions, chives, parsley, peppers, mini var's of tomatoes, corn, cabbage, lettuce, eggplant

Flowers used in cooking - nasturtium, violets, roses, lavender, zucchini

Fruit – Soft fruit – strawberry, blueberry, raspberry, gooseberry, currants

Tree fruit – apples, pears, plums, cherries, apricots.

Try growing dwarf standards; trained against walls or along wires; in containers

Plants should be pickable for people to experience and interact with.

Cherry tomatoes, Mexican Sour Gherkins, peas, beans, radish

Ideas for Food Themed Gardens

Pizza - tomatoes, peppers, parsley, oregano, basil, onions

Salsa - tomatoes, peppers, hot peppers, cilantro, tomatillo, onions, garlic

Pasta - tomatoes, garlic, sugar snap peas, eggplant, squash

- greens (arugula, spinach, broccoli, chard)

- herbs (parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, tarragon)

Snacks - cherry tomatoes, baby carrots, pickling cucumbers, sugar snap peas,
popcorn

Pets - carrots, catnip, lettuce, spinach, greens, corn

Fall Holiday - pumpkins, ornamental corn and gourds

Mr. McGregor's Garden - peas, radishes, lettuce, onions, lavender, cucumbers,
parsley

TOUCH

Plants with textured leaves

Lamb's Ears

Succulents - Hens & Chicks, Echevaria, Sedum

Hedera helix 'Fastigiata'

Hedera colchica 'Variegata'

Yucca filamentosa

Jerusalem Sage

Chinese Silk Plant

Crambe maritima

Corkscrew Sedge

Brunnera

Bergenia (Pigsqueak)

Hosta

Ferns - Sensitive, Hart's Tongue, Leatherleaf, Tatting

Rushes

Bamboo

Gourds

Asparagus fern

Sensitive plant

Alchemilla

European Ginger

Tropical Ginger

Chinese Rhubarb

Elephant Ears

Flower and seed heads

Cotton wool

Ornamental Onion

Pasque Flower

Iris sibirica

Strawflower

Statice

Ornamental Grasses - Pennisetum, Sea Oats, Switch Grass, Miscanthus,

Fibre-optic Grass

Obedient Plant

Use changeable pots near seating areas especially as plants will need rehab after a lot of touching!

RESOURCE LIST

SEEDS AND PLANTS

Baker Creek Heirloom Seed
2278 Baker Creek Road
Mansfield, MO 65704
414-924-8917
www.rareseeds.com

Burpee
W. Atlee Burpee Seed Company
300 Park Avenue
Warminster, PA 18974
800-888-1447
www.burpee.com

Johnny's Selected Seeds
955 Benton Avenue
Winslow, ME 04901
877-564-6697
www.Johnnyseeds.com

Jung Seed
335 South High Street
Randolph, WI 53956
800-297-3123
www.jungseed.com

Park Seed
3507 Cokesbury Road
Hodges, SC 29653
800-845-3369
www.parkseed.com

Planet Natural
1612 Gold Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59715
www.planetnatural.com

Seed Savers Exchange
3094 North Winn Road
Decorah, IA 52101
563-382-5990
www.seedsavers.org

Books

Better Homes and Gardens New Junior Garden Book
By Felder Rushing
Meredith Books 1999

A Child's Garden
By Molly Dannenmaier
Simon and Schuster 1998

Garden Crafts for Kids
By Diane Rhoades
Sterling Publishing Company 1998

The Kids Can Press Jumbo Book of Gardening
By Karen Morris
Kids Can Press 2000

Roots, Shoots, Buckets and Boots
By Sharon Lovejoy
Workman Publishing 1999

Kids Container Gardening
By Cindy Krezel
Ball Publishing 2005

Gardening With Children
By Beth Richardson
Taunton Press 1998

Grow It For Fun
By Denny Robson
Gloucester Press 1991

The Garden Book
By Jane Bull
DK Publishing 2003

Last Child In The Woods, Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder
By Richard Louv
Algonquin Books 2005

Sensory Gardens Worth Visiting

MSU 4-H Children's Garden
East Lansing, Michigan
1-517-432-5657. www.4hgarden.msu.edu

Cleveland Botanical Garden
Cleveland, Ohio
1-216-721-1600 www.cbgardens.org

Denver Botanic Garden
Denver, Colorado
1-720-865-3501 www.botanicgardens.org

Royal Botanical Garden
Burlington, Ontario
1-905-527-1158 www.rbg.ca

Longwood Gardens
Kennett Square, PA
1-610-388-1000 www.longwoodgardens.org

Missouri Botanical Gardens
St. Louis, MO 63110
1-314-577-5100 www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

Phipps Conservatory
Pittsburgh, PA
1-412-622-6915 www.phipps.conservatory.org

American Horticultural Society's River Farm
Alexandria, VA
1-703-768-5700 www.ahs.org

Lena Meijer Children's Garden
Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park
1-616-957-1580 www.meijergardens.org

Leila Arboretum
Battle Creek, MI
1-269-969-0270 www.leilaarboretumsociety.org

Morton Arboretum
Lisle, IL 60532
1-630-968-0074 www.mortonarb.org