

Mary's Gardens

GARDEN DESIGN AND PLANT SELECTION GUIDE

THE STEWARD-ARTIST

In starting your Mary Garden, consider first where and how you will plant. Be an artist for Our Lady. Make prayer your intent, tradition your guide, and plant life your palette. Order your Mary Garden—whether one bed, or several—to provide a harmonious and edifying design and setting for the plants and blooms which, by your stewardship, will come of the brush of the Divine Artist.

First, select the area or site for Our Lady's Garden; next make a drawing or sketch composing the elements of its design:

Enclosure—The border or edge which sets the garden apart as distinct from its surroundings—"a garden enclosed."

Axes—One or two imaginary lines establishing the basic divisions or symmetry of the garden area.

Focal Point—A statue or wayside shrine of Our Lady; a Crucifix; a pool, etc., to give a center to the design.

Bed or Beds—Harmonious in form and arrangement; and proportioned to the enclosure, axes and focal point.

Plants—Using this Guide, mark location of plants on your plan. Choose plants of a size proportioned to the beds and focal point. Select color and sequence of bloom, Spring through Fall, and choose for harmonious accent to the total design. For proportion, place several plants of each variety together.

As plants mature and bloom—bringing substance to your vision—rejoice that God's work and yours have been united in your garden, as in the gardens of others, in praise of Our Blessed Lady, the "Flower of flowers."

SELECTING PLANTS

Take this Guide into your garden. The Guide provides fundamentals for design, and for plant selection when composing the planting plan of a Mary Garden and when introducing Mary-named plants in any garden plan.

The plant selection information may be studied in several ways for particular reasons, but, for planning purposes use it, chiefly, as follows. Regard, first, the sun and shade grouping. Next, visualize colors: blue and purple; red; orange and yellow; white. Then consider the season of bloom, height, and whether annual, biennial, or perennial.

The Mary's Gardens Catalog (25 cents) tells of Mary-names, associations and symbolism, cultural requirements, and of uses for the plants and flowers listed here.

