

Chapter 1 : English-Style Lawn Edging | Home Guides | SF Gate

*Borders (CLASSIC ENGLISH GARDENING GUIDES) [Penelope Hobhouse] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Considers the function of borders in garden design, and outlines methods for incorporating them into different types of plantings.*

How to plant a herbaceous perennial border If you want more bang for your buck, look no further than herbaceous perennials. A perennial is a plant that survives for over a year, but may die back to ground level after the growing season ready to spring back up next year. With a growth cycle that runs like clockwork, year after year, these perennials burst into flower in the warmer months, die back over winter, and perform the same amazing ritual again with each passing year. Plant them well, and you will enjoy years of delight from these marvellous plants. Once established, perennials are relatively hardy and most will thrive with little attention, making them a great choice for budding gardeners. All they need is a little deadheading, some timely pruning and, occasionally, division of one plant into two to avoid overcrowding. The advantage is that you gain a free plant to put elsewhere in the garden! What more could you ask for? Plant Placement Herbaceous perennials are usually planted in a wide border or bed. They are often arranged in size order, with towering blooms at the back, ground-hugging varieties at the front and middling plants in between. This prevents taller plants from obscuring smaller ones and robbing them of much-needed sunlight. It also forms an attractive tiered effect, improving the overall impact of the border. There are literally dozens of plants to choose from in each height category. Alcea Hollyhocks and Digitalis Foxgloves will add not only height but a lovely cottage garden look to your borders. Geraniums, Hostas Plantain lily , Tricyrtis Toad lily and Iris are all medium-height plants that will brighten up the shadier spots of your garden. Low-growing plants up to 50cm include Papaver Poppies , Dahlia, Pulmonaria Lungwort , Pelargonium, and the fantastically unfussy Campanula bell flower. For truly tiny plants that punch above their weight in the looks category and do excellently in UK gardens, choose Sedum Kamtschaticum Stonecrop , Saxifraga Saxifrage and a firm garden favourite Primula Primrose. Closely compacted plants, like Asters and Phlox, may be better placed further back, while wispy perennials, like Gaura Wandflower , which allow light through, may be better further forward than their height alone might suggest. Flowering Schedule Alongside height and density considerations, thinking carefully about the flowering times of the perennials you choose is key. Being sure to choose a mixture of flowering schedules will mean that, just as one group of plants fades, another will be bursting into bloom, ensuring continued appeal throughout the growing season. Year-round Structure The only disadvantage of herbaceous perennials is that they typically die back to soil level in winter, which can leave a perennial-only bed looking bare and uninteresting in the colder months. To combat this, you can incorporate herbaceous perennials into a mixed bed, planting them alongside shrubs and evergreens, spring bulbs and summer bedding plants to create year-round colour and interest in the garden. We call this succession planting. You could also try to add in some evergreen perennials. These three varieties are hardy enough to survive even severe winters in the UK, although be aware that some evergreen perennials may not be, so it is advisable to check the details of a particular plant before buying. Preparing to Plant As with most plants, herbaceous perennials benefit from the addition of good-quality garden compost or well-rotted farmyard manure to the soil before planting. Adding blood, fish and bone fertiliser as well will give you the edge in keeping your new and existing perennials happy. This will help to settle the soil and prevent the surrounding soil from drawing water away from the rootball. Now sit back and enjoy healthy herbaceous perennials for many years to come! For more herbaceous border ideas on a shoestring, check out this blog: Or check out my Pinterest board for more ideas:

Chapter 2 : Garden Guides | For All Things Gardening

Another garden in Upstate New York, Duck Hill is a fine example of how elements of the English gardening style can be incorporated anywhere. Featuring a series of paths that serve as an invitation to explore, Duck Hill is a sequence of courtyards and garden rooms skillfully woven together.

