

My Garden

The garden does not appear at first sight to be very big. But although the actual vegetable garden is quite small, it's amazing how much I'm able to produce from it. Furthermore, there are fruit trees lining the edge of the backyard which provide me with fresh apples, pears and even cherries.

Herb garden

Tending to the herb garden is one of my favorite hobbies. It is situated near the terrace leading from the kitchen. I have basil, rosemary, thyme, dill, oregano and many more wonderful spices used in cooking and baking. I allow these plants to grow wild and I especially like the look of the herbs sprouting up between rocks and next to wildflowers.

Vegetable Garden

The vegetable garden is not at ground level, instead I have raised the garden beds to make the weeding and harvesting easier. In my garden, I have only planted vegetables which are not used in large quantities, thereby I'm able to produce more than enough for my needs. For example:

• Radishes

• Zucchini

• Onions

• Rhubarb

Fruit

Next to the vegetable beds are a few currant and blackcurrant bushes. Next to the rhubarb I have also planted a strawberry bed, covered with net to keep the birds and insects from sampling the delicious berries. On the far end of the yard there are also a few wild blackberry bushes.

An overview of the fruit harvests from previous years (pounds):

My House - Fruit

<i>Fruit</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>
Blackcurrant	6,2	2,8	4,4	8,0
Redcurrant	2,5	2,6	2,2	4,5
Strawberries	12,0	6,9	6,1	8,8
Cherries	6,0	6,1	6,2	6,3
Apples	19,8	18,5	18,4	21,0



Trees

Besides the above-mentioned fruit trees, I also have several ornamental trees and plants to create a decoratively landscaped yard. Following are some of the types of trees planted here:

Coniferous Trees

- Pines
- Douglas Fir
- Spruce

Deciduous Trees

- Oak
- Chestnut
- Beech

Garden Shed

Behind the carport, on the left side of the house, is a garden shed. The carport and the shed are both made of dark wood. It's big enough to store the tools, garden furniture, lawnmower and bicycles.

Tools

All my tools are kept together with small parts such as nails, screws and bolts in a toolbox. Among other things, the toolbox contains diverse pliers, screwdrivers and wrenches. Larger tools such as saws or the drill hang on the wall or from the workbench, such as the hammer and axe.

Garden Tools

The lawnmower, hedge-clippers and rake are necessary tools for maintaining the lawn and the trees. A small pick and shovel complete the collection of garden tools.

Greenhouse

A small greenhouse is also part of my garden. This is where the tomatoes and seedlings are grown. The greenhouse is very small, just big enough for one person to enter, but not big enough to stand in.

Flowers

Various types of flowers are planted in the garden. In each flowerbed I have planted an assortment of seeds which bloom at different times of the year. This creates a colorful arrangement and is, in my opinion, more pleasing to the eye than distinct rows of each type of flower. Some of the flowers which can be found here are:

Irises

Dahlias

Daffodils

My House - Flowers

Rhododendrons

Chrysanthemums

Yard

The backyard offers a good deal of privacy thanks to the trees lining the sides of the property. Among the trees is also a small fish pond, and one of my favorite pastimes is watching the brightly-colored goldfish and a few small treefrogs. Directly in front of the terrace is the lawn where I set out the lawn furniture in the summertime. I also have a grill for barbecue parties and a custom-designed outdoor fireplace.