

Rockdale Garden: Idea and Inspiration

Amanda Hopkins 08.03.2022

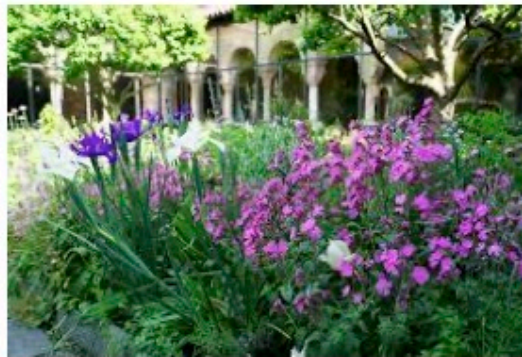
The intention behind the Rockdale garden is for a design that should both appeal to the senses and also be uplifting. It is also to enhance and reinforce a sense of community amongst staff and residents alike.

With that in mind, the Rockdale garden takes as its inspiration the garden of an earlier form of community, the communal gardens of medieval monasteries. These served both the monks and the larger local communities around them. In monasteries formal gardens were created using well-ordered rectangular raised beds and each bed served a particular purpose.

For example, a physic (medicinal) garden would contain plants for medicinal use; another bed would contain culinary herbs for use in the monastery's kitchen. Other beds would contain vegetables and fruits. Finally the Sacristan beds contained flowers chosen for their scent and colour used for decoration and thanksgiving.

The idea of beds with particular purposes is followed through and provides the narrative for this design.

The colour scheme throughout is purple/pink with dashes of yellow (picking up on the gold and purple theme mentioned by `Annette). Plants for each bed are shown.



Bed 1: Medicinal

Trees/shrubs

Prunus accolade (flowers April)

Taxus baccata

Perennials

Betonica officinalis 'Hummelo': 500x500mm, full sun partshade/June-Sept

Geranium 'Light Dilys' 300x300mm, sun/partial shade, May-Sept

Nepeta x faassenii, 400x600, June-Sptember, sun/part shade

Erigeron karvinskianus

Artemisia 'Powis Castle', 900x500, August, full sun

Lychnis coronaria (rose campion) 500x500x

Bulbs underplanted:

Underplanted with *Crocus vernus* 'Vanguard' (flower Feb-March)

Colchicum Autumnale Album (autumn flowering crocus)



Bed 2: Making/weaving

Trees/shrubs

Cornus sericea Flaviramea: winter interest stems plus white flowers and foliage
Taxus baccata

underplanting

Helleborous 'Walberton's Rosemary' (Jan/Feb/March)

Bulbs

spring flowering:

Underplanted with *Crocus vernus* 'Vanguard' (flower Feb-March)

Autumn flowering:

Colchicum Autumnale Album (autumn flowering crocus group/pale mauve)



Bed 3: Summer Sacristan

Trees/shrubs

Taxus bacatta

Perennials

Campanula portenschlagiana (trailing bell flower) june-sept

Rosa Scarborough Fair (June)

Eragrostis spectabilis (purple love grass)

Salvia nemorosa caradonna (mid june onwards, 500x300mm)

Phlomis Tuberosa Amazone 1100x600, full sun/part shade, summer + winter interest

Geranium 'Bill Wallis'

Bulbs:

Underplanted with Crocus vernus 'Vanguard' (flower Feb-March)

allium sphaerocephalon (early summer, 700mm)



Bed 4: Pollinators/reproduction

Trees/shrubs

Taxus (yew)

Apple cordons (columnar) good pollinators and nice for the children to see fruit growing.

Perennials/annuals

Hotter colours and bee friendly plants to draw the eye to end of the garden and encourage residents to walk down to the furthest point.

Monarda didyma 'Cambridge Scarlet' Summer/autumn)

Scabiosa 'Butterfly Blue' (flower June-Aug, 40x40cm, full sun)

Aster tongolensis 'Berggarten' June till first frost
600x400mm

Hylotelephium 'Autumn Joy' (Sedum)

Bulbs:

Underplanted with Crocus vernus 'Vanguard' (flower Feb-March)



Bed 5: Spring Sacristan

Emphasis on Spring, seen from window and door to residents' sitting room

Structure

prunus accolade

Taxus (yew) -

Rosemary

Santolina

As prunus grows the bed will become more shady

Prunus accolade blossom



Perennials

Iris and tulips planted in small groups between later flowering plants to hide dead foliage:

Convallaria majalis

Tulip 'Van De Neer' (early flowering)

