

Tips to Garden Large in Small Spaces

A presentation by Joanna Blanchard for the Riverdale Horticultural Society on February 9, 2022

- ✓ Get inspired – look around, go online, go on garden tours
- ✓ Create that "big idea" or theme – choose a style
- Use techniques like:
 - ✓ Dividing the space – create small rooms using screens or trellises
 - ✓ Using long lines – diagonals and curves
 - ✓ Changing levels
 - ✓ Creating a focus or focal point
 - ✓ Using vertical space – pergolas, trellises, obelisks, pillars, hanging baskets
 - ✓ Extending the space – borrow a view, use a mirror, fool the eye
 - ✓ Make your plan – to create a garden that harmonizes with your home, including the right proportions, and that meets your needs
 - ✓ Choose a colour scheme – hot colours jump out, cool colours recede

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- ✓ Make the best use of your small space with intensive planting methods
- ✓ Choose plants with multi-season interest or long blooming periods
- ✓ Don't be afraid of 'statement' plants but remember proportion!
Give plants space to grow
- ✓ Make smart use of containers
- ✓ Include multi-purpose storage
- ✓ And finally - keep it the best it can be through regular maintenance – water deeply, add compost once a year, watch for pests and diseases. Maintain your design, but remember gardens are dynamic – trees grow, or die; your needs change; your tastes change!

Need help?

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Suggested book: 'Small Garden' by John Brooks