

Chapter 1 : 8 Essential Cottage Landscaping Ideas & Cottage Garden Tips

English cottage gardens are a charming (and practical) jumble of flowers, herbs, and fruit trees. See 10 design ideas to create an English cottage garden, from the editors of Gardenista.

The call of a cottage garden, filled with a profusion of flowers and smelling of roses, dianthus, and lilacs, is alluring indeed. The image of a resplendent, colorful garden has enticed many a homeowner to install a picket fence and a bounty of flowers in the hopes of creating such a haven. The original cottage gardens were planted by British laborers who had little land and no time for flowers. They simply needed food for their family and herbs to treat illnesses so they planted vegetables, herbs, and fruit interspersed with a few flowers to ward off bugs. Around the end of the eighteenth century, members of the well-to-do gentry began to idealize the cottage life and created their own version of cottage gardens. It was then that the British cottage garden was transformed into the flower-filled setting that we dream of today. Here are a few tips to create your own cottage garden. Most cottage gardens seem to set a romantic tone. Maybe it is because pastel shades are favored here or perhaps it is because fragrant flowers are popular in this kind of garden. Peonies and old roses scent the air and add that touch of sumptuous sensuality. But there are many plants you can use. They are both fairly easy to grow and the *Stachys* tolerates some drought. Its scalloped leaves also add to the scene. Enclose the Cottage Garden A twist on the typical picket fence. Since cottage gardens can be small, the look of the surrounding fence is an important decision. Traditional fences were lower than are typical today. Picket fences are popular as are lattice fences which can support flowering vines such as clematis, wisteria, and climbing roses. The picket fence is the traditional favorite and there are many variations on this theme that you can consider. And remember that you can use any color you want for this fence! Cottage gardens traditionally have plant beds by the house packed tight with plants. This informal crowding of a wide variety of plants is a signature feature and the mix of perennial and annual flowers with vegetable and foliage plants, twining around each other and competing for attention, is what makes a cottage garden so fascinating. Good, rich organic soil ensures that overflowing plant beds look great—and plants stay healthy—from day one. Make sure to incorporate plenty of compost in the soil and use compost, tea, or fish emulsion fertilizer. Also cover the soil with mulch not dyed. Mulch is important as it maintains soil moisture, keeps temperatures steady, and improves soil as it breaks down. Use Curving Pathways A curved bluestone path. Soft, curving pathways are at home in a cottage-style garden. They add to the homey feeling and invite people to explore further. You can use hard surfacing like bluestone as I did here in this garden in New York, brick, or a combination of old bricks, tile, and stone. Soft paving like wood chips and gravel also work well as long as the walkway is edged to hold these materials in bounds. Mix and Match Super Hero Roses. Color theorists may scoff at mixing certain colors together, but in a cottage garden anything goes! The geranium has exceptional heat tolerance and blooms throughout the summer. It also grows easily among the roses. Use Fun Elements A cast stone finial. This is where a cottage garden shines! It is such a joy to add items that delight you in a garden and share your vision with others. Place an old wheelbarrow in a corner or moss-covered statuary in a bed. Tools, lanterns, and stone finials, as shown here, all become part of the cottage garden tableau. The idea is to have fun. Be free in your cottage garden! Of all garden styles, the cottage garden is one that is meant to delight and appeal to your own personal taste. Plant cabbage among the flowers or Swiss chard along the path. Do not follow "the rules. This is an annual flower in my part of the world and has soft blue blossoms that flower nonstop from June. It is a great filler plant and has lovely, ferny foliage. Use rich organic soil and mulch. Use Curving Pathways Invite people to explore further with a bluestone, brick, wood chip or gravel path. Mix and Match Try unusual color combinations deep-red and lavender. Use Fun Elements Display an old wheelbarrow, moss-covered statuary, tools, lanterns, stone finials.

Chapter 2 : English Gardens | Garden Design

Garden Shrubs Garden Paths Cottage Garden Plants Cottage Garden Design Lawn and Garden Garden beds English Garden Design Garden Styles English cottage gardens Forward An English country garden- easy to design with the right elements.

