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## *Add a Little Romance to Your Garden*

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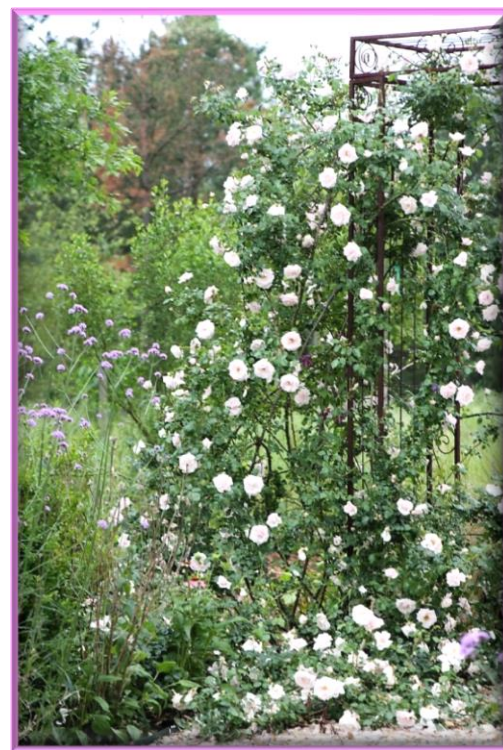
The gardens I enjoy the most have a little bit romance in them. According to the Oxford Dictionary, one of the definitions for romance is: "A quality or feeling of mystery, excitement, and remoteness from everyday life". Does your garden have this quality?

Look around your garden. Does it have pathways that lead out of sight, causing a sense of mystery? Do you have water features such as fountains or ponds that cause a feeling of excitement? Even a dry stream can make the heart race faster, imagining water rushing down it in a storm.

Vines or climbing roses cascading across a fence, over an arbor, or across a pergola, becomes a destination, imparting that "sense of remoteness from everyday life". It is a special surprise, a delight to see, to smell, and to touch. Grasses swaying in the wind is another romantic feature that can be added very easily to your garden. Flowers with big blooms, loads of petals, and seductive scents are another way to add a touch of romance.

Flowering trees, with the added thrill of falling petals, benches on which to perch and enjoy the scenery, even flowers (not weeds) growing with abandon in gravel pathways or sidewalk cracks, can add a sense of romance. Adding butterfly- or hummingbird-attracting plants will make your garden seem mystical when these creatures delight you with their presence.

Large pots overflowing with abundance, overhanging foliage from trees or large plants, interesting foliage patterns that cause you to stop and wonder. All of these are some ways you can add a little romance to your garden.



Every garden needs a sense of mystery and excitement. No matter your garden style, you can find a way to enhance your garden with a touch of romance. When you step into your garden and can linger, feeling the worries and cares of the day vanishing, you know you have achieved that sense of “remoteness from everyday life” that is the hallmark of a romantic garden.

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