

# Garden

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A **garden** is a planned space, usually outdoors, set aside for the display, cultivation, and enjoyment of plants and other forms of nature. The garden can incorporate both natural and man-made materials. The most common form today is known as a residential garden, but the term *garden* has traditionally been a more general one. Zoos, which display wild animals in simulated natural habitats, were formerly called *zoological gardens*.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Western gardens are almost universally based on plants, with garden often signifying a shortened form of *botanical garden*.

Some traditional types of eastern gardens, such as Zen gardens, use plants sparsely or not at all. Xeriscape gardens use local native plants that do not require irrigation or extensive use of other resources while still providing the benefits of a garden environment. Gardens may exhibit structural enhancements, sometimes called follies, including water features such as fountains, ponds (with or without fish), waterfalls or creeks, dry creek beds, statuary, arbors, trellises and more.

Some gardens are for ornamental purposes only, while some gardens also produce food crops, sometimes in separate areas, or sometimes intermixed with the ornamental plants. Food-producing gardens are distinguished from farms by their smaller scale, more labor-intensive methods, and their purpose (enjoyment of a hobby rather than produce for sale). Flower gardens combine plants of different heights, colors, textures, and fragrances to create interest and delight the senses.

**Gardening** is the activity of growing and maintaining the garden. This work is done by an amateur or professional gardener. A gardener might also work in a non-garden setting, such as a park, a roadside embankment, or other public space. Landscape architecture is a related professional activity with landscape architects tending to specialise in design for public and corporate clients.



Garden of the Taj Mahal, India



Royal gardens of Reggia di Caserta, Italy



A kaiyu-shiki or strolling Japanese garden

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Chehel Sotoun Garden, Esfahan, Iran

## Etymology

The etymology of the word *gardening* refers to **enclosure**: it is from Middle English *gardin*, from Anglo-French *gardin*, *jardin*, of Germanic origin; akin to Old High German *gard*, *gart*, an enclosure or compound, as in Stuttgart. See Grad (Slavic settlement) for more complete etymology.<sup>[3]</sup> The words *yard*, *court*, and Latin *hortus* (meaning "garden," hence horticulture and orchard), are cognates—all referring to an enclosed space.<sup>[4]</sup>

The term "garden" in British English refers to a small enclosed area of land, usually adjoining a building.<sup>[5]</sup> This would be referred to as a yard in American English.



Nicosia municipal gardens, Cyprus

## Garden design

Garden design is the creation of plans for the layout and planting of gardens and landscapes. Gardens may be designed by garden owners themselves, or by professionals. Professional garden designers tend to be trained in principles of design and horticulture, and have a knowledge and experience of using plants. Some professional garden designers are also landscape architects, a more formal level of training that usually requires an advanced degree and often a state license.

Elements of garden design include the layout of hard landscape, such as paths, rockeries, walls, water features, sitting areas and decking, as well as the plants themselves, with consideration for their horticultural requirements, their season-to-season appearance, lifespan, growth habit, size, speed of growth, and combinations with other plants and landscape features. Consideration is also given to the maintenance needs of the garden, including the time or funds available for regular maintenance, which can affect the choices of plants regarding speed of growth, spreading or self-seeding of the plants, whether annual or perennial, and bloom-time, and many other characteristics. Garden design can be roughly divided into two groups, formal and naturalistic gardens.<sup>[6]</sup>

The most important consideration in any garden design is, how the garden will be used, followed closely by the desired stylistic genres, and the way the garden space will connect to the home or other structures in the surrounding areas. All of these considerations are subject to the limitations of the budget. Budget limitations can be addressed by a simpler garden style with fewer plants and less costly hardscape materials, seeds rather than sod for lawns, and plants that grow quickly; alternatively, garden owners may choose to create their garden over time, area by area.



Example of a garden attached to a place of worship: the cloister of the Abbey of Monreale, Sicily, Italy



The Sunken Garden of Butchart Gardens, Victoria, British Columbia



Gardens of Versailles (France)



The back garden of the Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur, India



Tropical garden in the Faculty of Science, National University of Singapore in Singapore



Gardens at Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Virginia, feature many heirloom varieties of plants.

Flower-bed with the date in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy



Shitennō-ji Honbo Garden in Osaka, Osaka prefecture, Japan - an example of a zen garden.

## Elements of a garden

Most gardens consist of a mix of natural and constructed elements, although even very 'natural' gardens are always an inherently artificial creation. Natural elements present in a garden principally comprise flora (such as trees and weeds), fauna (such as arthropods and birds), soil, water, air and light. Constructed elements include paths, patios, decking, sculptures, drainage systems, lights and buildings (such as sheds, gazebos, pergolas and follies), but also living constructions such as flower beds, ponds and lawns.

