



Garden Clippings



Niagara College Greenhouse Centre Success Sheet No. 42

Plants and Lighting for Night Gardens

White Blooms

White and pale-coloured flowers practically glow in the moonlight. Growing sweet-smelling varieties with white blooms provides a sensual and relaxing night garden.

Annual plants are rapid growers and bloom all season long. Heliotrope, petunias, snapdragons, sweet William, verbena and zinnia are just a few examples of annuals with white flowers. Alyssum and nicotiana are annuals with fragrant, white flowers.

Hundreds of varieties of perennials have white blooms. Common yarrow, hydrangeas, daylilies and phlox are a few that have beautiful white flowers. Shasta daisy and candytuft are perennials that have white blooms and perform well in night gardens.

Vines are an excellent way to add fragrance to your night garden. Wisteria is a hardy vine with showy, pendulous flower clusters that become potently scented at night. Japanese honeysuckle is very simple to grow and is one of the most fragrant vines. Evergreen clematis (*Clematis armadii*) and winter jasmine are other vines that have lovely white blooms and strong fragrance.

Adding white, fragrant flowers to your night garden will create a magical place after dark.

Iridescent Foliage

Plants with grey, silver or white variegated foliage also add interest to a garden at night.

Plants such as ferns and dusty miller add dignity and elegance to a night garden.

Hostas are a great choice for a night garden with their variegated white and green leaves and pale-coloured flowers.

Herbs such as mint, lavender and thyme can be grown in the cracks of a pathway or in containers where their powerful scent and beautiful foliage can be enjoyed.

Iridescent foliage mixed with pale-coloured flowers brightens an area with a reflective glow.

Ambience

Creating a night garden near a patio or seating area provides a relaxing area to entertain friends or to enjoy some quiet time.

Lighting creates drama and can greatly increase the enjoyment of a garden. With proper lighting, the effect of a night garden can be magically enhanced. Low-wattage lighting softly reveals areas of the garden that would otherwise be dark.

In a small night garden, spotlighting two or three features is most effective. Lights can accentuate stylishly shaped plants, a water feature or a garden statue, or create a romantic ambience. Lighting a tree or architectural feature from below will cast enchanting shadows and create a focal point.

Solar-powered lights, candles and torches give off soft romantic light and cost little to run. For more elaborate lighting, you may need to consult a professional.

When thinking about accents for your night garden, consider items that will reflect light. Accessories made from metal, glass, mirror or tile glow under the light of the moon and stars.

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