CAT. NO.	RELIGIOUS NAME	CURRENT NAME	COLOR	SEASON	HEIGHT	TYPE
FOR FULL SUN						
102	Our Lady's Laurel	February Daphne	Purple	Feb.-March	48"	Perennial
616	Legend of Our Lady	Rosemary	Blue	May	24"-48"	Perennial
703	Emblem of Our Lady	Iris	Blue-Purple	May	18"	Perennial
307	Our Lady's Looking Glass	Venus' Looking Glass	Blue	June	9"	Annual
607	Our Lady's Resting Place	Veronica, semi-dwarf	Blue	June	12"-18"	Perennial
619	Blue-Eyed Mary	Blue-Eyed Grass	Blue	June	12"	Perennial
303	Our Lady's Flannel	Viper's Bugloss	Blue	June-July	24"-48"	Annual
305	Our Lady in-the-Shade	Love-in-a-Mist	Blue or White	June-Sept.	12"-24"	Annual
415	Our Lady's Flower	Blue Pimpernel	Blue	June-Sept.	8"	Annual
615	Our Lady's Sorrel	Oxalis	Blue-Lavender	June-Sept.	9"	Perennial
403	Our Lady's Pincushion	Sweet Scabious	Purple, Rose or Lavender	June-Sept.	24"	Annual
417	Madonna's Pins	Heron's Bill	Blue-Violet	June-Sept.	15"	Annual
418	Our Lady's Mantle	Heavenly Blue	Blue	June-Sept.	Climbing	Annual
409	Our Lady's Mantle	English Morning Glory	Blue or Red	June-Sept.	Climbing	Annual
608	Our Lady's Bell	Bell Flower	Blue	July-August	30"	Perennial
203	Our Lady's Cowslip	Goat's Rue	Blue-Purple	July-August	36"	Perennial
206	Our Lady's Rue	Meadow Rue	Lavender-Purple	July-August	50"	Perennial
211	Rose of Sharon	Rose of Sharon	Blue-Purple to Red	August	6'-12'	Perennial
604	Virgin Pink	Garden Pink	Rose-Pink	May-June	12"	Perennial
603	Emblem of Our Lady	Carnation	Crimson	June	10"	Perennial
105	Our Lady's Rose	Scotch Rose	Pink or White	June	48"	Perennial
501	Our Lady's Nightcap	Canterbury Bells	Rose, Violet, White	June-July	12"-48"	Biennial
502	Our Lady's Tuft	Sweet William	Red, Purple, White	June-August	18"	Biennial
605	Mary's Rose	Rose Campion	Rose-Crimson	June-Sept.	12"-24"	Perennial
814	Emblem of Our Lady	Rose, Crimson Glory	Red-Crimson	June-Sept.	24"-36"	Perennial
611	Sweet Mary	Red Valerian	Pale Red or Crimson	June-Sept.	12"-36"	Perennial
304	Virgin Stock	Virginian Stock	Red, Lilac, White	June-Sept.	12"	Annual
306	Mary's Rose	Sweet William Catchfly	Rose or Pink	June-Sept.	12"	Annual
411	Mary's Thistle	Blessed Thistle	Rose-Purple	June-Sept.	12"-48"	Biennial
402	Our Lady's Earrings	Balsam	Red, Pink, White	June-Sept.	25"-30"	Annual
805	Our Lady's Ruffles	Dropwort	Pink-Purple, White	July-Aug.	12"-36"	Perennial
209	Mary's Drink	Mountain Tobacco	Golden-Orange	June	20"	Perennial
617	Herb of Grace	Rue	Dull Yellow	June	18"-24"	Perennial
609	Our Lady's Fingers	Kidney Vetch	Yellow or Pink	June	6"	Perennial
419	Mary's Gold	Livingston Daisy	Gold or Varied	June-Sept.	2"	Annual
612	Our Lady's Paint Brush	Orange Hawkweed	Orange	July-August	12"	Perennial
407	Our Lady's Tresses	Quaking Grass	Yellow-Green	July-Sept.	12"-24"	Annual
408	Mary's Gold	Annual Chrysanthemum	Golden Yellow	July-Sept.	12"-18"	Annual
410	Mary's Gold	African Marigold	Yellow to Orange	July-Sept.	24"-30"	Annual
807	Our Lady's Bedstraw	Yellow Bedstraw	Yellow	July-August	24"	Perennial
803	Legend of the Wise Men	Golden Chrysanthemum	Golden Yellow	Oct.-Nov.	24"	Perennial
610	Our Lady's Cushion	Rock Cress	White	April	15"	Perennial
705	Our Lady's Ruffles	Double White Narcissus	White	April	18"-24"	Perennial
706	Mary's Tears	Star of Bethlehem	White	June	6"-8"	Perennial
416	Mary's Tears	Job's Tears	Pearly White, Gray	June-Sept.	24"-48"	Annual
FOR SUN-TOLERATE LIGHT SHADE						
812	Mary's Tears	Lungwort	Blue-Violet	March-April	6"-12"	Perennial
207	Our Lady's Petticoat	Wood Anemone	Purplish White	May-June	3"-8"	Perennial
216	Our Lady's Modesty	Sweet Violet	Blue-Violet	May-June	10"	Perennial

(continued on other side)

