

HOW TO PLAN A MAGICAL GARDEN

When you think of a witch's garden what do you see? I'm guessing that you'll be thinking of a small country cottage with a VERY wild looking garden. Full of flowers and plants climbing all over each other, over the structures, over the house?

Not all of us have gardens like that or even WANT a garden like that. Can you imagine how long it would take to care for a garden like that?!

Being realistic, our garden can look any way we choose, and still be magical. It can be a city courtyard, a balcony or even a windowsill or 'garden room' in your house. Your witches garden could even be ultra-modern, super sleek and tidy. Minimalist even!

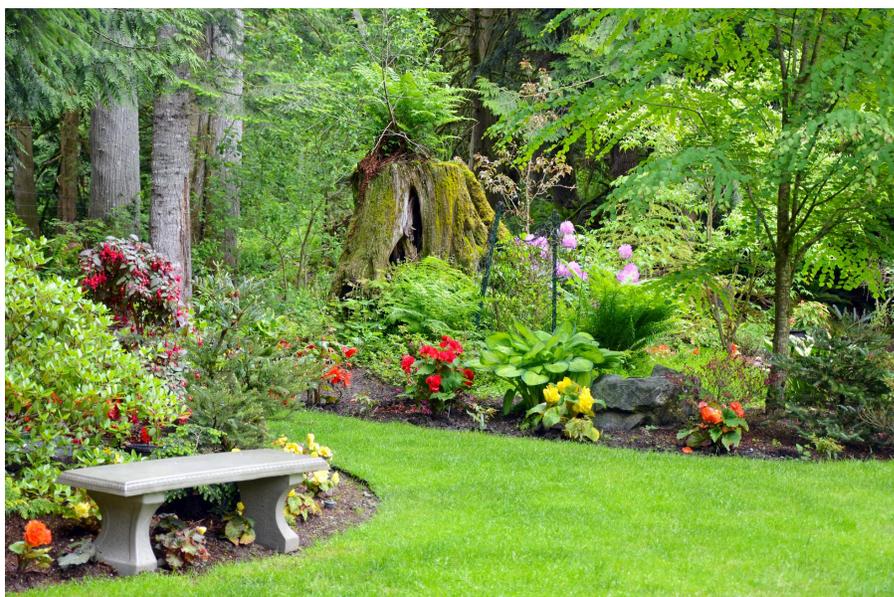
The ultimate point of having a 'witches garden' is to have an outdoor space where you can connect with Mother Earth. Where you can show your respect to, and connect to, your deities. Where you can grow plants that will enhance your magical life. And you can do all of this from the smallest of spaces - indoor or out.

So, how do you go about creating a witches garden of your own? Before getting into the actual gardening technicalities, let's start by creating a mental picture of your dream magical garden. You might want to grab a notebook for this!



1. FIRST LET'S HAVE A THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO USE IT FOR:

- To grow herbs and plants to use in your remedies, spell work, crafts, homemade beauty products and natural cleaners.
- To have a beautiful outside space in which we can sit in peace to meditate, journal, or pray.
- A space for celebration and ritual, whether alone or in groups.
- A place that gives access to the elements. To sun and moon. To earth, air, fire and water.
- A place to honour our Gods and Goddesses.



2. HOW MUCH SPACE DO YOU HAVE?

- A whole garden, a small corner of a garden, a balcony, a windowsill? Although we are talking about 'garden' what we really mean is a place that has some natural light and fresh air for things to grow, and (preferably) the ability to reflect the sun and moon.
- Now ask yourself the question again and think about reality! Does your garden space also need to... have a washing line, store the rubbish, be a kid's play area, exercise space for the dog?! Will your dream space actually feel magical if it's also a place for these things?

It is always better to start with a small area that is 100% dedicated to your craft rather than try to create a whole garden and not feel a connection to it. You should ideally feel yourself stepping into your own magical space. Done right, you'll feel your energy change the moment you step into it!



3. HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU HAVE FOR MAINTENANCE?

- This one is pretty straight forward. The more plants you have, the more maintenance. It's nice to potter in the garden trimming or picking this and that, weeding a small bed now and again. But do you want to have to be cutting grass, trimming hedges?
- If you're time poor, can you afford to pay someone to help. Would you even want someone else stepping into your magical space?



4. WHAT DO YOU WANT IT TO LOOK LIKE?

Think about features such as:

- **Shapes** - circles, pentagrams, spirals, natural curves, geometric lines. (This is where gardens can become really creative!)
- **Privacy** - It is nice when working our magic, not to be disturbed or overlooked so that we can really relax into our work. And, obviously, if you like to work skyclad this will be a more serious matter for you to consider! To add a little privacy, you can use small magical trees such as Hawthorne or Elder. A strategically placed archway or bamboo can also make a great screen, especially in small gardens. Planting large trees and plants into containers can help to restrict their growth if space is tight.
- **Elements** - You may wish to add a huge rock for an altar, a fire pit or lanterns, a pool to reflect the moon. You can also add statuary to represent your favourite deities.

One thing I would recommend is an entryway to your working space. If you have a specific corner you like to sit in consider adding a gate, a step, or even a small stream to mark the boundary of your magical garden. When you step over that threshold, your body knows it's magical time!



5. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO GROW?

- Herbs for your recipes and spellwork?
- Plants for crafting? E.g. Willow work, flower pressing etc
- Wildlife attracting plants?
- Scented plants?
- Colour themed borders? E.g. yellow in the eastern quarter, red in the southern quarter, blue in the west and green in the north.

You can go really deep here! There are many plant encyclopaedias available that will help you choose plants according to their healing or magical properties, or even their planet, elemental, or god and goddess associations.

Hopefully by now you'll start to have an idea forming of how you want your magical garden space to look and what you might use it for.

Making use of a garden space is one of THE most effective ways to enhance your magic. You are making a connection and a commitment to the earth. You can grow your plants with intention, from seed to harvest. And, your plants will hold the elements of your specific backyard and your personal energy. It doesn't get more powerful than that!

