CAPTURE THE OLD-FASHIONED CHARM OF AN ENGLISH COTTAGE GARDEN.

This border planting is lush, colorful, and full of familiar favorites, such as hollyhocks, roses, daisies, and peonies. In true cottage-garden style, it mixes perennials, shrubs, and bulbs. One section of the garden hugs the house’s foundation, and a rose-covered arbor leads to the side yard. If you place this garden in a corner where there is no need for a walk-through arbor, you may eliminate the arbor and flagstone path and, in their place, plant another ‘Annabelle’ hydrangea or a ‘Miss Kim’ lilac. Plant this garden where it receives at least six hours of sun daily.
**PLANT LIST**

**A White Fringe Tree (Chionanthus virginicus)** (1)
Zones 4-9. Small, slow-growing tree or large shrub. Fragrant white blooms in spring, deep blue fruits, yellow fall color. 12’-20’ tall and wide.

**ALTERNATIVE PLANT**
**Donald Wyman Lilac (Syringa x prestoniae 'Donald Wyman')**
Zones 3-7. A shrub with reddish purple blooms in spring. 8’-10’ tall and wide.

**B Annabelle Hydrangea (Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle')** (1)
Zones 3-9. A shrub with huge, rounded flower heads that last through the summer. Flowers start out white and mature to green. 4’ tall and wide.

**ALTERNATIVE PLANT**
**Summersweet (Clethra alnifolia)**
Zones 3-9. A shrub with spikes of fragrant white flowers in summer. 4’-6’ tall and wide.
C Mockorange (Philadelphus ‘Snowgoose,’ ‘Belle Etoile’ or similar variety) (1)
Zones 4-8. A shrub with exceptionally fragrant, white blossoms in spring. 5’-6’ tall and wide.
ALTERNATIVE PLANT
Diana Rose-of-Sharon (Hibiscus syriacus ‘Diana’)
Zones 5-8. A shrub with large white flowers from July through September. 8’-10’ tall, 6’-8’ wide.

D Golden Showers Climbing Rose (Rosa ‘Golden Showers’) (2)
Zones 5-9. Fragrant, ruffled yellow roses on long canes. Needs a trellis or other support. Climbs up to 8 feet.
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E Hunter Rose (Rosa ‘Hunter’) (1)
Zones 3-8. A hardy hybrid rugosa rose. Bright red flowers, shiny foliage. Disease-resistant. 5’ tall and wide.
ALTERNATIVE PLANT
Carefree Delight Rose (Rosa ‘Carefree Delight’)
Zones 4-9. A shrub rose with single pink blossoms. Almost continuous bloom through summer. Disease-resistant. 3’ tall, 5’ wide.

F White Fairy Rose (Rosa ‘White Fairy’) (1)
Zones 4-9. Tiny white blossoms in generous clusters. Almost continuous bloom through summer. 3’ tall and wide.
ALTERNATIVE PLANT
Flower Carpet Rose (Rosa ‘Flower Carpet’)
Zones 5-9. Compact shrub rose with pink flowers. Disease-resistant. 3’ tall and wide.

G Anthea Yarrow (Achillea ‘Anthea’) (1)
Zones 4-8. Flat-topped clusters of tiny butter-yellow flowers. Sturdy stems. 18”-20” tall.
ALTERNATIVE PLANT
Golden Marguerite (Anthemis tinctoria ‘Kelwayi’)
Zones 3-7. Bright yellow daisies in summer, feathery foliage. 24” tall.

H Double Hollyhocks (Alcea rosea ‘Chaters Double Hybrids’ or similar variety) (5)
Zones 3-7. Ruffled flowers in a mix of colors on regal spires. 6’ tall.
ALTERNATIVE PLANT
Culver’s Root (Veronicastrum virginicum ‘Album’)
Zones 4-8. White flower spikes in late summer. 4’-5’ tall.

I Columbine (Aquilegia vulgaris, mixed colors) (4)
Zones 3-8. Nodding, spurred flowers in spring. 18”-24” tall.
ALTERNATIVE PLANT
Balloon Flower (Platycodon grandiflorus ‘Mariesii’)
Zones 3-7. A dwarf form. Violet-blue star-shaped flowers in summer. 18”-24” tall.

J Wood’s Pink Aster (Aster novi-belgii ‘Wood’s Pink’) (3)
Zones 4-8. Clear pink flowers in fall. 12” tall.
ALTERNATIVE PLANT
Ornamental Onion (Allium senescens glaucum)
Zones 3-7. Pink globes on 12’ stalks, mid- to late summer. Twisted blue-green foliage. 6’-12” tall.

K Serbian Bellflower (Campanula poscharskyana) (8)
Zones 3-9. Violet-blue star-like flowers in spring. 6’ tall.
ALTERNATIVE PLANT
Ballerina Geranium (Geranium cinereum ‘Ballerina’)
Zones 5-7. Pale pink flowers with purple veins, deeply lobed leaves. 6” tall.