The Hardy Plant Society Traditionally hollyhocks were planted against the cottage wall, as before houses had damp courses the plants helped draw moisture out of the wall and keep the foundations dry. Today they immediately give the feel of a cottage garden, whether against the wall or towering out of a border. Sow easy-to-grow long-lasting annuals and wildflowers, including calendula, cornflowers, nigella and biennial foxgloves, to fill any gaps. Over time self-seeding plants will pop up randomly in unexpected spots, giving an interwoven lightness and artlessness to the design. Include some evergreens among the herbaceous in your cottage garden design, for interest through winter, and for a nod to the past incorporate edibles; step-over-apples could be used as boundaries, chives to edge the paths, medicinal and aromatic herbs interspersed, or chard nestled in among the flowers. Expert cottage garden planning tips Nick Hamilton, president of the Cottage Garden Society and owner of Barnsdale Gardens, offers his expert advice: Harmonious cottage style planting with swathes of nepeta, Alchemilla Mollis with roses behind Image: Many of the popular plants are easily propagated from seed, cuttings or division, so you can fill your garden cheaply. By using seed heads you will add aesthetic interest to the borders, with the added benefit that they will seed around. A discreetly placed piece of soft twine generally helps to keep the stronger ones under control. As a feature in a small garden, a mirror can be very effective. My favourite plants include: Cottage garden ideas “ features and structures There should be harmony between landscaping and the architecture of the house. Use materials in keeping with the look, such as weathered bricks , flagstone, wood chips, gravel or stepping-stones, for paths and paving. Allow the paths to meander, avoiding straight lines or defined patterns, and soften them with billowing plants that spill over, blurring the edges “ Alchemilla mollis or erigeron are ideal for path edges. Spires of delphiniums and foxgloves, along with climbing roses, immediately set the mood of this colourful border Image: Tall structures, including arbours, pergolas , obelisks or trellis, can be used as supports for roses, honeysuckle, wisteria, jasmine and other scented climbers, while traditional, weathered benches can help to divide the garden into rooms. Finally, add a touch of whimsy with decorative items as focal points, such as antique watering cans, old tools, flower-clothed obelisks, or sundials “ but use restraint so not to complicate. Plant among perennials, draped over arches and arbours, or against fences and walls. Plant bare-root plants from autumn to spring. Add slow-release fertiliser and mulch well to conserve water. Lavender A beautifully ornamental herb with fragrant summer blooms, plant lavender in full sun and well-drained soil in spring. Trim after flowering, and prune in early spring. The grey foliage works well with other plants and lavender is a great choice to plant along paths. Foxgloves A quintessential cottage garden favourite that produces spires of bell-shaped flowers in early summer. All kinds of bees love these flowers, and they were commonly grown in medieval gardens, despite being poisonous. They need light shade and protection from wind, in moist, well-drained soil. Aquilegia This clump-forming herbaceous perennial is easy to grow, with clouds of dancing blooms in a wide range of colours in spring and early summer. Grow in part shade in well-drained soil. Aquilegias have an old-fashioned charm, combine beautifully with hardy geraniums and will freely self-seed. Dianthus Fill your cottage garden with these deliciously scented blooms in spring and summer by choosing different varieties of these easy-care perennials and biennials. Use as edging plants, mixed in the cottage beds or in containers. Also known as pinks, they are drought tolerant and will thrive in sun or part sun in well-drained soil. Alchemilla mollis An indispensable foliage ground cover for fringing paths, scrambling over slopes, underplanting roses or growing in gravel. The plants produce sprays of tiny flowers and have rounded, velvety soft olive-green leaves, which catch and hold water drops making them sparkle in the sun in early summer. Grows in any soil in sun or part shade. Trim back from late summer. Hollyhocks A traditional choice with spires of open, saucer-shaped flowers in July, which are irresistible to bees and butterflies. Hollyhocks need well-drained reasonably fertile soil in full sun and can reach heights of

2m. Keeping up with the watering will help prevent their main problem – rust. Cut them back after flowering. Delphinium These tall beauties need good drainage, protection from wind, regular watering and prefer a sunny spot. Summer blooms appear in true blues, mauves, purple, pink and white. Deadheading the first blooms will give a second flush, and taller varieties may need staking. Campanula You can select from a range of perennial varieties that flower from spring to autumn. Fill in among the other cottage plants and this is another favourite for bees and butterflies. Grow in sun to part shade. They are drought tolerant once established and self-seed readily. Peony Sumptuous, romantic summer flowers in pink, red or white with a lovely fragrance. These herbaceous perennials are pest resistant and drought tolerant once established. Grow in a sunny spot in deep, rich, well-drained soil. If they are happy they can keep blooming for years. Geranium Hardy geraniums are a brilliant filler plant or for fringing borders. Some varieties will keep flowering from June to October. They tolerate a wide range of soils, some prefer sun, others semi-shade, and are also drought tolerant. Combine with other herbaceous plants, roses and peonies. Daisy These cheerful, simple, unpretentious summer to autumn flowers work well in cottage gardens. Grow in full sun in moderately rich, well-drained soil. They are disease and problem free, but give them a boost by feeding them just before flowering and deadhead spent blooms to keep the show going. Fieldcrest Garden – an established cottage garden, with a programme of courses and workshops. The style began to change in the late 18th century, when members of the gentry romanticised rural cottage life and created their own cottage gardens with an abundant planting of flowers. Cottage gardening reached its peak during the Victorian era and, with the rise of mass production and distribution of food, the ornamentals became the focus in the garden. Prominent garden designers helped to popularise this more decorative version.

Chapter 3 : Best Plants for a Cottage Garden | This Old House

The cottage garden is a distinct style that uses informal design, traditional materials, dense plantings, and a mixture of ornamental and edible plants. English in origin, it depends on grace and charm rather than grandeur and formal structure.

