

A Sensory Garden

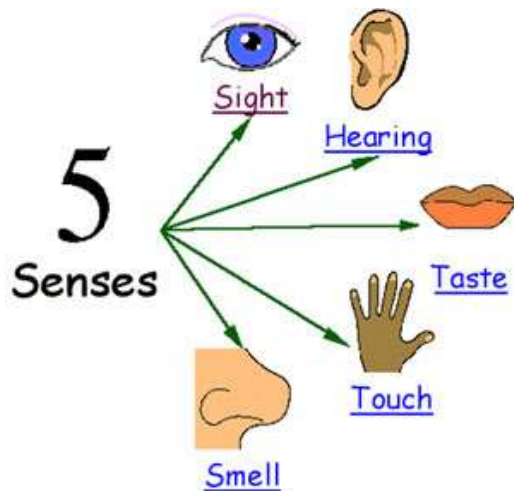
The Five Senses

A sensory garden offers not only visual appeal, but a sensory garden is designed to stimulate all five senses, Sight, Hearing, Smell, Taste and Touch. There are many ways to transform a place into a delight and are popular in schools, parks and backyards. It appeals to all ages from toddlers to elderly. It brings everybody to outdoors. The Internet has many sites and I implemented a few ideas in our garden.

Senses: Sight, Hearing, Smell, Taste and Touch. We made five flower beds to represent the following:

1. **Sight:** Plants with color,
2. **Hearing:** A water fountain, a humming bird feeder, a small bird bath, few plants that attract bees and humming birds,
3. **Smell:** Plants with fragrance,
4. **Taste:** Plants used as food, mostly for wild life I used,
5. **Touch:** Plants with different textures.

The picture gives the five elements.



The beds are made with treated lumber. The plants used are chosen so there will be blooms from spring to autumn...

The measurements I used are

1. 39"x 36"x 14"--- Two for Hearing and Smell. They are in the front of the garden.
2. 51"x 30"x 7" --- Two for Taste and Touch. These are in the back in both ends.
3. 51"x 30 x 14"--- One for Sight. This is in the middle.

We decided for Color it should be very prominent and we can use many kinds of plants. Also we came up with plants which are wild plants that will attract the pollinators like Butterflies, Humming birds, Bumble bees and bees.

For Hearing I need to find help and one of the websites suggested for Hearing, we can have a small trickling water fountain. Also the good thing I liked was to plant flowers that will attract Humming birds and Bees as they make buzzing sound.

The plants and other materials for other four senses beds were easy to find.

We have gopher problem. So we took care of it by having a wire mesh sold for Gopher control in the bottom of the each bed before filling with dirt and compost.

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Below are the pictures with description and photo credits.

Sensory Garden Sign



This sign has the picture of the five senses Sight (Eye), Hearing (Ear), Taste, (tongue or mouth shown here) Touch (Hand) and Smell (nose). It is in the front of the garden.

Photo Credit to Cathy Morzenski

Hearing Garden/ Ear



This flower bed represents plants and a few items for hearing that is by **Sound**. The table top Bamboo fountain gives trickling sound of water, a pleasing sound and that will attract birds also to have a drink. A simple bird bath is also kept as the birds come to take a bath and may be chirping sound of the birds can be heard. The plants used here are Lavender, Purple cone flower, Lamb's Ears that attracts Bumble bee and bees. Also planted Pine leaf Penstemon, Scarlet Bugler and a tiny humming bird feeder for Humming birds. These birds and bees make a buzzing sound so included in this bed.

Photo credit to Mary Carol Williams

Taste Garden/ Tongue



This flower bed is intended to have plants herbs mainly that are used in our cooking and also enjoyed by the bees and butterflies. The herbs, Thyme, Oregano, Parsley, Basil (purple), Holy Basil (In India this plant is worshipped) and Purple Cone flower (Echinacea). Planted Dill, a host plant for Black swallow tails were planted behind the flowerbed. One can use corn, Tomato plants. But I went with plants that are more attractive to bees and butterflies. The butterflies did come to Purple cone flower several times.

Photo credit goes to Cathy Morzenski

Sight Garden/ Eye



This flower bed Sight was the easiest one to do and also very colorful. I used annuals also along with some perennials. The Tall Flax, Purple coneflower, Canna in the back of the planter and in front of the bed yellow prairie coneflower, Gaillardia, snap dragons, Lantana, Coleus of different colors and Blue Flax.

Photo credit goes to Mary Carol Williams.

Touch Garden/ Hand



This garden bed is little different than other beds as we could use for Touch different textures with not only plants also like different kinds of rocks smooth, rough, also drift wood, pine cones etc.

The plants used are Lamb's Ears (very soft Aditya our grand son said when he touched reminded him of his blanket) Cactus for prickles, grass blades Stone crop etc.

Photo credit to Mary Carol Williams

Smell Garden/ Nose



For me this was the hardest planter to come up with plants that will have fragrance. As I grew up in India I am used to jasmines, Roses that give fragrance. But here I can't grow them outside. Luckily I learnt the leaves of the herbs can be crushed and one can smell. So sweet marjoram, Sage I planted. Also I planted mums. The carnations, stock, tall flax and Bee Balm supposed to have fragrance so we planted these.

Photo credit to Cathy Morzenski

As of October 17, 2014, this garden is flourishing which we started in March end and able to enjoy from then on and even now in Fall. It is a very satisfying garden which is appreciated by neighbors who walk by also.

Butterflies Enjoying the Sensory Garden

Baird's Old World Swallowtail



Landing on the sidewalk—a rare sighting.

Photo Credit to Selvi Viswanathan, September 1, 2014

Hoary Comma Butterfly



On a Buddleia Bush.

Photo Credit to Selvi Viswanathan, September 1, 2014

Juniper Hairstreak



Enjoying the pollen of a Purple Cone Flower, which seems to attract the most butterflies.

Photo Credit to Selvi Viswanathan, July 19, 2014

Reakirt's Blue



On the leaf of a Millet Plant.



Reakirt's Blue with Closed Wings.



Nestled on a Black-Eyed Susan.



Photo Credits to Selvi Viswanathan, November 8, 2014

Painted Lady



On a Gaillardia. This butterfly seems to like several blooms, unlike the Southern Dogface Sulphur, pictured above.



On a Purple Cone Flower.



On Purple Basil.

Photo Credits to Selvi Viswanathan, November 8, 2014

Southern Dogface Sulphur



On a Salvia Reggie plant. This butterfly is partial to the Salvia Reggie.

Photo Credit to Selvi Viswanathan, November 10, 2014

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