CAT. NO.	RELIGIOUS NAME	CURRENT NAME	COLOR	SEASON	HEIGHT	TYPE
808	Madonna's Pins	Wild Cranesbill	Mauve to Lavender	May-June	25"	Perennial
215	Our Lady's Tears	Spiderwort	Blue-Violet	May-June	20"	Perennial
602	Our Lady's Thimble	Harebell	Blue-Violet	May-Sept.	15"	Perennial
302	Blue-Eyed Mary	Collinsea	Blue-Violet & White	May-June	20"	Annual
504	Our Lady's Basin	Fuller's Teasel	Blue to Lilac	June-July	60"-72"	Perennial
101	Mary's Slipper	Monk's Hood	Blue	July-August	36"-60"	Perennial
202	Our Lady's Birthday Flower	Italian Aster	Blue to Rose	August-Sept.	24"	Perennial
201	Our Lady's Pincushion	Thrift	Rose to Pink	April	6"-12"	Perennial
804	Mary's Heart	Bleeding Heart	Rose	May	20"	Perennial
606	Mary's Pink	German Catchfly	Rose Pink	May	20"	Perennial
414	Mary's Rose	English Daisy	Pink to Red	May-Sept.	6"	Bien.-Ann.
503	Our Lady's Glove	Foxglove	White, Rose, Purple	June	60"	Biennial
204	Mary's Hand	Five Fingers	Salmon to Crimson	June-July	14"	Perennial
810	Mary's Rose	Peony	Rose	June-July	24"-36"	Perennial
301	Mary's Rose	Pheasant's Eye	Crimson	June-July	20"	Annual
405	Virgin Flower	Periwinkle	Red, Pink, White	June-Sept.	20"	Annual
613	Rose of Sharon	Rose of Sharon	Red	July-August	12"	Perennial
801	Our Lady's Mantle	Lady's Mantle	Cream to Yellow	May-June	6"-8"	Perennial
506	Our Lady's Candle	Great Mullein	Yellow	June-August	24"-72"	Biennial
404	Mary's Gold	French Marigold	Yellow to Orange	June-Sept.	16"	Annual
401	Mary's Bud	Pot Marigold	Yellow to Orange	June-Sept.	12"-24"	Annual
701	Lily-of-the-Valley	Lily-of-the-Valley	White	April-May	5"-10"	Perennial
704	Madonna Lily	Madonna Lily	Waxy White	June	24"-48"	Perennial
104	Our Lady's Fingers	Honeysuckle	Yellowish White	June-July	Climbing	Perennial
618	Our Lady by-the-Gate	Soapwort	Pinkish White	July-August	18"-30"	Perennial
412	Our Lady's Delight	Pansy	Varied	April-Sept.	7"	Bien.-Ann.
413	Our Lady's Delight	Johnny Jump-Up	Blue, White & Yellow	April-Sept.	7"	Bien.-Ann.
601	Our Lady's Shoes	Columbine	Varied	May	24"	Perennial
406	St. Joseph's Staff	Hollyhock	Varied	June-Sept.	72"	Bien.-Ann.

FOR PARTIAL SHADE

208	Our Lady of the Snow	Lady of the Snow	Purple	April	6"	Perennial
505	Eyes of Mary	Forget-Me-Not	Blue	April	12"	Biennial
811	Our Lady's Wedding	Wild Sweet William	Blue, Blue-Pink	May	10"	Perennial
212	Our Lady's Cushion	Rockfoil	Violet to Rose-Purple	May	6"	Perennial
614	Madonna's Herb	Kenilworth Ivy	Lilac-Blue	June	3"	Perennial
806	Our Lady's Eardrops	Garden Fuchsia	Red and Purple	May-Sept.	12"-36"	Perennial
205	Our Lady's Keys	Cowslip Primrose	Yellow	April	8"	Perennial
103	Christ's Mass Rose	Christmas Rose	White	Feb.-March	12"	Perennial
702	Candle Mass Bells	Snow-Drop	White	March	6"-9"	Perennial
210	Our Lady's Smock	Cuckoo-Pint	White	April	10"	Perennial
813	Our Lady's Seal	Solomon's Seal	White	May	36"	Perennial
213	Our Lady's Seal	False Solomon's Seal	Creamy White	May	12"-36"	Perennial
214	Our Lady of the Meadow	Meadowsweet	White	June	24"-48"	Perennial
809	Assumption Lily	Funkia	Waxy White	August	12"-20"	Perennial
802	Our Lady's Fern	Lady-Fern	Green	May-Oct.	18"	Perennial

THE STEWARD

Gardening, properly understood, is a work of stewardship for the riches and artistry bestowed upon us by God, our loving and provident Creator. Therein lies its true dignity and meaning.

Seeds, plants, blossoms are of God's established order. With true understanding of and humble submission to the principles of that order, the steward can tend his garden with confidence, peace and joy.

The good and faithful steward, therefore, first gains understanding of God's ordering of nature. He then orders his own garden in the light of that understanding . . . ever directing his work not only to the garden itself but first and last to the greater glory of God.

PHILOSOPHY

Compose your design according to the centuries-old norms of beauty set forth by the scholastic theologians of the Church: *Integrity*—the reflection of God's unity and being in completeness and wholeness (of the garden form); *Proportion*—the reflection of the justice, harmony and peace of the Trinity in order and fitness (of the garden parts); and *Clarity*—the brilliance, luminosity and splendor of God's beauty shining through His creatures (the plants

and blooms, and their composition) . . . giving light and joy to souls, and enkindling them to love.