Origins[edit] Vernacular thatched cottages built in 1630 in Woburn Street, Ampthill , Bedfordshire, surrounded by garden. Cottage gardens, which emerged in Elizabethan times, appear to have originated as a local source for herbs and fruits. Helen Leach analysed the historical origins of the romanticised cottage garden, subjecting the garden style to rigorous historical analysis, along with the ornamental potager and the herb garden. The peasant cottager of medieval times was more interested in meat than flowers, with herbs grown for medicinal use and cooking, rather than for their beauty. Even the early cottage garden flowers typically had their practical use—violets were spread on the floor for their pleasant scent and keeping out vermin ; calendulas and primroses were both attractive and used in cooking. Others, such as sweet william and hollyhocks were grown entirely for their beauty. Alexander Pope was an early proponent of less formal gardens, calling in a article for gardens with the "amiable simplicity of unadorned nature". Her Colour in the Flower Garden is still in print today. Robinson and Jekyll were part of the Arts and Crafts Movement , a broader movement in art, architecture, and crafts during the late 19th century which advocated a return to the informal planting style derived as much from the Romantic tradition as from the actual English cottage garden. Sackville-West had taken similar models for her own "cottage garden", one of many "garden rooms" at Sissinghurst Castle —her idea of a cottage garden was a place where "the plants grow in a jumble, flowering shrubs mingled with Roses, [17] herbaceous plants with bulbous subjects, climbers scrambling over hedges, seedlings coming up wherever they have chosen to sow themselves". Examples include regional variations using a grass prairie scheme in the American midwest and California chaparral cottage gardens. In spite of their appearances, cottage gardens have a design and formality that help give them their grace and charm. Due to space limitations, they are often in small rectangular plots, with practical functioning paths and hedges or fences. The plants, layout, and materials are chosen to give the impression of casualness and a country feel. What they share with the tradition is the unstudied look, the use of every square inch, and a rich variety of flowers, herbs, and vegetables. Instead of artistic curves, or grand geometry, there is an artfully designed irregularity. Borders can go right up to the house, lawns are replaced with tufts of grass or flowers, and beds can be as wide as needed. Instead of the discipline of large scale color schemes, there is the simplicity of harmonious color combinations between neighbouring plants. The overall appearance can be of "a vegetable garden that has been taken over by flowers. Materials[edit] Paths, arbors, and fences use traditional or antique looking materials. Wooden fences and gates, paths covered with locally made bricks or stone, and arbors using natural materials all give a more casual—and less formal—look and feel to a cottage garden. Typically half the garden would be used for cultivating potatoes and half for a mix of other vegetables. In he wrote "I seldom observe any thing in a cottage garden but potatoes, cabbages, beans, and French beans; in a few instances onions and parsneps , and very seldom a few peas". For example, modern roses developed by David Austin have been chosen for cottage gardens because of their old-fashioned look multi-petaled form and rosette-shaped flowers and fragrance—combined with modern virtues of hardiness, repeat blooming, and disease-resistance. Cottage gardens are always associated with roses: Another old fragrant cottage garden rose is the Damask rose , which is still grown in Europe for use in perfumes. Even taller generally are the Alba roses, which are not always white, and which bloom well even in partial shade. These included the Bourbon rose and the Noisette rose , which were added to the rose repertoire of the cottage garden, and, more recently, hybrid "English" roses introduced by David Austin. These older varieties are called "ramblers", rather than "climbers". The modern cottage garden includes many Clematis hybrids that have the old appeal, with sparse foliage that allows them to grow through roses and trees, and along fences and arbors. Popular honeysuckles for cottage gardens include Japanese honeysuckle and Lonicera tragophylla. Hawthorn leaves made a tasty snack or tea, while the flowers were used for making wine. The fast-growing Elderberry , in addition to

creating a hedge, provided berries for food and wine, with the flowers being fried in batter or made into lotions and ointments. The wood had many uses, including toys, pegs, skewers, and fishing poles. Holly was another hedge plant, useful because it quickly spread and self-seeded. Privet was also a convenient and fast-growing hedge. Over time, more ornamental and less utilitarian plants became popular cottage garden hedges, including laurel , lilac , snowberry , japonica , and others. For example, the calendula , grown today almost entirely for its bright orange flowers, was primarily valued for eating, for adding color to butter and cheese, for adding smoothness to soups and stews, and for all kinds of healing salves and preparations. Like many old cottage garden annuals and herbs, it freely self-sowed, making it easier to grow and share. Herbs were used for medicine, toiletries, and cleaning products. Scented herbs would be spread on the floor along with rushes to cover odors. Some herbs were used for dyeing fabrics. The modern cottage garden includes many varieties of ornamental fruit and nut trees, such as crabapple and hazel , along with non-traditional trees like dogwood.

Chapter 4 : Cottage Garden Design Ideas | Garden Design

See the best cottage garden plants and cottage garden design ideas to start your own cottage garden. Cottage Garden Style Ideas Get inspired to create a cottage garden with these tips, tricks, and charming plants.

