

## GARDEN NOTES

### CECILIA'S GARDEN

To create a new garden is always a challenge but in lockdown I had uninterrupted time to begin. Thank goodness for gardens and painting.

There are three sections to the garden.

#### 1. Main entrance walkway and beds

The walkway walls are covered by jasmine and bower vine, *Pandorea jasminoides*. The raised bed has maples and a change of seasonal plants for colour, including petunias, paper daisies, African daisies, gardenias, pelargonium, geraniums and heuchera *Solar Eclipse*. I plant seasonally in this bed for a colourful display.

There is a shaded undercover walkway with clivias, espaliered sasanquas and begonias.

Outside the main entrance is a shady garden containing a small pond, hydrangeas, ferns, taro and indoor plants which I rotate. In spring orchids thrive here. There are red impatiens along a border in summer, complemented by metal art on entrance walls, Koi fish in the pond and a lotus for an aspect of peace.

Within the home is a central courtyard. A maple placed beside a large rock represents the Feng Shui principle of stability.

#### 2. The Back Garden

You will find weeping lilly pilly trees on all fence lines and surrounding the pool with an underplanting of plectranthus.

A Ying Yang sculpture features in the main bed. Nothing formal here, sometimes a riot of cottage plants, dahlias, salvias, *digiplexis Illumination*, Canterbury bells, Japanese maple, Chinese lantern (*Abutilon*), David Austin rose *Afternoon Tea*, taro, sunflowers, convolvulus, heuchera hybrid *Sweet Tea* and *Golden Zebra*, salvia hybrid *Heatwave Blaze*, *Colocasia esculenta* (elephant ears), *coprosma*, agastache *Tequila Sunrise* and *Holland's Gold*, *acanthus mollis*, *astilbe Chocolate Shogun*.

A charming addition is the *cedrus deodara Devinely Blue*, clumps of Japanese windflowers giving seasonal flowers from spring through to summer.

There are a few speciality plants here and there. For example the rock fig and the variegated lavender. Each season brings a different outdoor room like turning the pages of a picture book. You need to have a fine sense of balance to tend the back garden. It leaves little foot space. But somehow it is possible.

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### 3. The Front Garden

The dominating blue gum proved a challenge. Garden beds were built up using good soil in which I have managed to grow vegetables, native plants, fuchsias, herbs and saltbush to promote healthy soil. I call it the picking garden. Again the emphasis was on what can be achieved with excitement in a small area under a very large tree. A few sculptures and outside lighting add interest. There are ornamental pears and silver birch.

I am never absent from my garden, even when away ... it is my abiding companion. I also have the joy of being a watercolour painter and poet. This, with a garden is nothing short of sublime. I will be delighted to pass on any hints and tips about gardening as this is now the sixteenth garden I have created and there has been a great deal of learning, and still will be, as our climate changes. So let's meet in the joy of talking gardens.

PS There is no such thing as green fingers, if you tend the garden as you would a friend it will bring everlasting joy and a longer, less stressful life.

### My Everyday Garden by Cecilia Morris

*Calluses on palms, dirty nails, aching back,  
Insect bites up my arms,  
All part of the love of gardening.*

*In spring  
Observe the unfurling opening of petals.  
The dark red roses deliver rich perfume.*

*Piquant rosemary halts bees  
to browse its flowers,  
to sip on offerings for their queen.*

*Best of all late summer,  
when sunflowers move faces like large clouds,  
I am drenched in their yellow.*

*Pungent jasmine hitches itself  
on fence palings that  
trembles with its weight*

*The mood soon autumn.  
Spent buds and leaves mingle into compost.  
The air is soft a little sad.*

*Quiet lessons continue for the everyday gardener.*

**These notes can be downloaded from the Open Gardens Victoria website:**

[www.opengardensvictoria.org.au](http://www.opengardensvictoria.org.au)