

Better
Homes
and Gardens

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herb gardening

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Wagon wheel herb garden



Whether you have a large planting space or a small one,

a circular bed is the ideal shape for an herb garden. This multisectioned bed offers enough space to grow ample amounts of your favorite herbs. Plus, a mix of annual and perennial flowers keeps the bed beautiful all summer long.

This raised bed can sit just steps away from your back door and supply you with herbs for spring, summer, and autumn meals. If you plant perennial herbs, such as thyme, oregano, and chives, you won't have to replant every spring—which makes this garden both economical and low maintenance.

Round herb beds are easy to make. Choose a site (make sure it receives at least six to eight hours of sun a day). Figure out approximately where the center of the bed will be, and pound a stake into the ground there, creating a pivot point. Measure a length of string a foot longer than half the size of the bed (for example, if you

want a 6-foot circle, measure off a 4-foot length of string). Tie one end of the string to the post. With a can of spray paint in hand, pull the string taut and walk around a circle at the end of it, painting a circle on the ground.

Each bed in this radial design uses the repetition of a few plant species, which helps to unify the beds. Repeating a dominant color, such as chartreuse, or a broader texture emphasizes the effect and makes the garden feel more cohesive. The rigid geometric shapes and construction of the bed provide a satisfying visual contrast for the loose, relaxed planting.

Adding a brick walkway gives permanent infrastructure to the bed so that it looks beautiful in all seasons. The triangular beds are accessible for planting from both the pathways and outer perimeter.

Opposite: This easy-to-plant herb garden gets its great structure from a classic circle—with a round water feature as a focal point.



PLANT LIST

- A. 5 Magnus purple coneflowers** (*Echinacea purpurea* 'Magnus') Zones 2-9
- B. 1 Silver Mound artemisia** (*Artemisia schmidtiana* 'Silver Mound') Zones 3-9
- C. 4 Becky shasta daisies** (*Leucanthemum* 'Becky') Zones 4-10
- D. 9 Seapewts** (*Saponaria ocymoides*) Zones 3-7
- E. 9 Hidcote lavenders** (*Lavandula angustifolia* 'Hidcote') Zones 5-9
- F. 3 Mountain bleats** (*Centaurea montana*) Zones 3-8
- G. 7 Georgia Blue speedwells** (*Veronica umbrosa* 'Georgia Blue') Zones 4-9
- H. 6 Bertram Anderson sedums** (*Sedum* 'Bertram Anderson') Zones 3-9
- I. 4 Woodland forget-me-nots** (*Myosotis sylvatica*) Zones 3-8
- J. 2 Olympic mulleins** (*Verbascum olympicum*) Zones 8-10
- K. 3 Lady's mantles** (*Alchemilla mollis*) Zones 4-8
- L. 1 Palace Purple coral bells** (*Heuchera* 'Palace Purple') Zones 4-8
- M. 3 Cambridge geraniums** (*Geranium xcantabrigiense* 'Cambridge') Zones 4-8
- N. 5 Lemon thymes** (*Thymus xcitriodorus*) Zones 5-9
- O. 2 Woolly thymes** (*Thymus pseudolanuginosus*) Zones 4-9
- P. 4 Plum Pudding coral bells** (*Heuchera* 'Plum Pudding') Zones 4-8
- Q. 1 Berggarten sage** (*Salvia officinalis* 'Berggarten') Zones 6-9
- R. 1 Tricolor sage** (*Salvia officinalis* 'Tricolor') Zones 6-9
- S. 3 Spike gayfeathers** (*Liatris spicata*) Zones 3-10
- T. 1 Southern Charm mullein** (*Verbascum* 'Southern Charm') Zones 6-8
- U. 3 Chives** (*Allium schoenoprasum*) Zones 3-10
- V. 1 Russian sage** (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) Zones 4-10
- W. 6 Marguerite daisies** (*Argyranthemum frutescens*) Zones 7-11
- X. 4 Fringed Moeding hearts** (*Dicentra eximia*) Zones 3-10
- Y. 12 Ageratum** (*Ageratum houstonianum*) Annual
- Z. 4 Rue** (*Ruta graveolens*) Zones 4-9
- AA. 3 Oreganos** (*Origanum vulgare*) Zones 5-10
- BB. 4 Marguerite sweet potato vines** (*Ipomoea batatas* 'Marguerite') Annual
- CC. 2 Lamb's-ears** (*Stachys byzantina*) Zones 4-10
- DD. 16 Blue salvias** (*Salvia farinacea*) Annual
- EE. 5 Blackie sweet potato vines** (*Ipomoea batatas* 'Blackie') Annual