L Snow-in-Summer (Cerastium tomentosum) (6)
Zones 2-7. Wooly gray foliage, white flowers in early summer. 6’ tall.
ALTERNATIVE PLANT
Fringed Rock Cress (Arabis blepharophylla ‘Spring Charm’)
Zones 4-7. Soft rose flowers in early spring. 6’-8” tall.

M Mountain Mist Pinks (Dianthus ‘Mountain Mist’) (3)
Zones 3-8. Single pink blooms in spring, blue-green foliage. 12” tall.
ALTERNATIVE PLANT
Zestful Fernleaf Bleeding Heart (Dicentra ‘Zestful’)
Zones 3-9. Rose-pink flowers, blue-green foliage. 16” tall.

N Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea ‘Bright Star’) (3)
Zones 3-9. Rose-red flowers with domed centers. 30” tall.
ALTERNATIVE PLANT
Burgundy Blanket Flower (Gaillardia x grandiflora ‘Burgundy’)

O Dwarf Iris (Iris ‘Banbury Ruffles’ or similar variety) (1)
Zones 3-9. Blue flowers in May, fans of foliage. 15” tall.
ALTERNATIVE PLANT
Bridget Bloom Heucherella (x Heucherella alba ‘Bridget Bloom’)
Zones 3-7. Sprays of tiny pink flowers over silver-green foliage. Two months of bloom in spring. 18” tall.

P Becky Shasta Daisy (Leucanthemum x superbum ‘Becky’) (1)
Zones 4-9. Sturdy, classic white daisy. Blooms for up to 8 weeks in summer. 36” tall.
ALTERNATIVE PLANT
Mary Todd Daylily (Hemerocallis ‘Mary Todd’ or similar variety)
Zones 3-9. Large golden flowers in summer, arching foliage. 36” tall.

Q Perennial Flax (Linum perenne) (3)
Zones 3-8. Profusion of blue flowers through most of summer. Delicate foliage. 18” tall.
ALTERNATIVE PLANT
Moonbeam Coreopsis (Coreopsis verticillata ‘Moonbeam’)
Zones 5-9. Small, pale yellow daisies over fine-textured foliage. Blooms all summer. 18”-24” tall.
R Walker’s Low Catmint (*Nepeta x faassenii ‘Walker’s Low’) (5)
Zones 4-8. Short spikes of lavender-blue flowers through most of the summer. Fragrant gray-green foliage. 10” tall.

**ALTERNATIVE PLANT**
Silver Mound Artemisia (*Artemisia schmidtiana ‘Silver Mound’ or ‘Nana’)*
Zones 3-7. Ferny silver foliage, mounded shape. 12” tall.

S Monsieur Jules Elie Peony (*Paeonia ‘Monsieur Jules Elie’) (1)
Zones 3-7. Large, fragrant, silvery pink flowers in spring. Bushy plant. 36” tall.

**ALTERNATIVE PLANT**
Honorine Jobert Japanese Anemone (*Anemone x hybrida ‘Honorine Jobert’)*
Zones 5-7. Simple white flowers sway on wiry stems in fall. 48” tall.

T Eva Cullum Summer Phlox (*Phlox paniculata ‘Eva Cullum’) (3)
Zones 4-8. Dense clusters of clear pink florets in summer. 30” tall.

**ALTERNATIVE PLANT**
Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida ‘Goldsturm’)*
Zones 3-8. Golden daisies with dark centers, late summer. 24” tall.

**OPTIONAL PLANTS**
- Mixed Dutch Crocus (*Crocus vernus*) (30)
Zones 4-8. Goblet-shaped flowers in early spring. Colors include purple, yellow, white. 4”-6” tall. Plant bulbs in groups of five.

△ Pink Impression Darwin Hybrid Tulip (*Tulipa ‘Pink Impression’ or similar variety*) (20)

★ Trumpet Daffodil (*Narcissus ‘King Alfred,’ ‘Golden Harvest,’ or similar variety*) (15)
Zones 3-7. Classic yellow trumpets in early spring. 16” tall. Plant bulbs in groups of three.
Before You Begin. Preparation is the key to creating a garden that will offer a lifetime of pleasure. Before you head to the nursery or lift a spade, take the time to review all garden plan materials. Ask yourself the following questions:

• Do I have a suitable location for this plan? The layout diagram shows the dimensions for the plan as designed. In general, you can enlarge or reduce the size of the garden by adding or eliminating plants, although the character of the garden may change if you alter the size dramatically.

• Does my yard offer the right conditions? Check the plant list carefully to see whether the plan will do best in full sun, partial shade, or full shade. Also make sure that the plants are suited to your USDA Growing Zone. (In many cases, the alternative plants list includes varieties that will grow in other zones.)