Helleborus 'Walberton's Rosemary' (Jan/Feb/March)

Monarda fistulosa (wild bergamot) (late summer, 800mm, scented)

Erigeron (may-October)

Trailing bell flower

Iris sibirica 'Caesar's Brother'

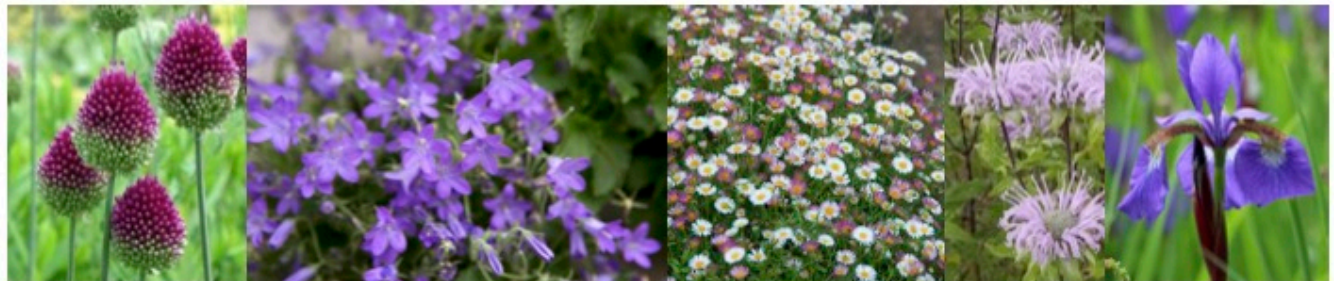


Bulbs:

Underplanted with Crocus vernus 'Vanguard' (flower Feb-March)

allium sphaerocephalon (flowers late spring early summer)

Autumn flowering crocus



Bed 6: Herbal

NOTE:

Bed should have a gravel mulch and surface to work with the pebbles and stone of the water feature and to help the herbs establish.

Also more soil will need to be ordered more soil to top up planters

Trees/shrubs

Taxus (yew)

Santolina pinnata Neapolitana

Monarda fistulosa (wild bergamot) (late summer, 800mm, scented)

Chives

Origanum vulgare (wild oragano/marjoram) or dwarf sage (salvia)

Rosemarius officianalis prostratus (prostrate rosemary)

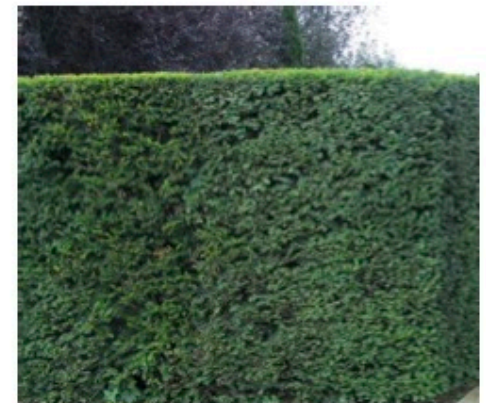
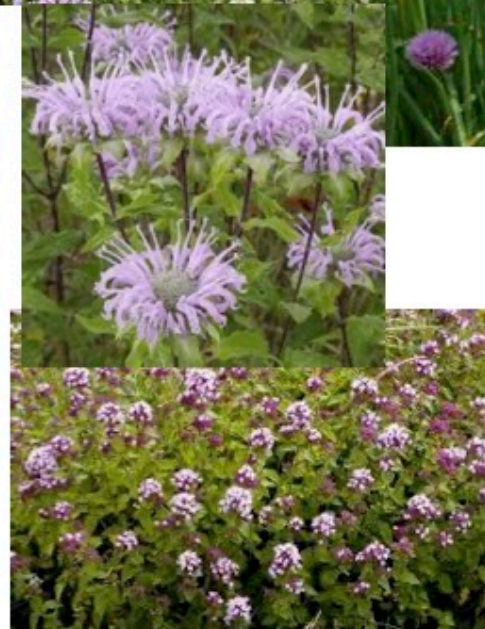
Thymus vulgaris

Thymus 'Sliver Posie' (lemon scented)

Erigeron karvinskianus

Bulbs

Underplanted with Crocus vernus 'Vanguard' (flower Feb-March)



Bed 7: Kitchen

Trees/shrubs:

taxus (yew)

Sweet peas

Red geraniums (grown in pots)

Apple cordons (columnar)

Parsley

Wild strawberries



Red geraniums to be grown in pots so they can be overwintered indoors

