



Here are ten simple ways to create a witch garden and to connect with Mother Nature in your yard, on your patio, or even on the windowsill. Whether you're a beginner gardener or a total plant geek, try at least a few of these witch garden ideas to get started! Each step includes a detailed description, and be sure to check out the "Quick Look" for more lists and resources.

## 1. Observe And Learn From Mother Nature

Before starting your witch's garden, take time to learn from nature. Observing and learning from nature is incredibly powerful and incredibly calming at the same time. There are very few ways to spend your time that combine those two feelings in quite the same way. There is something about the way that people connect with plant culture that makes the experience magical. Find a relatively undisturbed area of nature where you can observe the natural goings-on of the environment. If you're in the woods, make note of the way the air feels under the foliage canopy. Look closely at the foliage and the soil. Soak up the overall feeling. The whole place will seem alive and vibrant, even in near-silence. Meditating in nature or simply pausing to enjoy it will help you connect and commune with the incredible energy that it exudes. Carry these vibes into your witch's garden as you create it!

## 2. Learn To Forage And Wildcraft

Another way to connect with nature in preparation for your witchy garden is to see what's already thriving out in the wilderness where you live. Getting to know the plants that are happy to live in your local ecosystem is a key step in planning your witch garden. Think about the things that you already use in your day-to-day life and research what is available in your area to forage and wildcraft. If you're not experienced with foraging local edibles, stick to non-edibles until you can take a course from a local forager or wildcrafting expert. Foraging guides are a great way to start learning about local plants while you prepare for a foraging course. This foraging field guide is particularly gorgeous: Local indigenous groups can be another wonderful source of information for wild plants in your area. Check the library to see if there are any local plant books available, or see if the local band hosts traditional food or medicine workshops. This info will be specifically tailored to your local area and will be full of helpful gems of information. In our area, I love to forage for moss for my floral arrangements and terrariums. I also like to collect little bits like flower seeds to bring back home and observe and grow. If you're foraging off your property, be sure to get prior permission from the landowner or public authority.

## 3. Plant Witch Herbs And Flowers

Once you've taken some time to observe nature, it's

time to pick out some plants to grow in your witch garden. Culinary witch herbs and flowers are a great way to start your garden because they're generally easy to find and grow. It's also safer to grow mainstream culinary herbs and edible flowers before you delve into some of the lesser-known and potentially poisonous witchy plants in the next section. Here are a few great edible culinary witch herbs to try out. Make sure to do your research when buying your seeds or plants to ensure the plant and/or variety you're getting is indeed edible.

A Few Herbs to Grow in Your Witch Garden: sage, mint, rosemary, chives, and thyme.

It is so fun to work with growing the plants that produce some of your favorite essential oils. Edible flowers are also such a pleasure to grow in your witch garden. These beauties are a feast for the eyes and as well as the soul. I put a mix of culinary edible flowers in my salads and gorgeously garnish other meals. They're too pretty not to enjoy!

## 4. Grow Witchy Plants

Before I start this section, I should note that I'm not a trained herbalist. Don't try and eat or use any plants without researching the exact variety and checking with a trained professional. Some of the plants that are considered "witchy plants" are most certainly poisonous! Research the toxicity of each plant you consider for your witch garden prior to planting. If planting poisonous plants, take appropriate measures to protect kids, pets, and onlookers from your witchy garden. Additionally, if planting both edible witch herbs and poisonous plants, ensure the edibles are clearly separated from the toxic plants and are clearly labeled to avoid any confusion. The plants listed below can be considered to be witchy for one reason or another. Growing a plant simply because it's "witchy" isn't the greatest reason to add it to your garden. Choose the plants that you naturally connect with, use regularly, or are interested in.

A Few Witchy Plants (Many of Which Are Poisonous): nettle, calendula, monkshood (Wolf's Bane), foxglove, poppy, nightshades, and mandrake.

When planning your own witch's garden, check the bloom and harvest times for various plants. Some gardeners try to pick a variety of plants that will be interesting at different times throughout the year. Planning your plants so that something is always blooming is a great way to keep visual interest while also supporting pollinator species. Other gardeners try to plan it out so everything can be harvested at once. To each their own!

## 5. Talk To Your Witchy Plants

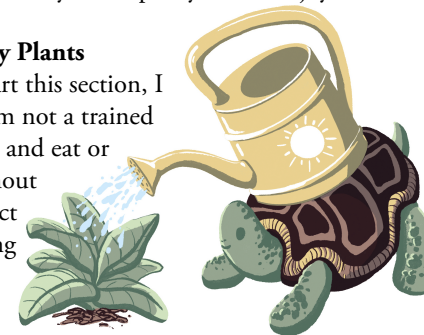
Talking to your plants is actually a pretty common practice among gardeners (not just those with witch gardens). Plants are living things, and although they don't talk back to us in words, they are wise in their own way. If you want to talk to your plants, there is certainly nothing stopping you! Anything that helps you connect positively with nature is worth a try. Try talking to your plants, or even just visiting and checking in with them. Pausing to look at an individual plant will help you observe how it grows and changes.