Learn how to design a true English cottage garden from our tips, ideas and advice using the right cottage flowers and plants for an effective cottage garden design. The plants and flowers that are used in such a garden design, are seen in gardens throughout England. These country gardens conjure up thoughts of romance, bumble bees, butterflies and lazy summer days. To try and recreate such a garden is not difficult, but to be successful you should choose your cottage plants and flowers wisely with regards to color groupings, know the heights of your plants so that you have proper planning, and finally choosing cottage plants that will thrive in your climate and soil conditions. So, where exactly does one begin, and what elements are needed to create English country gardens? Typically is surrounds a small, simple house with a porch. And being so confined, the cottage style has no room no need for lawn. Instead, pathways cut a swathe through the cottage garden plants and flowers, usually made of brick, shell, gravel or aggregate. Where cottage gardens appear haphazard and abundant, success requires careful placement and knowledge of height and spread of your cottage garden plants. Climbing roses and wisteria give both height and romance to these gardens, especially when they provide a backdrop to other summer cottage flowers such as poppies, cornflowers, Delphiniums, lavender and Erigeron daisies. What about Spring Bulbs for your cottage garden? The cottage garden, or English country garden, is best for those who love to garden, for the style is not low-maintenance. It looks informal, as if nature had scattered its seed to paint the various tapestries of color, but in actual fact, it is highly contrived. Making sure that you have a garden that blooms constantly, is no mean feat. Design Elements for an English Country Garden Choose simple cottage flowers for your cottage garden design and make sure that they are old-fashioned varieties. Try and choose a color scheme like pinks and whites, or blues and yellows. Where you choose to have a whole spectrum of colors then make sure that the palette is soft. Warm brick paths, rambling roses and other climbers, pastel perennials and self-sowing annuals such as allysum are characteristic of a cottage style garden. Choose fragrant flowers for both garden, arbors and houses. Let your garden show your personality. Choose your plants for personal preference and meaning rather than for design. Plant flowers and plants in small pockets rather than in large drifts. It is the biggest structure in your garden and you want to be able to see your garden from as many windows as possible. Your house should also match your garden. You cannot have an ultra-modern house with a cottage garden, nor would you have a mock-Tudor house with yuccas and agaves. It would just look very odd. See our page on country style decor to create that county home feel. Ideally, your house should be covered in some flowering climber to link your house to your garden. Wisteria, honeysuckle, golden shower, star jasmine, clematis, ornamental grapes or even climbing roses such as the lovely "Albertine", will do the trick. If you have ugly steps that lead to your house, tile them with terracotta tiles, and then soften the edges by placing lavender, geraniums and other colorful plants in pots and line the steps with these. How many kinds of sweet flowers grow in an English country garden? Traditionally the cottage garden is surrounded by either a fence, wall or hedge with a gate giving access to the property. There is usually a pathway, that is seldom straight in nature, that leads from the gate to the front of the house. While the garden beds on either side of the pathway need not be mirror-images of one another, they should be equally balanced in the choice of colors used either side, and the cottage plants used in both garden beds should be similar in height and type so that there is a definite pattern that is evident. Stay away from colorful hybrids and go for the traditional cottage garden flowers that give you soft colors and small flowers. Include garden features such as bird baths, bird houses, benches, bird feeding tables where you can feed the wild birds , chairs, containers and window boxes. You can also have some fun with wheelbarrows, old milk churns and other old farming equipment. Because most of your cottage plants are herbaceous they will die down in winter. Therefore you need to add some plants that will be evergreen or flower during that time to give your garden a winter interest. Plants such as rosemary, germander, lavender and boxwood will help out here. Cool

weather annuals such as pansies can also be planted for color, as well as ornamental kales. Make your country garden serviceable. Plant espaliered fruit trees such as pear trees and fruiting shrubs such as black and red currants and blueberries close to the perimeter of the house. Intersperse your flowers with medicinal herbs for easy picking when needed.

Chapter 3 : About Your Privacy on this Site

An English country garden, or cottage garden, is a style of garden meant to evoke the romance and the appearance of the traditional gardens of Tudor England.

One of the key features of a English landscape is the lawn edging, which forms a border between neatly clipped grass and flower beds that have a wild, overgrown look. If you want an authentic English-style yard, you must choose edging that fits the style and complements the rest of the features in your yard. Trenches The most traditional English style of edging relies solely on trenches to define garden beds. While this type of edging certainly provides a manicured look, it requires hard work and long-term maintenance. To figure out the location of your trench, place a garden hose around the bed and adjust it to you find the right line. The hose can also help you figure out the best shape for the trench and serve as a guide when you start digging. English-style gardens typically feature smooth, sweeping curves, so avoid sharp line or angles for your edging. You may leave the trench empty or fill it with mulch, such as wood chips or pine straw. Once or twice a year, you may need to touch up the edging or refill the mulch to maintain the crisp, weed-free edge around your beds. Cobblestone If you want an English-style landscape but prefer edging that makes mowing your lawn easier, cobblestone is an alternative to traditional English trench edging. Stone is a traditional material in English landscapes, and cobblestone in particular has a charming rustic look that fits the style well. It usually has a flat surface too, so it allows you to easily roll your mower over it. For the most classic English look, choose cobblestones that are all roughly the same size. You can create a single row of stones or create multiple rows for wider edging that can do double-duty as a path around your garden. Add backfill around the cobblestone to secure the edging. Brick If you prefer a more formal look for your edging but still want a traditional English-style landscape, brick works as well as a border around your beds. Like cobblestone, brick is flat so it accommodates a lawn mower easily. You can install brick edging in the same manner that you would cobblestone. For a more polished, durable border, mortar the bricks to keep them in place. Wrought iron blends well with the rest of your design. This type of edging usually offers the most decorative look because it resembles a mini fence around your garden beds. Depending on your preference, you can choose from a variety of styles that range from highly ornate to simple and subtle. Simply use a mallet to pound it into place at the edge of your garden beds and you have instant edging.