In medieval times, they contained herbs, fruits, vegetables, a beehive and often livestock, providing nourishment for poor cottage dwellers. In the Elizabethan era came increased prosperity, which meant that cottagers could afford to grow more flowers. Some of these still had functional uses, such as violets, which were spread on cottage floors as their scent deterred vermin. Other flowers, though, such as hollyhocks, were grown for their beauty alone. The Victorian middle classes became enamoured with the style, which suited their relatively small houses and gardens and tapped into their collective nostalgia for a simpler, pre-Industrial age. There is nothing pretentious about a cottage garden. It was here that he wrote his earliest novels, before designing Max Gate, a large Victorian villa situated nearby, where he lived from until his death. The front garden is jammed full of old-fashioned flowers, with not an inch of bare soil in sight. Among the floral stars are hollyhocks, lupins, aquilegias, honeysuckles and rambling roses, which Hardy particularly loved. Beatrix Potter planned and planted her garden at Hill Top, obtaining plants from other gardens in the village of Near Sawrey, as well as sourcing particular species from London. Plants spill out romantically over a slate path that leads up to the front door of the cottage, itself festooned with climbers, including a white wisteria, a Japanese quince and a prolific Clematis montana. Beyond the front garden with its bustling borders is a walled fruit and vegetable garden. Here too, nothing is overly manicured. Tall evening primroses have been left to self-seed adding height and drama to the spectacle. In the walls are the original bee boles – specially designed cavities that would have housed traditional straw bee skeps. If you spot the rhubarb patch, you may recognise it from an illustration in *The Tale of Jemima Puddleduck*. In the neighbouring paddock is a mixture of fruit trees – apples, damsons, plum and pear. Covering 10 acres, Hidcote is, indeed, vast. But essentially it is a series of small enclosures, or garden rooms, many of which have the feel of a cottage garden. Like in any true cottage garden, plants mingle together in beautiful luxuriance: The master in question was Major Lawrence Johnston, who moved to Hidcote in 1892. Over the following 41 years, this self-taught gardener and passionate plantsman created one of the most influential gardens of the 20th century, now lovingly looked after by the National Trust. Cuttings in hedges offer tempting glimpses towards other parts of the garden, while paths and alleys lead you on a beguiling journey of discovery. In spring, masses of tulips dominate the vast mixed borders creating a dazzle of colour, while in late summer dahlias take centre stage. Another key cottage feature at Hidcote is the pretty topiary. As Sackville-West rightly pointed out: The topiary at Hidcote is in the tradition of smug broody hens, bumpy doves, and coy peacocks. In 1937, sensing that war was imminent, she and her husband Walter bought a 15th-century manor in rural Somerset to escape possible dangers in London. With no previous horticultural experience, Margery Fish transformed her two-acre wilderness into a rambling garden of tiny, twisting pathways and discrete spaces – from sun-drenched borders and free-draining areas to shady spots and boggy corners. Each one was filled with hardy yet beautiful plants, specifically suited to site and soil. Innately gifted, Margery Fish blended old-fashioned favourites with contemporary plants, creating dazzling and inspirational mixed borders. Unlike many of her predecessors, she delighted in tending her plot personally, rather than employing a gardener. These were just the kinds of solutions that post-war cash-strapped garden owners were looking for – no wonder the style was to have such an impact during the second half of the 20th century. Over the past 25 years East Lambrook Manor Gardens have undergone major restoration work, underpinned by a project to catalogue and source all the plants that Margery Fish used in her garden.

Chapter 5 : English Country Garden Design - Top 10 Cottage Garden Plants,Flowers

An English country garden- easy to design with the right elements. Design a true English cottage garden from our tips, ideas and advice using the right cottage flowers and cottage garden plants for an effective cottage garden design.

Learn how to design a true English cottage garden from our tips, ideas and advice using the right cottage flowers and plants for an effective cottage garden design. The plants and flowers that are used in such a garden design, are seen in gardens throughout England. These country gardens conjure up thoughts of romance, bumble bees, butterflies and lazy summer days. To try and recreate such a garden is not difficult, but to be successful you should choose your cottage plants and flowers wisely with regards to color groupings, know the heights of your plants so that you have proper planning, and finally choosing cottage plants that will thrive in your climate and soil conditions. So, where exactly does one begin, and what elements are needed to create English country gardens? Typically is surrounds a small, simple house with a porch. And being so confined, the cottage style has no room no need for lawn. Instead, pathways cut a swathe through the cottage garden plants and flowers, usually made of brick, shell, gravel or aggregate. Where cottage gardens appear haphazard and abundant, success requires careful placement and knowledge of height and spread of your cottage garden plants. Climbing roses and wisteria give both height and romance to these gardens, especially when they provide a backdrop to other summer cottage flowers such as poppies, cornflowers, Delphiniums, lavender and Erigeron daisies. What about Spring Bulbs for your cottage garden? The cottage garden, or English country garden, is best for those who love to garden, for the style is not low-maintenance. It looks informal, as if nature had scattered its seed to paint the various tapestries of color, but in actual fact, it is highly contrived. Making sure that you have a garden that blooms constantly, is no mean feat. Design Elements for an English Country Garden Choose simple cottage flowers for your cottage garden design and make sure that they are old-fashioned varieties. Try and choose a color scheme like pinks and whites, or blues and yellows. Where you choose to have a whole spectrum of colors then make sure that the palette is soft. Warm brick paths, rambling roses and other climbers, pastel perennials and self-sowing annuals such as allysum are characteristic of a cottage style garden. Choose fragrant flowers for both garden, arbors and houses. Let your garden show your personality. Choose your plants for personal preference and meaning rather than for design. Plant flowers and plants in small pockets rather than in large drifts. It is the biggest structure in your garden and you want to be able to see your garden from as many windows as possible. Your house should also match your garden. You cannot have an ultra-modern house with a cottage garden, nor would you have a mock-Tudor house with yuccas and agaves. It would just look very odd. See our page on country style decor to create that county home feel. Ideally, your house should be covered in some flowering climber to link your house to your garden. Wisteria, honeysuckle, golden shower, star jasmine, clematis, ornamental grapes or even climbing roses such as the lovely "Albertine", will do the trick. If you have ugly steps that lead to your house, tile them with terracotta tiles, and then soften the edges by placing lavender, geraniums and other colorful plants in pots and line the steps with these. How many kinds of sweet flowers grow in an English country garden? Traditionally the cottage garden is surrounded by either a fence, wall or hedge with a gate giving access to the property. There is usually a pathway, that is seldom straight in nature, that leads from the gate to the front of the house. While the garden beds on either side of the pathway need not be mirror-images of one another, they should be equally balanced in the choice of colors used either side, and the cottage plants used in both garden beds should be similar in height and type so that there is a definite pattern that is evident. Stay away from colorful hybrids and go for the traditional cottage garden flowers that give you soft colors and small flowers. Include garden features such as bird baths, bird houses, benches, bird feeding tables where you can feed the wild birds , chairs, containers and window boxes. You can also have some fun with wheelbarrows, old milk churns and other old farming equipment. Because most of your cottage plants are herbaceous they will die down in winter. Therefore you need to add some plants that will be evergreen or flower during that time to give your garden a winter interest. Plants such as rosemary, germander, lavender and boxwood will help out here. Cool weather annuals such as pansies can also be planted for color, as well as ornamental kales. Make your country