• Does my soil need improvement? Most plants will survive in a variety of soil conditions, but well-drained, moist (but not soaked) soil is generally best. To test your soil, wet it thoroughly with a hose, wait 24 hours, then squeeze a clump in your hand. If the soil forms a ball that holds together, but breaks up easily when you poke it with your finger, your soil is ideal. If the soil won’t hold its shape when squeezed, it is probably too sandy. If the clump doesn’t break up easily, the soil may be too clay. In either case, you can improve your soil by mixing in organic material such as compost or peat moss.

• Is my soil’s pH and fertility okay? Check at your local garden store for a soil test kit, or inquire about testing at a local county extension service office. Follow the recommendations that come with your test results if you need to correct the soil’s pH (how acid or alkaline the soil is) or fertility.

Creating the Bed. To lay out your bed, use a garden hose to mark the edges. When you are satisfied with the layout, use striping paint (available at many home centers) to mark the outline. (Or, sprinkle flour along the hose for a more temporary mark.). Using a sharp spade, dig along the marked line to set the edge of your bed.

If the garden location is currently covered with lawn, you have a couple of options. For smaller areas, you can strip the sod using a straight-edged shovel. To make this easier, wet the area thoroughly, then use the spade to cut the lawn into strips that are the width of the shovel and about three feet long. (Expert tip: Sharpen the edge of the shovel frequently with a file.) Use the spade to pry up and roll back the strips of sod. Once the sod is removed, you can loosen the underlying soil with a shovel or a power tiller.

For larger areas covered by lawn, consider using a heavy-duty garden tiller to grind the sod into the underlying soil. This has the twin benefits of adding organic matter to the soil and eliminating the need to discard or compost soil.

Regardless of how you are preparing your bed, be sure to use this opportunity to mix in organic matter (such as compost, peat moss, or rotted manure) and loosen the soil at least 6 inches deep, or even 8 to 12 inches if you can. Don’t mix in fertilizer unless your soil test shows a need; in general, excessive amounts of fertilizer will do more harm than good.

After your bed is prepared, water it thoroughly and wait a week. This will allow some weed seeds to germinate. Remove these seedlings or dig them back into the soil. If you choose to use chemicals to kill the weeds, follow the instructions to the letter, including the time to wait after application before planting.

Edging. Most beds are easier to maintain if they have an edging that keeps surrounding grass or vegetation from invading. Choose plastic, metal, stone, or brick -- whatever you prefer. If you have lawn around your bed, consider also including a mowing strip, a 6- to 12-inch-wide swath of masonry or stone set even with the surrounding soil.

Planting. Now comes the fun part! If you have all of your plants on hand, keep them in their pots and set them out on the planting bed. This will give you a preview of how the bed will look and allow you to make adjustments. Use the tags that come with the plants to ensure that the spacing is correct. Don’t worry that the bed looks sparse; the young plants need room to grow.

When you’re satisfied with the arrangement, plant your garden from largest to smallest container (usually trees first, then shrubs, perennials, and finally annuals). Each plant type does best with a specific planting method:

• Trees. Dig a hole that is slightly larger than the pot or root ball and deep enough so the top of the root ball or pot is slightly higher than the surrounding soil. For potted trees, remove the tree from the pot, loosen the soil slightly around the roots, then place the tree into the planting hole. For balled-and-burlapped trees, loosen the burlap after the tree is in the hole, cutting away as much of the burlap as possible. When the tree is in place and straight, fill the hole one-third with soil, tamp firmly to make good contact between roots and soil, then water. Repeat twice more until the hole is filled. Make a shallow collar of soil around the hole to catch water and hold it near the root zone. Water the tree thoroughly by letting a hose run slowly for 30 minutes.

• Shrubs. Plant shrubs in a hole that’s about twice the diameter of the root ball. The top of the root ball should be slightly above the surrounding soil level. Backfill with garden soil, tamping firmly to ensure a contact between soil and roots. Water immediately by slowly running a hose at the shrub’s base for about 20 minutes.

• Perennials and Annuals. Set these plants in soil at the same level they were growing in the pot. Firm the soil around each plant with your hands, then water thoroughly.

Mulching. As you place each plant, it’s a good idea to add mulch to conserve moisture, cool the roots of plants, and protect the soil from washing away in the rain. Organic mulches like shredded bark will require periodic additions as the mulch decays. Mulches like crushed stone are more permanent, but may not offer the character you prefer.

Aftercare. The first season of growth is the most critical for your garden. A good guideline is to water thoroughly every other day for the first two weeks, then twice weekly for the remainder of the first season. The following year, you can let nature take its course, supplementing dry periods with deep watering.

You should also be diligent about weeding your bed during the first year. As the plants mature and fill in, there will be fewer opportunities for weeds to gain a foothold. A thick layer of mulch will also help keep weeds in check.

Ongoing Maintenance. Most plants will thrive with only minimal care. Apply a general fertilizer according to package directions in the spring after growth has started. If you need to prune trees or shrubs to maintain their shape or size, do it in late winter before growth has started. The exception to this general rule is spring-flowering shrubs like lilacs that should be pruned immediately after flowering.
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