

# Storybook Garden

## Licking County Master Gardener Volunteers Learning Center for Gardening



Our Storybook Garden is a themed cottage garden with many cutting flowers. There are no 'rules' for cottage gardens although many folks intend for their cottage garden to provide cut flowers and vegetables through the growing season. Our cottage garden is set up to inspire children. This year's theme, Neverland, is based on the book and play "Peter Pan; or, the Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up" by J.M. Barrie.

The fun of the Storybook garden is to allow children to enjoy the flowers while they roleplay characters including Peter Pan, Captain Hook, Tiger Lily, Wendy, Tinkerbell and for a brief time, a very young Michael. The characters share pixie dust necklaces. Surrounding our pirate ship are flowers in shades of blue that convey water. Included in our garden is Wendy's 'wire house,' Tinkerbell's home (in the bird cage), Captain Hook's ship, and a crocodile!

### WHAT GROWS HERE

Our storybook garden mostly has annual flowers, selected for blooms that attract pollinating bees and butterflies. Flower varieties were also chosen because they are typically grown in cutting gardens and because some bloom from early to late summer and others in late summer until a fall frost.

Our annuals include Benary Giant Zinnias (mixed colors), gomphrena (also known as globe amaranth), alyssum, snapdragons, Blue Moon hyacinths (they cover the wire house), Victoria blue statice, ageratum, red amaranth, and sunflowers.

Perennials grow here, too, including spiderwort, daisies, lamb's ear, and green-headed cone flowers as well as a gooseberry bush and a currant bush. The flowers' growth this year is bit behind as the summer heat has been stressful for them.

### HOW WE GROW IT

Most of the flowers were grown from seed in our new polyhouse. The snapdragon seeds and the hyacinths were planted in March as they take 12 weeks to be large enough to transplant in May. The Zinnias, however were sown in mid-April, to transplant by the last day of the spring frost, May 21st.

### Resources

<https://henderson.ces.ncsu.edu/2021/04/developing-a-cottage-garden/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter\\_and\\_Wendy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_and_Wendy)