



Stroll through the  
English Walled Garden  
to discover the  
history and beauty of  
English gardening.

---

## A GARDEN OF ROOMS

---

The English Walled Garden features six garden rooms surrounded by beautiful boundaries made of stone, brick, hedges and trees:

- Vista Garden
- Formal Garden
- Courtyard Garden
- Cottage Garden
- Checkerboard Garden
- Pergola Garden

These rooms represent a variety of English gardening styles throughout history while featuring plants that are best for the Midwest.

### Why Use Walls in a Garden?

In this garden, as in English gardens throughout history, walls are both practical and decorative. They protect plants from cold winds and hungry animals. They radiate heat, thereby prolonging the growing season. They create intimate enclosed spaces while blocking out unwanted noise or unsightly views. And they provide an attractive growing surface.

### Built to Charm

In addition to its walls, the English Walled Garden features many charming garden ornaments and built structures that help give each space its own character. Look closely among the plants for a sleepy stone lion resting outside the walls, rustic cement troughs scattered throughout the Cottage Garden, a mythological Greek satyr spouting water in the Vista Garden and the tall classical columns of the Pergola Garden.

### The Designer

Dedicated in 1991, the English Walled Garden was designed by noted English landscape designer and author John Brookes.

---

## DESIGN IDEAS FOR YOUR GARDEN FROM THE ENGLISH WALLED GARDEN

---

- Divide your garden into separate rooms, each with a distinct mood or theme.
- Frame garden spaces with brick walls, tall hedges or a fence.
- Use walls or fences as attractive growing surfaces for climbing vines or roses.
- Include structures as the framework of your garden—columns, fountains, pavilions or pergolas.
- Combine formal and informal garden styles such as geometric-shaped plant beds spilling with wildflowers.
- Think in terms of layers in the garden, and plant a dense mix of plants.
- Fill every inch of your garden with plantings. Even the niches in stones, paths and walls are perfect for tiny plants.
- Cultivate vegetables and herbs among your flowers.
- Plant bright annuals in urns and containers.
- Furnish garden rooms with benches, chairs, sundials, stone sculpture, containers or bee skeps.
- Include grassy lawn areas for strolling or relaxing.
- Consider the views, whether nearby or faraway.

---

## ENGLISH-STYLE GARDEN PLANTS FOR THE MIDWEST

---

The Midwest is warmer in summer and cooler in winter than England. But an English-style garden can be created in the Midwest with familiar, hardy plants and the right design.

### **Boxwood** (*Buxus*)

Sturdy broadleaved evergreen shrub retains its glossy green leaves all year. Good choice for hedging as well as formal topiary. Does well in shaded conditions.

### **Catmint** (*Nepeta x faassenii*)

Loosely clumping perennial with aromatic gray-green foliage blooms in midsummer with lavender-blue flowers on square stems. Good for edging or spilling over walkways.

### **Clematis** (*Clematis*)

Flowering vine with varieties available in many colors and bloom times. Will climb over or through fencing, trellis, latticework and arbors. Prune to encourage flowering.

### **Common foxglove** (*Digitalis purpurea*)

Old-fashioned, clumping biennial plant flowers in June or July with tall spikes of lavender flowers spotted inside. Will self-seed to produce new plants.

### **English lavender** (*Lavandula angustifolia* 'Hidcote')

Much-loved, clumping perennial produces aromatic gray-green, needled foliage and fragrant dark purple flower spikes. Lavender requires full sun and well-draining, coarse soil.

### **Redleaf rose** (*Rosa rubrifolia*)

Very hardy shrub rose grows to 6 feet. Attractive red foliage and single deep pink flowers provide mass of color all season.

### **Yew** (*Taxus x media*)

Short-needled evergreen suitable for pruning, hedging or topiary forms. Provides solid green backdrop to colorful flower gardens. Does well in shaded situations.

---

## TO LEARN MORE

---

Bisgrove, Richard. National Trust  
*Book of the English Garden*. London: Viking, 1990.

Brookes, John.  
*John Brookes' Natural Landscapes*.  
New York: DK Publishing, 1998.

Lloyd, Christopher and Richard Bird.  
*The Cottage Garden*. New York: DK Publishing, 1999.

Mader, Gunter and Laila Neubert-Madar.  
*The English Formal Garden: Five Centuries of Design*.  
New York: Rizzoli, 1997.



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

1000 lake cook road glencoe, illinois 60022

[www.chicagobotanic.org](http://www.chicagobotanic.org) (847) 835-5440

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

### 1 **The Vista Garden**

---

In the 1700s, English gardens began to include distant views as part of the garden's design. This Vista Garden frames a magnificent view of the lake and Evening Island beyond the railing.

### 2 **The Formal Garden**

---

This Formal Garden combines the strict symmetry of Renaissance gardens with the natural plantings favored in the 1800s. In this garden, an informal riot of daisy-type flowers blooms from spring through fall.

### 3 **The Courtyard Garden**

---

Cities and industries grew rapidly in 19th-century England. Courtyard gardens like this one provided a retreat to nature for people living in small urban spaces.

### 4 **The Cottage Garden**

---

The Cottage Garden is abundant with fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers. Originally a practical garden for rural families, the cottage garden became a garden style with wide appeal in the 1800s.

### 5 **The Checkerboard Garden**

---

For 500 years, the English have trimmed hedges into fanciful patterns. This garden forms a checkerboard in contrasting silver and green foliage.

### 6 **The Pergola Garden**

---

The pergola, or vine-covered walkway, is a classic feature in English gardens. This Pergola Garden invites you to rest under the shade of wisteria vines surrounded by flowers and foliage in cool blues, purples and silvers.