## Uses for the garden space

A garden can have aesthetic, functional, and recreational uses:

- Cooperation with nature
  - Plant cultivation
  - Garden-based learning
- Observation of nature
  - Bird- and insect-watching
  - Reflection on the changing seasons
- Relaxation
  - Family dinners on the terrace
  - Children playing in the garden
  - Reading and relaxing in the hammock



Garden at the centre of intersection in Shanghai.

- Maintaining the flowerbeds
- Pottering in the shed
- Basking in warm sunshine
- Escaping oppressive sunlight and heat
- Growing useful produce
  - Flowers to cut and bring inside for indoor beauty
  - Fresh herbs and vegetables for cooking

## Types of gardens

Gardens may feature a particular plant or plant type(s);

- Back garden
- Bog garden
- Cactus garden
- Color garden
- Fernery
- Flower garden
- Front yard
- Kitchen garden
- Mary garden
- Orangerie
- Orchard
- Rose garden
- Shade garden
- Vineyard
- Wildflower garden
- Winter garden

Gardens may feature a particular style or aesthetic:

- Bonsai
- Chinese garden
- Dutch garden
- English landscape garden
- Gardens of the French Renaissance
- French formal garden
- French landscape garden
- Italian Renaissance garden
- Japanese garden
- Knot garden
- Korean garden
- Mughal garden
- Natural landscaping
- Persian garden



Naturalistic design of a Chinese garden incorporated into the landscape, including a pavilion



Garden with Fountains, Villa d'Este, Italy.



Partial view from the Botanical Garden of Curitiba (Southern Brazil): parterres, flowers, fountains, sculptures, greenhouses and tracks

- Roman gardens
- Spanish garden
- Terrarium
- Trial garden
- Tropical garden
- Water garden
- Wild garden
- Xeriscaping
- Zen garden

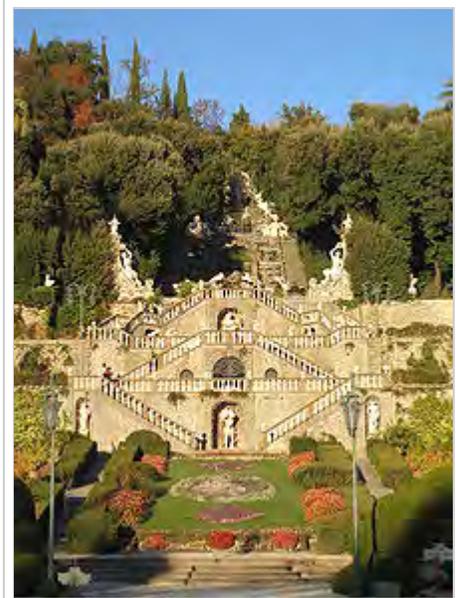
Types of garden:

- Botanical garden
- Butterfly garden
- Butterfly zoo
- Chinampa
- Cold frame garden
- Community garden
- Container garden
- Cottage garden
- Cutting garden
- Forest garden
- Garden conservatory
- Green wall
- Greenhouse
- Hanging garden
- Hydroponic garden
- Market garden
- Rain garden
- Raised bed gardening
- Residential garden
- Roof garden
- Sacred garden
- Sensory garden
- Square foot garden
- Vertical garden
- Walled garden
- Windowbox
- Zoological garden

## Environmental impacts of gardens

Gardeners may cause environmental damage by the way they garden, or they may enhance their local environment. Damage by gardeners can include direct destruction of natural habitats when

composes the place used for recreation and to study and protect the flora.



A typical Italian garden at Villa Garzoni, near Pistoia



Checkered garden in Tours, France



Zen garden, Ryōan-ji

houses and gardens are created; indirect habitat destruction and damage to provide garden materials such as peat, rock for rock gardens, and by the use of tapwater to irrigate gardens; the death of living beings in the garden itself, such as the killing not only of slugs and snails but also their predators such as hedgehogs and song thrushes by metaldehyde slug killer; the death of living beings outside the garden, such as local species extinction by indiscriminate plant collectors; and climate change caused by greenhouse gases produced by gardening.

## Watering gardens

Some gardeners manage their gardens without using any water from outside the garden, and therefore do not deprive wetland habitats of the water they need to survive. Examples in Britain include Ventnor Botanic Garden on the Isle of Wight, and parts of Beth Chatto's garden in Essex, Sticky Wicket garden in Dorset, and the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Harlow Carr and Hyde Hall. Rain gardens absorb rainfall falling onto nearby hard surfaces, rather than sending it into stormwater drains.<sup>[7]</sup> For irrigation, see rainwater, sprinkler system, drip irrigation, tap water, greywater, hand pump and watering can.

## Wildlife in gardens

Chris Baines's classic book 'How to make a wildlife garden'<sup>[8]</sup> was first published in 1985, and is still a good source of advice on how to create and manage a wildlife garden.