Plant your seedlings (or seeds) according to your design; giving them loving care. And as they mature and bloom — bringing substance to your vision — rejoice that God's work and yours have been united in your garden, as in the gardens of others, in praise of Our Blessed Lady, the "Flower of flowers."

Mary's Gardens, begun early in 1951, is an apostolic work undertaken by two Philadelphia Catholic laymen aided by lay assistants who freely give their time. The Mary's Gardens Catalog offers seeds, bulbs, plants, shrines; gardening instruction; information on the Mary's Gardens idea and movement; notes on the origin of Mary names of numerous plants.

Mary's Gardens Catalog.....25 cents

Single copies of this Guide.....20 cents

MARY'S GARDENS, 901-C S. 47th St., Phila. 43, Pa.

HONORING MARY WITH GOD'S ARTISTRY

by
John S. Stokes, Jr.



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HONORING MARY WITH GOD'S ARTISTRY

In this season of garden planning and seed catalogs, Mr. Stokes reminds us that a garden can be a fertile Christian apostolate and a special means of honoring Our Lady. The project, called Mary's Gardens, was begun to bring men closer to the earth where they can observe the blight of Adam's curse each autumn and the forecast of our common glorious resurrection each spring. Here Mr. Stokes describes the purpose and plan of such a garden.

By John S. Stokes, Jr.

Let us dedicate our garden to Mary!

The final cause of the garden will be the greater glory of God, the honor of Our Lady, the service of our neighbor, and our sanctification — as distinct from the usual secular goal of delightful garden appearance, effect or "pictures" intended only for the pleasure of the observer.

The material cause of the garden will consist entirely or predominantly of flowers and plants associated with Our Lady in ages-old popular religious tradition.

And we, the efficient cause, the garden stewards, will undertake our labor prayerfully, zealously and with a willingness to make sacrifices — instead of with a view only to the most pleasing effect with the least work.

As a whole and in its parts Our Lady's Garden is to convey the profound sense of love and devotion which centuries ago prompted Christian peoples to associate certain flowers with her: both in the exalted manner in which the Madonna Lily (*Lilium candidum*) was conceived to symbolize the purity of her body and soul after her Assumption into heaven; and also in the intimacy with which she was recalled in the familiar, every-day aspects of her life, as attested by flowers such as Our Lady's Thimble (*Campanula rotundifolia*) and Our Lady's Cushion (*Armeria maritima*).

Just as Mary is the way to Christ, so, too, is the beauty of her garden to lead souls to contemplation of God's beauty. To

this end we are to employ in the design of Our Lady's garden the principles of beauty set forth as norms in the composition of works of art by the theologians of the Church: namely, *integrity, proportion and clarity.*

INTEGRITY

The first means to garden integrity is the selection and the enclosure of the garden site. The site itself must meet plant cultural requirements of sun and moisture. A suitable enclosure can be developed from walls, fences, hedges, trees, shrubs, etc. It should give the garden a definite, distinct, self-contained form in relation to its surroundings; yet at the same time it is to permit and enhance the view of the garden from our own and our neighbors' windows, doors and porches. The enclosure is also to serve as a frame or background for the garden plants and blooms.

A second means to garden integrity is the selection of major and minor axes which establish the over-all divisions and parts of the garden space within which the bed and planting arrangements are subsequently to be worked out. Such axes are usually defined at each end by suitable objects, such as a doorway, gate or terrace of the house on the one hand, and garden furniture, pools, statuary, trees or shrubs on the other.

A third means to garden integrity is the establishment of a focal point or center of interest in relation to which the garden beds and plants are to be ordered. Such a focal point can be either terminal: at the end of a major axis, or central: at the intersection of two axes. A statue or shrine of Our Lady is a fitting terminal focal point.

On the other hand, a pool or fountain or statue which can be viewed favorably from all sides is suitable for a central as well as a terminal location.

In the garden, the focal point is the center and essence of its integrity and being



— as is the heart in the body, the hearth in the home, the altar in the church, and the Church in the world. Before original sin, the First Garden was comprised of the Central Tree and the Four Rivers, with no enclosure or boundary; afterwards it was enclosed by the fiery circle of flaming swords of the Cherubim to protect its treasures from fallen and unredeemed man. In Our Lady's garden, Mary, Mediatrix of all grace, is the center and "Tree of Life." Her garden, too, is a "Garden Enclosed," but its enclosing circle is broken by the entrance or gate . . . through which redeemed man is invited to proceed to the Center; and through which he goes out to the world, restoring all things in Christ.