It's the classic British garden plant, and so versatile. Train climbers up walls and over arches, grow hybrid teas in borders and choose neat miniatures for the patio.

These gardens are typically small and compact, filled with flowering plants, herbs and vegetables. English country gardens are perfect for small, simple homes and, with the incorporation of garden paths, it can even be used to replace a lawn. Creating an English country garden is a project virtually any homeowner can accomplish -- you simply need to select your favorite combination of design elements and incorporate flowers, herbs and vegetables that grow well in your area. About English Country Gardens An English country garden, or cottage garden, can be loosely defined as a space for growing flowers and vegetables surrounding a small dwelling. This style of gardening was first developed during the Tudor period of England which lasted from about 1485 to 1603. During this period, expanded trade routes increased the availability of new and exotic plants, which sparked an interest in decorative landscaping. Those who did not have the wealth and means to cultivate large, sprawling gardens stuck to smaller, hardier plants with which they created quaint, compact gardens that combined the beauty of flowering plants with the practicality of edible plants. Design Elements Designing an English country garden is not just a hobby -- with the incorporation of certain elements of design, it can become a work of art. Because this type of garden is meant to be small and compact, it is important to use the principles of purpose and design so you can make the most efficient use of your space. Composition is one of the most important design elements for an English country garden and it involves the grouping of plants to create a pleasing pattern or arrangement. Proportion, or scale, is also very important -- when creating a compact garden you should not incorporate any plants that grow significantly larger than any of the others or they could look out of place. Color, such as the color of flowers or foliage, can also be used to invoke certain emotions or to give your garden a balanced, harmonious appearance. Pathways Winding pathways are a defining characteristic of English country gardens and they can be easy to incorporate into your landscaping at home. Before planting your beds, decide where you want your paths to run -- you might even want to outline them using colored chalk dust or by laying out a length of rope. The material you use for your paths is a matter of preference, but worn bricks, smooth stones or pebbles will give your cottage garden a natural, romantic feel. Do not hardscape your paths -- the plants in your garden should grow right up to and into your pathways, softening the edges and giving your garden an authentic English country appearance. Structures and Accents Adding a structure such as a gate or gazebo to your English country garden is an effective way to add interest. The key to using large structures in your garden is to incorporate them in such a way that they appear to belong there -- the plants in your garden should grow right up to, or even on, the structure so the structure does not stand apart. Try using small stone or wooden benches to create sitting areas in your garden and use wooden pickets to create sections of defined space. Keep in mind that the style of the structures and accents you use should not only fit your garden but they should also suit the style of your home to create the ultimate English country cottage feel. Color To cultivate an authentic English country garden look and feel, some planning should be involved in selecting the plants for your garden. Think about incorporating colorful flowering plants like roses, poppies and cornflowers. Colors like pink, white, blue and yellow will fit especially well with the soft color palette characteristic of the authentic cottage garden style. Plan for the changing seasons by mixing plants that bloom at different times of the year. While your garden will naturally be most colorful during the spring and summer, adding a few evergreen plants like rosemary and lavender will keep your garden colorful even during the winter. Aroma Creating the perfect English country garden is not just about appearance -- it is also about the feelings evoked by the experience of walking through the garden. Adding aromatic flowers and herbs is a simple way to enhance your garden and to create an authentic, romantic feeling. Try incorporating herbs like lavender, basil, rosemary and thyme so when you are walking through your garden you will be greeted by bursts of refreshing fragrance. Fragrant flowers like roses, dianthus, hyacinth and lilac will add both aroma and color to your English country garden.

Chapter 5 : English Country Garden Design - Top 10 Cottage Garden Plants,Flowers

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Chapter 6 : Top 10 plants for a modern cottage garden - David Domoney

An English-style landscape offers a charming blend of formal and casual elements that can add instant curb appeal to your home. One of the key features of a English landscape is the lawn edging.

Chapter 7 : English Gardens | Garden Design

English Country Garden Design - Top 10 Cottage Garden Plants, Flowers An English country garden is fun and easy to design if you have the right elements. Learn how to design a true English cottage garden from our tips, ideas and advice using the right cottage flowers and plants for an effective cottage garden design.

Chapter 8 : BBC - Gardening - How to be a gardener - Cottage garden - Top ten plants

Looking for landscaping ideas to update your yard into the English garden of your dreams? Devise a grand plan for vast sweeps of color and plantings inspired by the riotous but deliberate English gardening style with these easy tips for planting English gardens.

Chapter 9 : Border Gardening: How to plant a herbaceous perennial border - David Domoney

What this means in practice, as seen at Broughton Grange for example, is that Stuart-Smith's border designs tend to be composed of drift plantings of powerful plants, which are repeated through the garden and organized with all the care and panache one would expect of the British tradition.