garden serviceable. Plant espaliered fruit trees such as pear trees and fruiting shrubs such as black and red currants and blueberries close to the perimeter of the house. Intersperse your flowers with medicinal herbs for easy picking when needed.

Steps to Creating an English Country Garden

1. Choose Feature, Filler and Anchor Plants

You need feature plants that will create interest to your garden. Roses are the ideal feature plant. Hydrangeas could be considered filler plants including others such as hollyhocks, lavender and viburnum. Your anchor plants are those that create a backdrop to your canvass and are placed at the back of the beds due to their height. These are usually evergreens and could be conifers, boxwood and other small trees. Instead you create different areas for added interest. The sizes of these areas will be in direct proportion to the size of the garden as a whole.

Grow Living Dividers

In order to divide each area from the other you need to plant hedges of some sort to form a division. A flowering plant like weigela, boxwood, or any tall growing evergreen hedging should be planted to create living dividers. These should be encouraged to grow feet high to create this effect.

Build a Fence

Fences, particularly picket fences, should be built to allow your space to be defined and to protect your garden. If built correctly, it will add to help creating the typical English country garden that you are making.

Add an Arbor

Arbors can help lead your visitors to your house, from the gate and up the path. If covered in climbing roses one evokes an element of romance. Arbors also define that feeling of entering a space.

Build a Gate

Gates not only keep out unwanted visitor, be that either the two-legged or the four-legged variety, but depending on what you choose will help create your cottage style. Many of you will opt for the white-washed gate to go with the white-washed picket fence. You could have a plain or painted iron fence, an unpainted wooden fence, or even a wrought-iron fence. It really remains up to the individual, and your choice of gate will further help to show your personality.

Plant your Pathways

Whether you choose a straight path or a curved path, this pathway should lead your visitors to your home from your gate. The pathway can be constructed from reclaimed stone or brick to shells or pebbles. It can be made from just about any material other than concrete. By allowing the plants to grow onto the pathway you are softening the edges and are one step closer to creating a wonderful English country garden.

How many kinds of sweet flowers grow In an English country garden? There are so many lovely flowers to choose from when designing a garden like this, and these are but a few, and not in any particular order.

Cottage Garden Plants 1:

Chapter 6 : About Your Privacy on this Site

The Overgrown English Cottages Garden Find this Pin and more on lovely gardens by Diane De. Terrace Garden - The Overgrown English Cottage Garden More This time, we will know how to decorate your balcony and your garden easily with plants.

Cookies English Cottage Gardens English cottage gardens are my favourite type of garden they remind me of my childhood, visiting Grandmas smelling the flowers, eating the strawberries, climbing the apple tree to get a birds eye view of the garden. Maybe you too have fond memories of the cottage garden and you would like to recreate the look. This chapter will help you do just that. Cottage gardens are not expensive to recreate. The cottager was not rich after all. Most cottage gardens in England grew organically, each year more plants would be added either by nature self sowing or from a neighbour passing along a cutting. The flowers for most cottage gardens came from the head gardener on the village estate. When his plants needed dividing he would give them to the cottager if he had no need for them. The cottager would then next year do the same and pass them to his neighbour. It is this random planting that creates the cheery jumble of colourful flowers that is so quintessential of English cottage gardens. Cottage gardens are one of the most organic and sustainable forms of gardens. Fill your cottage garden with all kinds of cottage flowers, not just one kind. This is a natural way to keep down bugs and pests which are attracted to a larger area of their favourite plants. Above all there should be no gaps in a cottage garden. Fill in any spaces with various cottage plants, this is not just for show. The dense planting will create a canopy restricting light which will keep down weeds and keep the plants fresh on hot summer days. Traditionally cottage gardens did not have lawns, so if mowing the grass is a thorn in your side, consider creating an cottage garden and never have to mow your lawn again. All cottage gardens were created out of necessity or love or both and all have been designed to please the cottager who lived there. Cottage gardens are a reflexion of the cottagers personality that is why each one is unique. There is no formal garden design but there is a cottage garden tradition and when it comes to creating an authentic English cottage garden a little information can go a long way.

Chapter 7 : English cottage gardens

Cottage gardens are all about rustic beauty and casual abundance. Create a welcoming atmosphere with these 8 essential cottage landscaping ideas and tips from This Old House.