## 6. Align Your Witch's Garden With The Moon Cycle

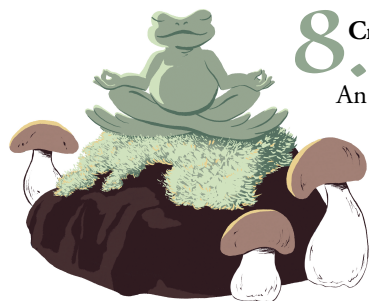
Once you've selected some herbs or other witchy plants to grow in your witch garden, it's time to make a garden calendar. Many witchy gardeners choose to plant by the moon's cycles. This involves planting seeds of different types during different phases (and even different Zodiac signs if you're into that).

## 7. Harvest In The Moonlight

Speaking of the moon, another witchy practice to bring to your garden is to harvest herbs by moonlight. In general, herbs are collected in the morning before the heat of the day but after the morning dew has dried. If, however, you're looking to add in some extra witchy feels, try harvesting (and preparing) your witch herbs by the glow of moonlight. Find a pretty witch garden harvest basket or bowl and head outside on a dry evening or early morning. Bring some sort of illumination with you so you can safely see what you're doing. Enjoy the silence of the evening and the moonlight on the plants. It will likely feel much more magical than just picking your herbs mid-day! If harvesting in the moonlight doesn't feel



like your jam (or isn't safe for one reason or another), another thing you can do is to leave your watering can out overnight. Folklore indicates that the moonlight charges the water (especially on the full moon). I always leave my watering can full of water at the end of the day anyways because the chlorine in the tap water will off-gas and the water will come to air temperature by the next day (which plants prefer to icy tap water).



## 8. Create An Altar And/Or Meditative Area In Your Witch Garden

An extra witchy feature to add to your garden is to create an altar or meditative area within nature. Creating your own wellness spot in your garden will make you feel incredibly blessed (and possibly very witchy).

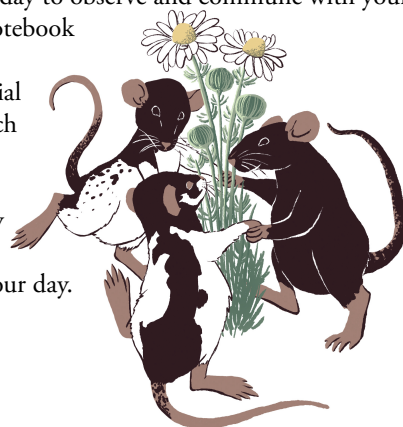
There is nothing like Mother Nature's sanctuary. Perhaps plant some of the witchy herbs you've chosen in immediate proximity to your altar. You can enhance the space with plant-based essential oils that speak to you. Find a pretty stone to sit on while you meditate or create a carpet of soft moss. Use tall screening plants around the area to form an outdoor "nest" of sorts. You can get fancy with water features and stone sculptures, or just let the space be as it is. The little bit of landscaping work required to create your garden nest will be completely worth it. You'll feel like you have your own natural spa! Soak in the pure air and hint of sparkle that arrives with it.

## 9. Give Back To The Land

Once your witchy garden is established, give back to the land by replenishing it with nutrients, organic matter, water, and new plants. Add worm castings to your garden, make comfrey tea for your plants, and mulch with homemade compost. A witch garden will thrive with proper care and attention and will continue to provide you with a healthy dose of plant vibes.

## 10. Establish A Daily Witch Garden Ritual

Witchy gardening doesn't stop after your garden is planted. Visit your witch's garden every day to observe and commune with your plants. A nature observation notebook can be a lovely support piece. Make your garden ritual a special part of your daily ritual in which you can set aside day-to-day thoughts and focus on what matters to you most. Your daily witch garden ritual just might become your favorite part of your day.



## QUICK LOOK

### Herbs and Edible

#### Witchy Plants:

☞ sage	☞ basil
☞ mint	☞ lavender
☞ rosemary	☞ chamomile
☞ chives	☞ lemon balm
☞ thyme	☞ dianthus

### Potentially Poisonous

#### Witchy Plants:

☞ nettle	☞ heather
☞ yarrow	☞ poppy
☞ calendula	☞ nightshades
☞ comfrey	☞ henbane
☞ monkshood	☞ belladonna
(Wolf's Bane)	☞ mandrake
☞ foxglove	☞ hellebores.

### A Few Other Ways To Bring Magic Into Your Garden:

- ☞ Emboss your planters and gardening tools with ancient symbols of Runes, Tarot or Kabala.
- ☞ Place quartz crystals and moss agate within the soil, to prepare the area for an upcoming ritual, as well as charge the garden bed for improved plant growth.
- ☞ Water the plants with water, preferably solar water to allow for maximum nourishment and growth.
- ☞ Consider doing a small full-moon ritual during the growing season as a token of gratitude to the earth for blessing you with abundance and prosperity.

### More Resources:

- ☞ *Forest Bathing*, by Dr. Qing Li
- ☞ *Foraging & Feasting: A Field Guide and Wild Food Cookbook*, by Dina Falconi
- ☞ *Rosemary Gladstar's Medicinal Herbs: A Beginner's Guide: 33 Healing Herbs to Know, Grow, and Use*, by Rosemary Gladstar
- ☞ *Garden Witchery: Magick from the Ground Up*, by Ellen Dugan
- ☞ *The Real Witches' Garden: Spells, Herbs, Plants and Magical Spaces Outdoors*, by Kate West