



The Circle Garden celebrates the versatility of annual flowers in a changing display of color, texture and form.

THE CIRCLE GARDEN

The Circle Garden displays and celebrates the beauty and versatility of annual plants. Trees, shrubs and perennials are also part of this garden, providing an attractive backdrop for the changing display of showy annuals and extending the beauty of the garden through the winter.

Named for its circular boundary, the Circle Garden features a fountain at its center that spouts patterns of water during warmer months. Two intimate “secret” gardens, one on each side of the fountain, provide quiet places to sit and enjoy.

What Are Annuals?

This garden showcases annual plants along with tender perennial plants. True annuals complete their life cycles in one year; tender perennials come back year after year in warmer climates, but last only one year in our colder climate. The Circle Garden also contains perennials, trees and shrubs that come back year after year.

Why Annuals?

Annuals are unique in that they are easy to grow, provide instant color and bloom for most of the growing season. Because they last only one season, they offer the opportunity to experiment with color, texture and form.

In addition to working well in many garden designs, annuals are excellent choices to fill in spaces until permanent plants are established. They enhance color in perennial beds and adorn spots where a perennial or bulb has finished or is not yet blooming. Annuals planted in pots, window boxes and hanging baskets accent a garden beautifully.

INSPIRATION FOR YOUR GARDEN

The Circle Garden offers great ideas for designing an annuals garden or enhancing your existing garden with annuals.

Style

The Circle Garden combines formal and informal styles to create an ordered yet relaxed design. Formal elements of this garden include strong architectural features, straight lines and a symmetrical layout. The Garden's informality can be seen in the adventurous combinations of color, texture and height and the way plants spill into walkways at the height of the growing season.

Shapes and Forms

Dramatically different heights and shapes can create excitement in a garden. In the Circle Garden, vertical plants and upright spikes contrast with creeping, mounded or ground-hugging plants.

Textures

From flowers and leaves to stems and branches, each plant has its own textures. But texture isn't just the way a plant feels to the touch. Each plant has visual texture too, created by the sizes and shapes of its flowers and foliage.

In the Circle Garden, look for interesting texture combinations such as plants with spiky leaves next to plants with rounded leaves, or plants with dainty flowers next to plants with oversized flowers.

Colors

Color can excite and stimulate, soothe and refresh. Annuals provide instant color for your garden, precisely where and when you need it.

The color combinations in the Circle Garden change with each new season so that each visit brings renewed inspiration. From brilliant reds and yellows in spring to cool purple and bright chartreuse in summer, the Circle Garden is a living kaleidoscope of color combinations.

TO LEARN MORE

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New York: Pantheon Books, 1995.

Ruggerio, Michael and Tom Christopher. *Annuals with Style*. Newtown, Conn.: Tauton Press, 2000.



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

1000 lake cook road glencoe, illinois 60022

www.chicagobotanic.org (847) 835-5440

The Chicago Botanic Garden is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Beautiful in every season, the Circle Garden is especially exciting in the spring, summer and autumn when the annuals are in full bloom.

The annual displays are changed three times a year so you can experience a brand-new garden each time you visit. Throughout the seasons as each plant grows, blooms and then fades, the garden becomes an ever-changing collage of color and texture.

Spring

In spring the Circle Garden comes to life with the vivid greens of emerging leaves and the bright hues of daffodils and tulips. Crab apple trees bloom with pink and white blossoms and Cornelian cherry dogwood trees burst with yellow blooms while boxwood flowers fill the air with fragrance.

Summer

During summer months, the garden is filled with the bright colors of summer flowers. The coolness of water shimmering in the sunlight is especially welcome, as are shady secret gardens behind yew hedges. Summer also brings myrtle and curry plants in containers, pruned into geometric shapes, from their winter home in the Greenhouses.

Autumn

Brisk autumn air brings bright cool-season annuals and dusky ornamental grasses set off by a backdrop of evergreens and the changing leaves of shrubs and trees.

