

GARDENS Four Seasons

GARDENDESIGN - NOVEMBER 2016

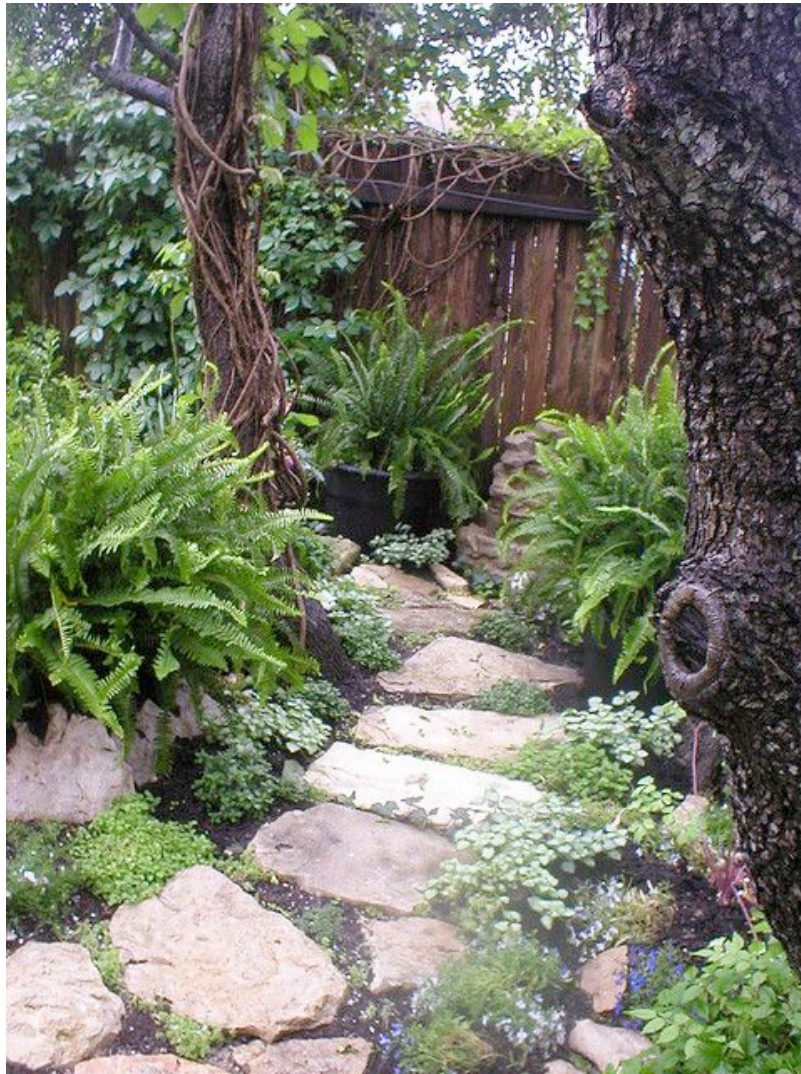


SECRET GARDENS part 2

- ways to make a private space just for you!

The entire premise of a Secret Garden is to have it hidden to some degree. You want to create an intriguing, memorable feeling about it. I've always thought that, if space allows, you should never be able to view an entire yard in one glance. Rather - consider having one or two places that you must get closer to, in order to experience them. You can

establish that ‘sense of mystery’ - what is down that path? - what is behind that gate or shrub? It is easily accomplished by leading the eye - tempting the viewer to come a little closer - to discover.



By now you may have had a chance to assess your own yard - identifying a little used spot or one that is naturally established - to start your project. Whether it is the shadiest spot or the sunniest spot - take advantage of it's unique exposure. So now - let's take a look at some ways to bring your dream to life!

1. Entice the viewer by creating an entrance of sorts - either a manmade structure or something natural created by a shrub, tree or vine.
2. If your location must remain multi-purpose - meters, air conditioners, trash storage or general catch-all - just cordon those off, preferably with a solid screen of some sort & then use the other part for your enjoyment! Your 'screen' can be as simple as a plant or a colourful bit of fabric or a privacy panel attached to a hinge for easy access.