PROPORTION

While the establishment of garden integrity is largely an ordering of line and

space in terms of a given site, the composition of a proportioned, harmonious and fit bed and planting arrangement within the basic plan requires an intimate knowledge of the characteristics of the individual flowers of Our Lady.

Many flowers were associated with Our Lady because, taken individually as found in field, they recalled her attributes, mysteries or possessions. In the garden, therefore, they are preferably placed in smaller beds which give best display to the individual plants. Also, many are the more dainty, minute, delicate and "feminine" varieties, and for this reason, too, they are best suited to smaller beds. Hence, from a consideration of Our Lady's flowers we establish the specification that the individual garden beds should be as small as is consistent with simplicity and the proportion of the basic design.

Given the scale of the beds, the steward-artist is then free to compose their forms and relationships within the organization of the enclosure and axes. The first consideration here is that they maintain garden integrity by giving proper emphasis and support to the focal point and axes. A second is that due attention be given to "circulation": the path or paths which the visitor may follow as he enters, moves through and lingers in the garden. A third is that the individual beds be given harmonious variation, rhythm and sequence — not to delight the senses with variety and contrast, but to show forth the many-faceted proportion and harmony of Creation, which mirror the infinite harmony, justice, concord, peace and beauty of God.

Blossom color, too, should support the overall garden composition. Here cultural knowledge of each of Our Lady's flowers is particularly important, as we must deal not only with color, size and form, but also with season, duration and sequence of bloom. Unless it is feasible to make plant substitutions throughout the year at different seasons of bloom (which should be given consideration in respect to the planting at the focal point), the fact must be accepted that most varieties of Our Lady's flowers, as of flowers generally,

bloom for only two to eight weeks of the year, in their respective seasons. In composing blossom color, therefore, the garden must be envisaged and planned month by month through spring, summer and fall . . . with reliance upon the basic design and bed arrangement for continuity of integrity and harmony, and utilization of blooms for successive and changing harmonious accents within this continuity.

CLARITY

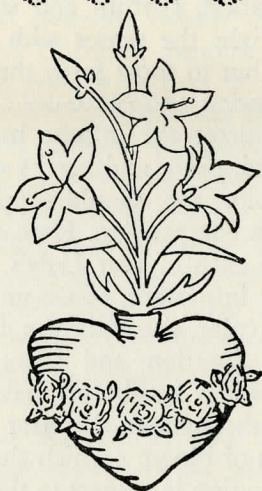
Integrity and proportion are achieved by the definite and harmonious ordering of garden enclosure, axes, focal point, beds, plants and blooms; clarity is of a different order. Clarity is not so much the result of *our* sense of being, form, order, fitness, proportion, balance and harmony as it is a participation in the brilliance, illumination, light or splendor of the *divine* essence, mystery or innermost being of things. Although sensible integrity, harmony and brilliance may delight the senses, clarity is the sublime intelligibility of beauty which gives light and joy to the soul. Beauty is "the splendor of form shining on the proportioned parts of matter."

Clarity, therefore, is not the fruit of rules or techniques, but of *vision*. It comes of loving and prayerful contemplation of God, God's Creation and compositions of

Creation's beauty in works of art — as well as from talent and the development of the artistic virtues and habits. The lily, the rose, the carnation and others of Our Lady's flowers are themselves exemplars from the hand of the Divine Artist — which leave us humbled.

It may take years or a lifetime of composition and re-composition to acquire the vision, and the intimate knowledge of plants and blooms which can result in a garden masterpiece. Yet by gaining understanding of the basic principles of integrity, proportion and clarity, and by devotedly applying them to the arrangement of plants in the garden, the loving steward can, in the first few years, impart to his Mary-Garden the quality of reverence worthy of Our Blessed Lady, the Mystical Rose, in whose name it is undertaken.

But it is most important of all that the work be undertaken prayerfully. To this end the flowers of Our Lady which compose the garden mosaic, offer a harvest of loving and devotional meanings — which for a time were permitted to drop into obscurity — but now they reveal themselves anew in full vigor, offering souls a nourishment which seems to be enriched in value by having been enveloped in the silence of the centuries.



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