## Climate change and gardens

Climate change will have many impacts on gardens, most of them negative, and these are detailed in 'Gardening in the Global Greenhouse' by Richard Bisgrove and Paul Hadley.<sup>[9]</sup> Gardens also contribute to climate change. Greenhouse gases can be produced by gardeners in many ways. The three main greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. Gardeners produce carbon dioxide directly by overcultivating soil and destroying soil carbon, by burning garden 'waste' on bonfires, by using power tools which burn fossil fuel or use electricity generated by fossil fuels, and by using peat. Gardeners produce methane by compacting the soil and making it anaerobic, and by allowing their compost heaps to become compacted and anaerobic. Gardeners produce nitrous oxide by applying excess nitrogen fertiliser when plants are not



French formal garden in the Loire Valley



Bristol Zoo, England



Castelo Branco, Portugal



Hualien, Taiwan

actively growing so that the nitrogen in the fertiliser is converted by soil bacteria to nitrous oxide. Gardeners can help to prevent climate change in many ways, including the use of trees, shrubs, ground cover plants and other perennial plants in their gardens, turning garden 'waste' into soil organic matter instead of burning it, keeping soil and compost heaps aerated, avoiding peat, switching from power tools to hand tools or changing their garden design so that power tools are not needed, and using nitrogen-fixing plants instead of nitrogen fertiliser.<sup>[10]</sup>

## In religion, art, and literature

- The Garden of Eden
- *Romance of the Rose*
- Nathaniel Hawthorne's short-story "Rappaccini's Daughter"
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's opera *La finta giardiniera*
- Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*
- Elizabeth von Arnim's novels *Elizabeth and Her German Garden* and *Solitary Summer*
- John Steinbeck's short-story *The Chrysanthemums*
- John Berendt's novel *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*
- In Daphne du Maurier's novel "Rebecca" the unnamed narrator discovers that her husband loves his house and garden at Manderley so much that he murdered his first wife, Rebecca, when she told him she was pregnant with somebody else's child and that the child would inherit Manderley.



The Italian gardens of El Escorial, Spain



An ornamental garden in the Auburn Botanical Gardens, Sydney, Australia

## Other similar spaces

Other outdoor spaces that are similar to gardens include:

- A landscape is an outdoor space of a larger scale, natural or designed, usually unenclosed and considered from a distance.
- A park is a planned outdoor space, usually enclosed ('imparked') and of a larger size. Public parks are for public use.
- An arboretum is a planned outdoor space, usually large, for the display and study of trees.
- A farm or orchard is for the production of food stuff.
- A botanical garden is a type of garden where plants are grown both for scientific purposes and for the enjoyment and education of visitors.
- A zoological garden, or zoo for short, is a place where wild animals are cared for and exhibited to the public.
- A Kindergarten is a preschool educational institution for children and in the very sense of the word should have access or be part of a garden.

- A Männergarten is a temporary day-care and activities space for men in German-speaking countries while their wives or girlfriends go shopping. Historically, the expression has also been used for gender-specific sections in lunatic asylums, monasteries and clinics.<sup>[11]</sup>

## See also

- *Around the World in 80 Gardens*
- Bāgh
- Baug
- Bottle garden
- Climate-friendly gardening
- Community gardening
- Garden centre
- Garden tourism
- Gardener
- Gardening
- History of gardening
- Hortus conclusus
- List of botanical gardens
- List of companion plants
- List of gardens
- Museum of Garden History
- National Public Gardens Day
- Paradise, originally from an Iranian word meaning "enclosed," related to Garden of Eden
- Verde Pulgar, a software application that assists with gardening
- *The Victory Garden* TV series
- Walled garden
- Water garden

## Notes

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- The earth knows my name : food, culture, and sustainability in the gardens of ethnic Americans*, Patricia Klindienst. Boston: Beacon Press, c2006. ISBN 0-8070-8562-6
- "Etymology of the modern word garden". Merriam Webster.
- "Etymology of words referring to enclosures, probably from a Sanskrit stem. In German, for example, **Stuttgart**. The word is generic for compounds and walled cities, as in **Stalingrad**, and the Russian word for city, *gorod*. Gird and girdle are also related". Yourdictionary.com.
- The Compact Oxford English Dictionary ([http://www.askoxford.com/concise\\_oed/garden?view=uk](http://www.askoxford.com/concise_oed/garden?view=uk))
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- See: Jakob Fischel, *Prag's K. K. Irrenanstalt und ihr Wirken seit ihrem Entstehen bis incl. 1850*. Erlangen: Enke, 1853, OCLC 14844310 (<https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/14844310>) (German)

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Wikibooks' *A Wikimannual of Gardening* has more about this subject: ***gardening***

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