As a child, Glenis learned from her horticulturist family a love of gardening. Almost seventy years later, she continues to grow and learn. It has been said that, by and large, we are a nation of gardeners. Functional gardens attached to workers cottages first made an appearance in England several centuries ago. They provided fruit, vegetables, and medicinal herbs for the family. Spaces that would otherwise be empty were filled with flowers, both for their beauty and to suppress weeds. Chickens roamed freely and there might even be a pig sty and a beehive on the small plot. As the Industrial Revolution gathered momentum many agricultural workers moved from rural villages to towns. A productive town garden was often not possible, though the people who remained in the countryside continued with the old ways. In the wake of Romanticism, the cottage garden became popular amongst more affluent members of society, undergoing a stylised reinvention. Flowers became the predominant feature. The overall effect is artless, romantic, and uncontrived. Nowadays, English country cottages sell for a premium and are frequently the preserve of the more affluent members of society. A drive through any village in England will reveal of a wealth of cottage gardens, but they are not confined to rural areas. My own garden is on a housing development but my garden has evolved over the years into the distinctive cottage garden style. My lawn has largely been replaced by paths in traditional materials and raised vegetable beds. There are certain plants that are typical of this type of garden. Roses, of course, are predominant. Towering hollyhocks, planted in bygone days close to the walls of cottages to draw out damp, feature at the back of borders, cranesbill geranium provide ground cover under the shade of trees, and a wealth of other perennials, bulbs, and self-seeding annuals provide a riot of colour throughout all but the coldest winter months. A mixed border of shrubs, perennial, and annual plants. Our choices will be restricted by the type of soil, the aspect of the borders, and colour preferences. If you are stuck for ideas, consult a beautifully written and photographed guide to English gardens, like this one by award-winning gardening author and journalist Ursula Buchan. I have one border that has been designed for romantic pink and blue plants and another for the hot reds, oranges, and yellows that arrive later in the summer season and the autumn here in England. Here are a few of my favourites. Roses You may not have a rose-covered porch framing an ancient oak door but a few feet of trellis or an obelisk provide great alternative support for climbing or rambling roses. The traditional roses for a cottage garden are the fragrant Old Garden Roses. Some varieties have self-supporting stems, whilst others need support. David Austin has been breeding disease resistant roses since the s and is still adding new varieties each year. His displays at the Chelsea Flower Show have won 23 Gold medals. I particularly like Gertrude Jekyll, which has his strongest fragrance and pink rosettes. I have a couple of specimens which grow in mixed flower borders. Night Scented Stock is sown annually amongst the plants to provide another layer of perfume. Bear in mind, though, that roses require a lot of attention. They need to be fed, pruned, dead-headed, and sprayed against insect infestation greenfly and fungal infection usually black spot. They are hungry plants, so I incorporate well-rotted manure into the soil around the base of the bushes in the late autumn. To keep infestations at bay, I start to spray the plants with a specialist rose insect and fungus repellent at the end of April and then spray again at intervals until the end of August. Romeo and Juliet 2. Hollyhocks After roses, hollyhock is the flower that I most associate with a traditional cottage garden. I have double pinks masking a brick boundary wall and double maroon and double white in front of a trellis that screens a small raised vegetable bed. The only disadvantage of hollyhocks is that they are prone to powdery mildew. Regular spraying with fungicide keeps it in check. Hollyhocks by Eastman Johnson Source 3. English Lavender What could be more evocative of an English garden than the scent of lavender? There are so many varieties that gardeners are spoilt for choice. The plants are tolerant of poor soil and of drought conditions - which makes them an ideal choice as the climate changes. I have Hidcote and Munstead in my garden. They are also attractive to bees, who produce lavender honey from the nectar that they collect. Grow individual plants or plant them to form a hedge. When cutting back at the end of the

