



# Creative Gardener

... inspiring gardeners to create

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## The Herbal Landscape

Step outside the traditional notion of an herb garden and integrate your favorite herbs into landscaping. From prairie gardens to the rooftop, Herbal trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals, landscape design with herbs fits them into stylizing all types of gardens.

Enchanting, intriguing and ornamental, use all types of herbs in garden design!

The herbal landscape considers herbs for all their attributes- we know them for culinary and healing use- but let's also look at the perspective of how they add diversity to ornamental plantings. They can also be support systems for the garden. Planting herbs with ornamental garden plants adds diversity to ornamentals that

may not have the qualities for pollination attraction, soil building, and other regenerative attributes.

There is also an added sensory connection with herbs in garden design: color, fragrance, movement, sound, and usefulness. Consider purposeful design and move away from prim and proper herb garden planting schemes. Instead, mingle herbs into the landscape to add diversity and support to ornamental plantings. To see them as landscape plants from a garden design perspective, the palette of herbs extends from traditional and familiar herbaceous plants to a broader selection of herbal trees and shrubs. Utilizing the diversity offers structure, architecture, vertical accents, and masses of color in multiple seasons that mingle and combine beautifully with other ornamental plants used in the landscape.

Enchanting, intriguing, and historical, many plants classified as herbs in traditional or historical writings are not always familiar.

However, they serve a purpose as landscape plants, even if their medicinal or herbal preparation use has fallen out of favor.



As a garden designer, my approach to blending herbs into any garden, large or small, will guide you to choose the best plants and why. It would be easy to tell you a descriptive list of herbs, but I want you to understand why some herbs will work in garden design and some will not. All the

various ways color, texture, and growth habits visually draw us to the category of herbs, then take the next step to use them in landscaping successfully.

### Landscaping Herbs:

#### Annuals

*Calendula*  
Genovese basil  
Opal basil  
Red Rubin basil  
Magic Mountain Basil  
Nasturtiums

#### Perennials

Artichoke  
Curly Parsley  
Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla m.*)  
*Echinacea p.* 'Magnus'  
*Echinacea p.* 'Kim's Knee high'  
*Lavandula x 'Grosso'*  
*Lavandula a.* 'Hidcote'  
Bee Balm (*Monarda*) 'Scarlet'  
Bee Balm (*Monarda*) 'Fireball'  
Catmint 'Walker's Low' (*Nepeta*)  
Hops (*Humulus l*)  
Rue 'Jackman's Blue'  
Golden Pineapple Sage (*Salvia*)  
Mint  
Santolina  
Berggarten Sage  
*Germander*  
Chives  
Rosemary 'Tuscan Blue'  
Jerusalem Sage (*Phlomis*)  
Purple garden sage  
Spanish Lavender (*Stoechas*)  
Chamomile  
Golden creeping Oregano  
Creeping Thyme 'Elfin'  
Creeping Thyme 'Pink Chintz'  
Creeping Thyme 'Wooley'  
Creeping thyme 'Lemon Frost'  
Yarrow (*Achillea*)

#### Shrubs & Trees

Carolina Allspice (*Calycanthus*)  
Rugosa Rose 'Hansa'  
Rugosa Rose 'Buffalo Gal'  
Witch hazel (*Hamamelis*) 'Jelena" and ;Pallida'  
Maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo*)  
Chaste Tree (*Vitex*)  
Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus*)  
*Eucalyptus g.* 'Silver dollar  
Willow leaved *Eucalyptus nicholii*

## Getting to know the character of herbs for design needs:

### **Herbs for Hedges and Hedgerows:**

draw living lines. Define walkways, create privacy, and more. Elderberry (*Sambucus sp.*), Hyssop (*Hyssopus officinalis*), Lavender (*Lavandula sp.*), Rosemary (*Rosmarinus o.*), Rugosa Rose (*Rosa rugosa*), Santolina, Germander (*Teucrium*),

**Meadow Makers:** naturalistic and eco-friendly mixes. Herbal plant combinations.

**Rock Gardens:** Herbal creepers over the walls, edges, and crevices.

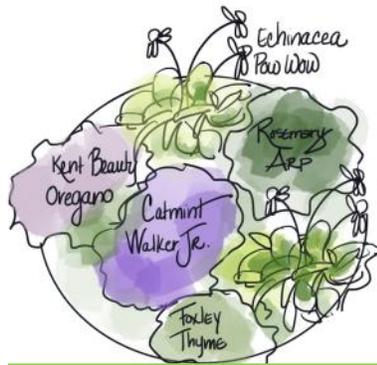
**Containing herbs** for design on rooftops, patios, and tucked away spaces without ground to grow in.

**Lawns:** traditional chamomile, creeping thyme, and other low groundcover herbal choices to add an herbal perspective to lawns.

**Ground Cover Herbs-** herbs as steppers, pretty pathways, ground-hugging edge definers. Chamomile (*Chamaemelum nobile*), *Matricaria*, Thyme (*Thymus sp.*) Sweet Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*), ornamental strawberry (*Fragaria sp.*) Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*) Sweet Violets (*Viola odorata*)

**Rain Garden Herbs** (zone 1 and 2 - herbs for moist conditions: *Asarum*, wild ginger, *Calamintha grandiflora*, calamint, *Eupatorium*, Joe Pye weed, *Galium odoratum*, sweet woodruff, *Gaultheria procumbens*, wintergreen, *Iris pseudacorus*, yellow flag iris, *Mentha*, mints, *Salix*, willow, *Vaccinium*, crampbark

**Woodlands:** *Actaea simplex* 'Brunette' Black cohosh, *Adiantum capillus-veneris* Maidenhair Fern, *Alchemilla mollis* Lady's Mantle, *Epimedium x warleyense* 'Orangekonigin' Barrenwort, *Geranium macrorrhizum* 'Variegatum' Bigroot Geranium, *Hamamelis x intermedia*, *Primula veris* Cowslip, *Pulmonaria* 'Excalibur' and *Pulmonaria longifolia* 'Bertram Anderson



Rosemary 'Arp'  
Echinacea p. 'PowWow White'  
Catmint Junior Walker™ (*Nepeta*)  
'Foxy' Thyme  
'Kent Beauty' Oregano

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## Pollinator Landscape Design with Herbs

**Nectar and Pollen;** Anise hyssop (*Agastache*), Basil (*Ocimum*), Bee Balm (*Monarda sp.*) Borage (*Borago o.*), Calendula- annual. Early color and nectar, Catmint (*Nepeta sp.*) Chives (*Allium sp.*) Comfrey (*Symphytum o.*), Lavender (*Lavandula sp.*), Lemon Balm (*Melissa*), Marjoram, Mints (*Mentha sp.*) Oregano (*Origanum*), Rosemary (*Rosmarinus o.*), Rugosa Rose (*Rosa rugosa*), Sage (*Salvia sp.*), Thyme (*Thymus sp.*)

**Nesting /Hollow Stems:** Elderberry, Chives, Lovage, Fennel, Dill

**Umbel flowers-** Yarrow (*Achillea sp.*), Fennel,

**Tubular flowers-** Bee Balm (*Monarda sp.*) Hummingbird Mint (*Agastache sp.*), Rosemary (*Rosmarinus o.*) Sage (*Salvia sp.*),

**Seed heads:** Coneflowers (*Echinacea sp.*) Fennel, Dill,



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