- *can you find the camouflaged Air Conditioner in this side yard?*

3. Perhaps you are lucky enough to have a change of grade in your yard - a step down or up into a space. Also never discount the idea of a well built *rooftop* secret garden on a garage or shed!
4. Form a canopy of foliage or one that is manmade - like a teepee or possibly a mosquito net. Conceivably add a few strings of lights to create a more human scale & add warmth along with a festive touch.



5. Don't forget your surfacing options! Your floor is every bit as important as the walls & 'ceiling'. Options include wood chips, (I like aromatic cedar - adds to the sensual experience big time!) crusher dust, paving stones or even outdoor rugs.



6. Personalize it as you would anything in your world - remember, you want your yard to be a reflection of who you are, where you've been & what makes you happy. Use favourite colours, unique plants & bits of decor such as handmade stepping stones or a stunning bench.





7. Always add something to stimulate your senses - such as the scent of cedar I mentioned above, tactile plants such as ferns, an edible fruit like strawberry or haskap, sounds of visiting birds & relaxing views. You might even want to consider the view looking OUT of your Secret Garden - maybe you have a glimpse of your patio or a spectacular weeping plant. It might just end up being THE best spot to enjoy that specific vista!



Hopefully I've made you do some thinking about Secret Gardens. One final suggestion - while it may not be the most used area - it is a place that calls for you to make it entirely your own. Whether or not you want to share it - well, that's up to you! :)



FEEDBACK

"Thanks for the issue...I love the idea of a secret garden and have thought of a perfect place for mine." - Robin D.

*"We enjoy reading your newsletter as well - so good for inspiration!"
- Sarah G.*

*Hi Denise,
Is there anything we need to do with our trees and shrubs before winter comes? Do you recommend wrapping them in burlap?*

*Thanks
Sandy F.*

Hi Sandy!

If you have your fence up all the way around the yard - then no - I would not worry about covering any of the shrubs. You should have enough shelter with the fence. If you don't have the fence up - I'd cover all the conifers with a wrap of burlap - the cedars, juniper & mugho pine.

Probably even more critical than even covering them however, would be giving them a slow trickle of water for an hour on each conifer. That way they have adequate moisture to make it thru' winter.

- Denise

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Go to my website - www.gardensfourseasons.com & click on the



icon & voila !

OR Simply click the following link :

<https://www.pinterest.com/gardens4seasons/boards/>



PLANT OF THE MONTH

PYRAMIDAL CEDAR

- *Thuja occidentalis* 'Pyramidalis'

Cedars grow in many beautiful shades of green from 'Hunter' to 'Leprechaun'. As common as they are - they still pack plenty of punch as a reliable backdrop or screen in our yards. Ranging in height from 10' to 20' plus - they are not only statuesque but tough to beat for year 'round green. The foliage reminds me of a soft, almost rubbery fish scale.



They're zoned 3a - so they are not entirely hardy in SK. That explains how difficult it can be to get one established here. A helpful tip is to plant them on the North or East side of a house. They grow slower but are easier to establish because of the shelter from the hot sun. They can be grown on the South or West sides but require winter protection (wrapped in burlap) - particularly the first 3 years.

They are typically a bog plant & you'll notice TONS of them if you visit Vancouver Island. So another great tip is to duplicate the environment they come from - lots of organic matter in the the planting hole & *plenty* of water. In fact - they do quite well in shady, wet locales. Whether planted as a hedge, a single specimen or in groupings they are a stunning, classic garden shrub. Bonus is the incredible Cedar Scent!



- *Cedars take quite nicely to being sheared & shaped*



DESIGN BRILLIANCE



Just add the right lines, proportions, scale, colour, surfacing & a few hostas - oh, & a grade change & lush backdrop.

Simple no?

GARDENDESIGN in **DECEMBER** will allow me to elaborate on one of my favourite topics -

DECOR - how to use it in a garden



Miss the **BACK ISSUE** on **MOON GARDENS?**

Here's your second chance to discover this excellent take on Gardening - maybe make a SECRET MOON GARDEN ?!

- just sayin' !

DID YOU KNOW? - I never, Ever, EVER share my email list - EVER! :)

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