flowering season, the dry flower heads can be used in baking, for a bowl of fragrant potpourri, or for making lavender bags to slip into a lingerie draw. English Lavender Blossom Source 4. Pinks Delicate, fragrant, garden pinks are easy to grow and their silvery foliage provides all year round interest in the garden. They are good for cutting, if you can bear to do it, and they make a lovely corsage or buttonhole for special occasions. Double Pinks Source 5. Delphinium A classic flower in the traditional garden. Tall spikes of flowers are short-lived but if the plants are cut back to the ground immediately after flowering they may produce a second flush later in the season. Plant in groups of blue and white for the best effect. My favourite at the moment is Delphinium Cherry Blossom. Regenerate and increase your stock every three years or so by dividing the plants. Guard against attacks by slugs and snails, particularly amongst new, unestablished plants. Delphiniums aka Larkspur Source 6. Love-in-the-Mist Love-in-the-Mist is the beautiful common name for Nigella. Delicate flowers and fern-like foliage. It self-seeds and flowers abundantly in my flower beds every year. Scatter seed wherever there is a gap in the flower border. It flowers for about eight weeks. Love-in-the-Mist Miss Jekyll Source 7. Verbascum Verbascum, common name Mullein, needs well-drained soil, lots of space for the foliage, and a sunny aspect. The numerous tiny buttery yellow flowers are borne on spikes which grow to a height of seven feet in my sandy soil. A spectacular perennial, attractive to bees, for a cottage border. Clematis Choose several different plants carefully for a variety of different clematis scrambling over your fences, trellis, or amongst trees, for many months. Clematis roots must be shaded from the sun - place a few rocks or some gravel around the base of the plant. There are three different pruning groups - light, severe, and no pruning - so make sure that you know which yours belong to so that you can cut back at the correct time of year. Watch for clematis wilt, or stem rot, and cut out any affected stems. Mock Orange Philadelphus, a perennial shrub, is commonly known as Mock Orange because its scent is said to be similar to that of orange blossom though it reminds me of bubble gum. During a summer evening in June the perfume from the gracefully arching stems will pervade the garden and mingle delightfully with that of Night Scented Stocks and garden Pinks. Mock Orange is very easy to grow. I have successfully taken semi-ripe cuttings and simply planted them to my light soil, where within a few years they have grown to a height of around seven feet. Philadelphus must be pruned properly - immediately after flowering cut out the dead flower stems and cut out some old branches to prevent overcrowding. A perennial shrub, flowering in June, that has a wonderful scent that is reminiscent of bubble gum. Lupins Source Annuals for an English-Cottage Style Garden Unless you are willing to go the expense of buying large established plants from a nursery the quickest way to produce a spectacular display of flower in the garden is to sow annuals amongst the young perennials and shrubs in new borders. I have marigolds coming up in the borders every year as a result of putting in a few plants many years ago. Nowadays different seed mixtures are available ready-sown in biodegradable mats. Simply place the mat where you want the flowers to appear and cover lightly with compost, grit, or topsoil. Water regularly until established. Every year, without fail, I make thin repeat sowings of Night Scented Stock throughout my flower borders so that I get blossoms for as long as possible throughout the summer season. The flowers are unspectacular but the scent, once the sun has gone down, is sublime. Place a bench in a quiet spot in the garden, watch the stars appear and enjoy. Plants in Pots Asiatic lily, Brunello grown with begonia cascade orange in an east facing pot Source Herbs for a Cottage Garden No traditional cottage-style garden would be complete without a collection of herbs, nowadays used largely for culinary purposes but in the past used to make herbal remedies. Grow them in terracotta pots on the patio, or in the borders. I have a bay, thyme, sage, mint, chives, borage. Mint is invasive and bay trees eventually grow to a height of around 38 feet if left unpruned. Both are best grown in pots. An annual herb also known as starflower It is used both for medicinal purposes and in cooking. Good in Italian recipes and a pretty polinator friendly plant for the flower border Source Few cooks need an entire packet of seed herbs, so often purchase a pot of culinary herbs from the supermarket for a specific recipe and then throw the pot out after the plant starts to wilt. Trying planting your expensive purchase out in the border and watering well until established. I have successfully grown parsley in this way and it has survived throughout the winter. Increasing Your Stock of Plants for a Cottage Garden by Taking Cuttings A new garden takes several years to mature unless you have unlimited financial resources to buy large quantities of the best-quality mature plants. Patience is a virtue that most gardeners have to learn. The good news is that our

stock of plants can be substantially increased for the cost of a few cheap plant pots, a sack of cutting compost, a bag of horticultural gravel, and a small pot of rooting compound.

Chapter 8 : Cottage garden - Wikipedia

These are England's captivating Cottage and Country Gardens: old fashioned perennials, antique roses, aromatic herbs, and vines climbing old walls and rustic arbors.

A picket fence, an iron gate, a brick or stone pathway, and a traditional arched arbor can instantly create the feeling of a quaint, old-time garden. Benches, flower urns, other garden accessories and structures heighten the sense of style underpinning the plantings. Be sure to use enough of one type of plant to give a full look without a confused look of odds and ends of plants tossed together. There is a method to the madness of such places: The planting scheme will benefit from the addition of roses. Climbing and shrub types give the architectural grace that was seen around these traditional homes. Intensively cultivated, regular maintenance of plants, soil and weeding is needed when flowers are grown this way. This nostalgic style is a labor of love- the love of the plants! The look best matches traditional architecture, like Cape Cod, English Tudor, and other such homes. Reconciling the sleeker, modern style homes is more of a challenge. It will require some modification to meld the house with its surroundings. Cottage Design This style is informal- with plants tumbling over each other and the fences and walkways that try to contain them. The outdoor rooms in English style. Sissinghurst is well known for this design full of well-thought plantings. Everybody loves the quaint cottage gardens they see in pictures, or happily chance to visit. How easy is it to create, or care for one? Does this landscape match the style of your home? Will it work to tuck one into a corner, if in odds with the house facade? Such outdoor spaces have certain plants that give the style its own unmistakable look. Will those plants match the landscape needs of your site? Maybe such a plan is perfect for your own home landscape, or if not, you can enjoy our guided tour through this old-time enclosure fairly bursting with fruits, flowering bushes, and fragrant blooms. Certainly a place to dream about

Source Historical Background These were originally the food and flower patch of everyday tenant farmers; those who worked on other peoples lands, but had a little house and yard of their own. They were small, practical plots, meant for the feeding and support of the family. They were intensively cultivated, every little plant was placed cheek by jowl to make the best use of the small space afforded. This meant that the plantings were mixed: Originally these areas adjacent to the house were meant to be low maintenance with the main effort dedicated to the kitchen vegetables and fruits. It is only in relatively modern times that the "tidy mess" became a complicated endeavor of constant flowering. As the Victorian era reached a frenzy of decoration and love of the exotic and the oddity, there grew a hunger for these more humble flowerbed designs. Quietly maintained by country folk who had remained unchanged by the whims of fashion, influential gardeners took notice.. William Robinson, Tastemaker A tastemaker, William Robinson, wrote passionately about these older types of gardens and their simpler flowers and abundant plantings. Gertrude Jekyll joined the movement which swept away the bedding and parterres to a large degree, and implemented their ideals of a picturesque and a more artistically natural feel of style. The English style can vary widely from the grand, sweeping estates of the landscape movement of Capability Brown to the more "gardenesque" styles of the Victorian age. They also include this form which we love so well. Edwardians needed

