

Theme Garden Idea Starters

Gardening is a great activity for all ages. Gardens can be simple or elaborate - choose the best options for your interest, time and space. In this list, some of the gardens have edible plants, some focus on learning; some are for beautification and most are for sharing. What will you grow?

Alphabet Garden with a plants from A through Z	Literature or Storybook Garden based on favorites
Butterfly Garden with food and cover for caterpillars and butterflies in Ohio, especially Monarchs	Market Garden to consider and plan garden sales
Cereal Bowl ingredients like corn, wheat and oats	Moon Garden enjoy after the sun goes down
Chocolate Garden cocoa beans won't grow in Ohio but plants have names, colors or smell like chocolate	Natural Plant Dyes for projects. Plant dyes will often be variations of yellows, oranges, greens & browns.
Companion Plants vegetables that grow together and make the most of the garden space	Native Plants Garden "right plant in the right spot" makes a beautiful and easier garden
Container Vegetable Gardening choose vegetable varieties and container sizes to grow vegetables	Perennial Garden plants that return year after year, often flowers but also asparagus, rhubarb, chives ...
Container Water Garden try a container instead of a permanent pond	Playspace Garden plan for rooms like a bean pole tepee or a sunflower house
Cut Flowers annuals, perennials and bulbs to design beautiful arrangements	Rain Garden a beautiful garden that also promotes natural stormwater management
Dinosaur Garden or other miniature play pieces	Rainbow Garden grow a full rainbow of vegetables or flowers or grow a garden of all one color
Edible Flowers for salads, desserts and decoration	Rock Garden ideal for slopes or rocky terrain and can also be grown in small areas or containers
Everlasting Garden flowers that can be harvested and dried to use for arrangements and crafts	Salad Table or Salad Box building plans for special salad container gardens
Fairy Garden or miniature garden might include miniature plants, decorations and charms	Season Extenders like cold frames, cloches, row covers, etc. Start the vegetable garden earlier in the cool springtime and extend it further into fall.
Fall Vegetable Garden some vegetables prefer the cooler temperatures of spring and fall and can be planted again in late summer for a fall crop	Square Foot Garden a garden design plan that maximizes limited space for an abundant harvest
Garden Clock plan to plant flowers that open and close at different times of the day	Sunflower Power lots of varieties of sunflowers
Herb Garden great way to season your plate	Tea Garden herbs for hot or iced tea
International Garden inspired by garden designs and flavors from around the world	Underground Root Vegetable Garden use loamy, rich soil to grow a variety of underground vegetables
Indoor Kitchen Scrap Garden from fruit and vegetable seeds, tops and roots	Wildlife Garden offer food, water, cover, place to raise young for local wildlife
Recipe Gardens plants are chosen and the garden is designed by the common ingredients of recipes. Try the following Recipe Gardens: Salsa , Basil Pesto , French Fries (potatoes and tomatoes for ketchup), Cracker Jacks (popcorn and peanuts) and Pizza . Can you grow ingredients in Ohio for your favorite family recipe?	

For links to sources and additional information, find this handout online at <http://go.osu.edu/gardenthemes> Although all the links are useful for gardening, a few of the sources are from other parts of the country and may need some adaptations for the Ohio growing season.

