

KAREN BUSSOLINI GARDEN ARTS, LLC

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Herb Liberation!

A bee-buzzing, sun-soaked garden full of fragrant, healthful herbs and flowers (especially edible ones) is one of life's great sensory pleasures, so release your herbs from the sequestered formal herb garden and embrace their use throughout the landscape in ...

- The mixed perennial border (Bronze fennel, lavenders, dill, sages, chives, anise hyssop, monarda, sweet cicely)
- For long-lasting colored foliage (Perennial 'Berggarten' or golden sage, variegated or golden lemon thyme, self-sowing purple perilla or golden feverfew, tender purple or variegated 'Pesto Perpetuo' basil)
- As a low clipped hedge or parterre (lavender, rosemary) or edging (parsley, basil, chives, nepeta)
- Groundcover (thymes, sweet woodruff, chamomile, strawberry)
- Mingled in the lawn (thymes, mint, pineapple weed)
- Small shrub, tree or topiary (bay laurel, rosemary, lavender, scented geraniums, roses)
- Between stepping stones (low thymes, Corsican mint)
- In containers and window boxes (any combination you can imagine)
- Companion plantings *in* the vegetable garden or orchard (basil and tomatoes, chives and carrots or apple trees, thyme and cabbage)
- Deer-repelling, beneficial insect-attracting border *around* the vegetable garden (Mountain mint, borage, mints, chives)
- On a sunny terrace (Mediterranean herbs: thymes, rosemary, lavender, nepetas, calamintha)
- To hold a slope (winter savory, thymes)
- Annual accents or blast of color (lemon grass, golden pineapple sage, Mexican mint marigold, Signet marigolds, calendula, scented geraniums, breadseed poppies, Nigella sativa, nasturtium, Ammi visnaga)
- Make a big statement (Angelica, lovage)

...and then bring them into the house for seasoning, salad greens and pot herbs, teas, botanical cocktails, fragrance, bouquets and flower arrangements...

Books for reference and inspiration in garden and kitchen

Backyard Foraging by Ellen Zachos (Storey Publishing)

Carrots Love Tomatoes: Secrets of Companion Planting for Successful Gardening by Louise Riotte (Garden Way Publishing)

The Cocktail Hour Garden by C.L. Fornari (St. Lynn's Press)

Edible Flowers: From Garden to Palate by Cathy Wilkinson Barash (Fulcrum Publishing)

Edible Landscaping by Rosalind Creasy (Sierra Club Books)

Elegant Silvers by Jo Ann Gardner and Karen Bussolini (Timber Press)

The Herb Society of America's Encyclopedia of Herbs by Deni Bown (DK)

Herbs in Bloom: A Guide to Growing Herbs as Ornamental Plants by Jo Ann Gardner (Timber)

The Herb Garden Cookbook by Lucinda Hutson (Gulf Publishing Company)

How to Move Like a Gardener: Planting and Preparing Medicines from Plants by Deb Soule (Under the Willow Press, Avena Botanicals, www.avenabotanicals.com)

Landscaping with Herbs by Jim Wilson (Houghton Mifflin)

Mrs. Thrift Cooks by Betsy Williams (Proper Season Press; www.betsywilliams.com)

Planning Your Herbal Wedding by Betsy Williams (Proper Season Press; www.betsywilliams.com)

The Wildcrafted Cocktail by Ellen Zachos (Storey Publishing)

Selected Public Gardens to Visit

Avena Botanicals Biodynamic Gardens and Herbal Apothecary www.avenabotanicals.com

Cape Cod Lavender Farm, Harwich, MA www.capecodlavenderfarm.com

The Coastal Maine Botanical Garden, Boothbay, ME www.mainegardens.org

Cornell Botanic Gardens, Ithaca, NY www.cornellbotanicgardens.org

The Massachusetts Horticultural Society at Elm Bank, Wellesley, MA www.masshort.org

McAshan Herb Gardens, Round Top, TX www.herbsocietypioneer.org/gardens/mcashion-herb-gardens

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska, MN www.arboretum.umn.edu

Strawberry Banke, Portsmouth, NH www.strawberrybanke.org