A More Natural Look The growth of the middle class coincided with the popular sentiment to create a home with a garden that included the natural look of the old familiar flowers. William Robinson wrote "The Wild Gardener" and changed the appearance of English gardening forever afterward. He persuasively argued for the old fashioned flowers and planting style of the traditional cottagers. It revived and became the iconic look that we equate with British landscape design today. In full bloom in Hemingford Abbots, Cambridgeshire

Source Rooted in England A place filled with plants jostling each other for pride of place, outdoing each other with blooms. This is what most of us think of as the ideal flower garden. Usually a smaller space enclosure surrounded by a fence. It is often punctuated with straight paths on an axis, the main one leading directly to the front door which is draped with climbing rose or clematis vines. This is also plainly a food garden, if grown traditionally, and fruits are grown to delicious ripeness, while carpets of thyme can be seen among the stepping stones and along the path, perhaps with a seat of its own. Edible and Sustainable

Renewed interest in "edible" and "sustainable" may return these grounds to their roots. Places where the

beauty of plants and their usefulness, once more, go hand in hand. They were grown by common hardworking people, but who still aspired to beauty in the best manner that they could contrive and afford. While vegetables might be welcome, they are rarely included when designing such a plan. Incorporate Food Plants With the new emphasis on edibles in the front yard, it might be time to incorporate more of the salads and herbs into the streetside landscape plans if this is your desired style. They can be almost hidden in among the blooming plants with some of the colored foliage of lettuces or chard actually adding bright color. Selection Of Location Two good places in the landscape for such plantings might be a small area by the door, an entry area enclosed with a fence, or a border next to the driveway. Backyard Bloom Cleome, Cosmos, Begonia, Nicotiana syvestris, Allyssum, Coreopsis Source Harmonize Home and Yard Most homes will harmonize with this style, but a strongly contemporary one with modern lines may be visually jarring. While Cape Cod style and traditional bungalows seem made for the simple cloud-like drifts of flowers and vines that comprise a proper cottage garden. Generally, if you have a picket fence, you can have this sort of border! Rustic looking fences and Craftsman styled houses will look ideal with this abundance of plants. Not for the front yard? Make a personal space hidden away in the backyard. It is a tried and true method is to make outdoor "rooms", sectioned off areas of the landscape to create a different sort of design from those adjacent. Utilize bushes, either in a shrubbery or a hedge, and create your version of the style in a compartment of its own. This is one way to have your cake and eat it, too, when the house is a style that looks jarring with an overflow of flowering plants. Your own personal bower. Is this style for you? These are intensively cultivated properties which require a good deal of attention and labor from the gardener. Someone who has time to work in the flowerbeds and among the vegetables, pruning the fruit trees, and keeping everything healthy and in good order. Does that describe you? However, it is a beautiful, rewarding one. Start Small Choose an area right outside the door, or along the entry path, and begin planting a mix of herbs, annuals, and low growing perennials. Welcoming Feeling, Well Spaced Growth Even the plants of these quaint plots seem to be on close and friendly terms, since they are characterized by flowers bursting the seams of the boundaries. Yet, it is important to remember that plants that are too close for comfort create conditions ripe for disease. Weakened plants are struggling to get enough nutrients, and moisture. Air space for circulation around each plant is also desirable to keep plants growing their best. Let your abundant flowers come from healthy, well-placed plants, and not from stuffing too many plants in a cramped space. It requires careful planning and regular care. Besides being suitable for your climate and soil conditions, ease of care is a factor for a busy home owner. Plants that remain healthy without coddling, sprays, or dividing are a boon. Which Perennials to Choose? Another way to design it: Basic groups of flowers might be those with a daisy form, or those with a lily form, perhaps accenting with iris forms or spires of lupines. Many of the Compositae group make wonderful flower bed choices, with abundant growth and a cheerful look. Showcase native and the simplest forms of plants species. Source Plants Rule Vines drape gates, arbors, and fences. Drifts of flowers fill the spaces, they are abundant and blowzy. The plants rule here! If you decided that this is the look for you, it is time to pick the herbaceous plants, shrubs, and trees to grow. Daylilies, Daisies, and Delphiniums Delphinium for height, mounding daisies for form, and the daylily anchors the design with color and contrast. Hemerocallis for Busy Gardeners Daylilies, Hemerocallis, make perfect plants for traditional, yet easy care landscapes. That makes them a great choice for today. Hardy, without disease problems, in an ever increasing color range and form, heights, and bloom times. Hybridizers and homeowners love them because they are so accommodating to those who love both beauty and good landscaping qualities. Easy, Long-lived, Colorful Hemerocallis can solve many design problems: Once acquainted with them, you can combine the different heights and bloom periods to give a spot of color or a large drift that never seems out of bloom. The trick is to stagger the expected bloom schedule. Have a shady area? Need color for most of the summer? Consider making this perennial the backbone of your flower bed. Combine them with spires and daisy shape blooms for contrast. Use Annuals for Bursts of Bloom Easy to grow flowers: Many books list varieties to look for: A plentiful overflow of flowers in containers add to the full and lush look. Classic Design Principles "All about charm and character, still they rely on the same basic principles as any other style.

Adult Coloring Books Country Cottage Backyard Gardens 3: 45 grayscale coloring pages, country cottages, English cottages, gardens, flowers, quaint country homes and more.