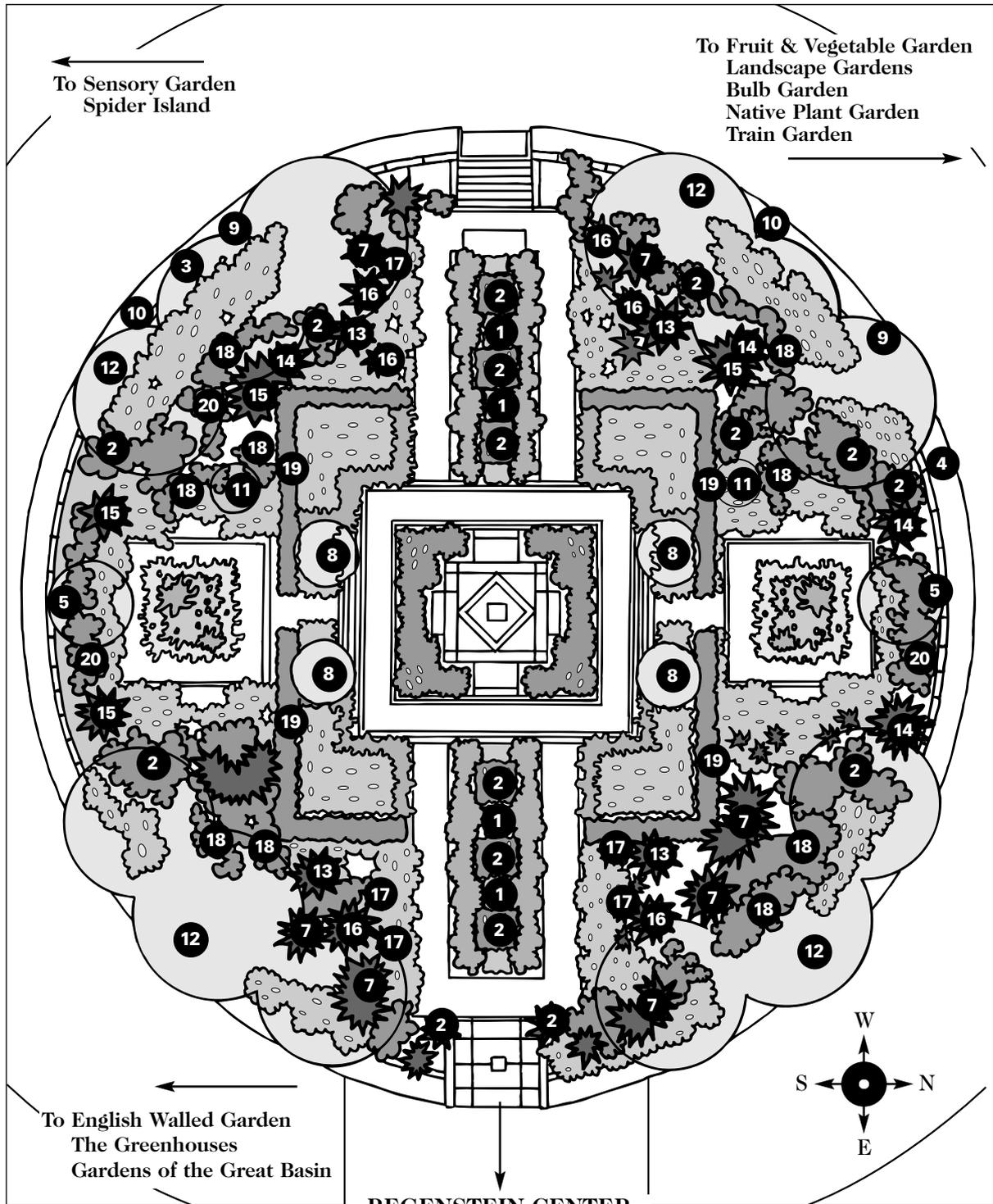
Winter

In winter, twinkling lights accent the muted greens of boxwood and the silver-gray of magnolia bark set against sparkling snow. This is a season to appreciate the graceful branches of weeping redbud, the feathery fronds of false cypress, the woolly buds of mugho pine and the crimson fruit remaining on crab apple trees.

PERMANENT PLANT

Look for a separate flyer inserted in this guide listing the current season's annuals.

- 1 *Buxus* 'Glencoe'
Chicagoland Green® boxwood
- 2 *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Wintergreen'
Wintergreen boxwood
- 3 *Campsis radicans* 'Flamenco'
Flamenco trumpet creeper
- 4 *Campsis* × *tagliabuana* 'Madam Galen'
Madam Galen trumpet creeper
- 5 *Carpinus caroliniana*
American hornbeam
- 6 *Cercis canadensis* 'Covey'
Covey eastern redbud
- 7 *Chamaecyparis obtusa*
Hinoki falsecypress
- 8 *Cornus mas*
Cornelian cherry dogwood
- 9 *Hamamelis vernalis* 'Lombart's Weeping'
Lombart's Weeping vernal witch hazel
- 10 *Lonicera sempervirens* 'Blanche Sandman'
Blanche Sandman trumpet creeper
- 11 *Magnolia* × *loebneri* 'Merrill'
Merrill magnolia
- 12 *Malus* 'Donald Wyman'
Donald Wyman crab apple
- 13 *Picea abies*
Norway spruce
- 14 *Picea abies* 'Ohlendorffii'
Ohlendorff Norway spruce
- 15 *Picea abies* 'Remontii'
Remont Norway spruce
- 16 *Pinus mugo*
Mugho pine
- 17 *Pinus mugo* 'Iseli Whitebud'
Iseli whitebud mugho pine
- 18 *Spiraea* × *bumalda* 'Froebelii'
Froebel spirea
- 19 *Taxus* × *media* 'Hicksii'
Hicks yew
- 20 *Viburnum lantana* 'Mohican'
Mohican viburnum



To Sensory Garden
Spider Island

To Fruit & Vegetable Garden
Landscape Gardens
Bulb Garden
Native Plant Garden
Train Garden

To English Walled Garden
The Greenhouses
Gardens of the Great Basin

REGENSTEIN CENTER
To Garden Exit

