

one step further. While naturalists always recommend native plants as a draw for wildlife, Geoff recognised that his **ornamental gardens** didn't lack for **insects** or **birds**, and so he didn't have to limit himself to native species. Moreover, ornamental plants and vegetables were his twin passions and he couldn't see why he shouldn't mix the two together in a creative design, rather than hide all the vegetables away at the bottom of the garden. Thus he developed the idea of the **ornamental kitchen garden** as seen in his book and TV series.

The ornamental kitchen garden at Manor Heath was designed to be a **cornucopia** of garden features co-existing in an area probably **smaller** than many back gardens. Those familiar with Geoff ideas will appreciate the **aim** of the garden to be **productive** while at the same time delighting with **blossoms, scents, and colours**. Built in 1993, it has plantings of **scented shrubs, perennials, and climbers** with space and opportunity for **interplanting** with **vegetables**. The **informality** of the planting style attracts useful insects as **pest predators** into the garden with the aim of producing a **balanced** community. **Keyhole beds** and an **herb spiral** add innovations from **Permaculture**, while a pond, rockery, bench seat, compost bin, and leafmold heap represent the more orthodox.

The south border was filled with plants from just two families: the **Boraginaceae** (such as comfrey and borage) and the **Leguminosae** (nitrogen fixers). Originally intended to provide material for **cuttable mulch** and **liquid feeds**, it has developed into an extremely attractive border that brings in many **insects**. The early plantings of **perennial legumes** such as lupins and goat's rue have been found **less able** to **compete** with the **bullies** of the **Boraginaceae**, leaving the more vigorous lucerne, crown vetch and perennial sweet pea to survive against the backdrop of the brooms (*cytisis*). Among the borage family there is lungwort (*Pulmonaria*), green alkanet (*Pentaglottis*) *Trachystemon*, and dwarf comfrees of various flower colours, as well as the tall Bocking comfrey.

Small gardens need careful **management** so that they don't **outgrow** their space.

Perennials need occasional **lifting** and **dividing** and the **woody** plantings (shrubs and trees) need a **pruning** program. Sometimes, the **courage** has to be found to **remove** a shrub and think carefully before replacing it.

SHRUBS	Variety	Flowering Period	Scent
ARTEMISIA	<i>A. abotanum</i>	-	✓
BUDDLEIA	<i>B. davidii</i> 'Border Beauty'	Jul - Sept	✓✓
LAVATERA	<i>L. olbia</i> 'Rosea'	Jul - Oct	
MAHONIA	<i>M. X media</i> 'Winter Sun'	Nov - Jan	✓
	<i>M. japonica</i> 'Bealei'	Jan - Apr	✓✓✓
PHILADELPHUS	<i>P.</i> 'Mont Blanc'	Jun - Jul	✓✓
SKIMMIA	<i>S. japonica</i> 'Rubella'	Apr - May	✓✓
VIBURNUM	<i>V. X burkwoodii</i>	Jan - May	✓
WILLOW	<i>Salix alba</i> 'Chermisina'	Mar	
WINTER JASMINE	<i>J. nudiflorum</i>	Nov - Feb	

FRUIT	
APPLE	James Grieses (D, espalier, PSF, M, SEPT)
BLACKBERRY	Merton Thornless, <i>Ribes fruticosus</i> (wild)
LOGANBERRY	Thornless
RASPBERRY	Malling Jewel
STRAWBERRY	Cambridge Favourite
BLACKCURRANT	Baldwin



SEASONAL VEGETABLES			
KEY HOLE BEDS - Three-course rotation			SPOT PLANTING
Potatoes	Legumes	Brassicas	Roots/Onions
Duke of York	Broad Bean	Cabbages	Beetroot
Portland Black	Peas	Calabrese	Shallots
Pink Fir Apple	Dwarf beans	Curly Kale	Onion sets
Romano			Garlic

HERBS - in herb spiral		
Rosemary	Sages	Feverfew
Thymes	Marjorams	Chives

PERENNIAL FLOWERS		
Aquilegia	<i>Eryngium planum</i>	Hyacinth
Golden rod	Lady's mantle	Telima
Holly hock	Doronicum	Daffodil
<i>Sedum spectabile</i>	Musk mallow	Helibore
<i>Veronica spicata</i>	<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>	<i>Lysimachia punctata</i>
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	<i>Chelone obliqua</i>	<i>Veronica teucrium</i>

THE LEGUME/BORAGE BORDER (cuttable mulch)	
Boraginaceae	Leguminosae
<i>Symphitum</i> spp. (comfrey)	Lupin
<i>Pulmonaria</i> spp. (lungwort)	Lucerne
<i>Trachystemon orientalis</i>	Crown vetch
<i>Myosotis</i> (forgetmenot)	Perennial sweatpea
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Essex Red clover
<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	<i>Galega officinalis</i>
<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>	<i>Cytisus</i> spp. (brooms)

POND and SURROUNDING AREA			
Mimulus	Elodea (pond weed)	<i>Veronica gentiodes</i>	Marsh marigold
Water lily	Water speedwell	<i>Polygonum campanulatum</i>	Pendulous sedge