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Building A Garden From Nothing At All

By Samuel Murray

Gardening doesn't have to be an expensive hobby. Some of the most beautiful gardens I've ever

grown cost me nothing but sweat and sore muscles - and paid off with the kind of satisfaction you'll never get from a paid-for landscape. Throughout the spring and summer, I have the pleasure of tending the miniature rose bush I got for Mother's Day six years ago, the Virginia bluebells that grew in my mother's garden, the border of hostas that my son dug up from behind a neighboring store (with the store owner's permission, of course!) It is a found garden - a friendship garden - a special garden that was never planned, and is all the more beautiful because of it.

Building a Found Garden takes a bit of foresight - but just a bit. To start, you'll need three things:

A Sunny Spot In Your Yard

Location is everything. Find a spot in your yard that gets plenty of sun during the day - at least 6-8 hours of full sun is ideal. If you don't have a spot like that, though, you can work around it by being careful in your selection of plants. If the spot you want to fill with flowers is shady, look in other shady gardens for plants that do well in the shade.

Simple Garden Tools

A spade and a rake are all the tools you'll need to get your garden going. If you're really skimping it, and only can afford one tool - get a 4-tine pitchfork. It's one of the most versatile gardening tools ever created. You can loosen and turn soil with it, shake out the biggest of the rocks, and even use it to mound earth for trenches.

Friends, Neighbors and Vacant Lots

The beauty of a found garden is how it grows and what it comes to mean. If a neighbor has a beautiful garden, chances are good that they'd be happy to share a few cuttings for your garden. The woods behind your house or the vacant lot across the street can yield a bumper crop of stones to build walls and borders. Keep your eyes open for plants along the side of the road.

Building A Garden From Nothing At All

Building a Border From Found Materials

Borders and walls are an easy way to set off a flower bed or garden patch from the rest of your yard. You can use broken paving stones, bricks, and construction blocks - any material that is weatherproof. Simply dig a trench around your garden perimeter that is 2–3 inches wider than the base of the stones or bricks, stand them on end, and pack dirt around them.

Acquiring Plants for a Found Garden

If you have gardeners among your acquaintances, you won't have to look far at all for flowers, border plants, bushes and more. If you do your building during "gardening season", you can take advantage of the cultivation efforts of friends and neighbors. If you notice a neighbor out in his garden transplanting or moving plants, don't be shy. Ask for root divisions or cuttings for your own garden. True gardeners

believe in sharing the wealth.

DO NOT dig up plants from public gardens, wildlife sanctuaries, along highways or in public parks. It's illegal in nearly every state, and many states have protected species of flowers and plants. Stick to friends, neighbors and properties whose owners are known to you.

Among the best plants to propagate from root divisions are:

Hosta - Shade-tolerant perennials that make beautiful borders or ground cover, hostas are easily among the most popular border plants in the United States. They spread so easily that gardeners often thin them by root division.

Iris and day lilies - Like hostas, irises and day lilies spread quickly. Gardeners often thin them in the autumn to prepare for a spring growing season, and are nearly always willing to part with a few root divisions. Plant in the fall and let them winter over - they'll bloom in the spring.

Virginia bluebells - Wildly beautiful, the delicate violet flowers of the Virginia bluebell open in the sun, and close in the shade. They also grow like wildfire wherever you plant them.

This article courtesy of

<http://www.bestflowers4u.com>

A Beginners Guide To Garden Bridges

By Charles & Susan Truett

Just because you don't have huge, elaborate gardens does not mean you can't accentuate what you do have with garden bridges. Garden bridges could be just what you need to turn those mediocre garden areas into something quite splendid.

Building A Garden From Nothing At All

Garden bridges can add a touch of country or formal design to a garden. Small garden bridges are easy to find. There are many garden bridges that you can find in garden centers or home improvement centers. One of the best places to find small garden bridges may be online. There are lots of sites that have many ideas for small garden bridges.

If you are good with a hammer and nails you may even be able to make your own garden bridge. Plans are available at building stores and at online sites. You will find many choices for garden bridges at these online sites and you can also see photos of many different bridge styles.

A garden bridge can be a big benefit for your garden space. A small garden bridge will look attractive in a smaller garden and draw attention to a specific area.

You can choose the right small garden bridge if you do a little planning ahead of time. If you have a smaller garden you will want a smaller garden bridge. Look at the space you have and decide where a bridge would fit in. Consider more than one area and then choose your favorite.

There are some lovely gardens that are small in size but large in beauty because garden bridges have been added in just the right places.

We have a large number of styles and varieties of garden bridges available online. For more information and to learn more about

garden bridges

, visit:

[Garden Bridges Online](#)



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