How to Create an English Garden Through

English garden troughs have come a long way from the days when small gardens sprouted from abandoned feed troughs. Today these versatile stone-like containers can be potted up year-round to feature the best of seasonal plants — from spring's bright bulbs to winter's dwarf conifers.

**Fall Foliage**
- Artemisia, dianthus, dried grasses, wintercreeper, ornamental kale, curry plant, coral bells

**Summer Herbs**
- Parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, wintergreen

**Winter Woodies**
- Dwarf Alberta spruce, falsecypress, dwarf pine, winterberry, golden sedge, English ivy, sedum

Chicago Botanic Garden

1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022  (847) 835-5440    www.chicagobotanic.org

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

For classes on trough making and other botanical arts, please call the School of the Chicago Botanic Garden (847) 835-8261

Create seasonal garden troughs by using perennials, annuals, herbs, grasses, ground covers and even small woody plants from each of the four seasons. Examples of eye-catching designs can be seen in spring in the Heritage Garden and all season in the English Walled Garden.

**Variations Upon a Theme**

**Spring Bulbs**
For your favorite spring bulbs see the center spread and get the full details.

**Lake Effect**
- Artemisia, dianthus, dried grasses, wintercreeper, ornamental kale, coral bells

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Chicago Botanic Garden Guide #2
1. Tools
- Dust mask, rubber gloves, trowel, wire brush, safety glasses.

2. Materials
- 15-gallon mixing bin
- 4 qts. sifted peat moss
- 4 qts. all-purpose sand
- 4 qts. Portland cement
- 3 to 4 qts. cold water
- 1 to 4 ml. plastic sheeting
- 2 wooden dowels 3'' tall
- 15-qt. plastic-lined container, shoebox-sized container wrapped with plastic sheeting

3. Mixing
Mix dry ingredients in bin. Gradually add cold water until mixture has consistency of oatmeal or cottage cheese. Avoid overwatering.

4. Pressing
Add mixture to plastic-lined mold, pressing it evenly to all sides. Mixture should be at least two inches thick at the bottom. Push in dowels to form drainage holes.

5. Molding
Wrap shoebox-sized container with plastic; fill with sand and press firmly into middle of cement trough. Let set for 24 hours in a room above 32 degrees.

6. Unmolding
Remove shoebox-sized container. If mixture is dry, lift trough out by pulling up hard on plastic sheeting. Tip trough forward. Remove plastic sheeting and dowels.

7. Unmolding
Rinse trough daily in cold water. Cure for six to eight weeks in a room above 32 degrees.

8. Finishing
Create a weathered look by scratching surface with wire brush.

9. Planting
Half-fill trough with premoistened soil-less mix.

10. Planting
Add tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, primroses, pansies, ranunculus and snapdragons. Place outside in a bright protected spot.

11. Adding Plants
Fill trough with your choice of bulbs and early annuals.

12. Finished Trough
Add your choice of flowers and plants.
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11. **Adding Plants**
Add bulbs and annuals of your choice to trough. Cover with soil mix.

12. **Finished Trough**
Add tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, primroses, pansies, ranunculus and snapdragons. Place outside in a bright protected spot.