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A COMPLETE PLAN FOR A DOORYARD GARDEN...
MARY ALICE ROCHE

Eastward in Eden, in the first garden, grew "every plant of the field... every herb bearing seed... and every tree that is pleasant to the sight." Eastward in Eden, Maine, in the garden of Lewis and Amy Magdalene Garland, grow every pleasant plant and tree that can be fitted into such a miniature paradise. It seems impossible that so much beauty could be found in such a small place.

At our first visit in June, the Clematis macropetala was already decorating the front fence with its pale gold seed heads, and only a few florets remained on the azaleas and rhododendrons, which had put on a gorgeous show earlier in the spring. But the rose-and-gold blooms of the honeysuckle (Lonicera periclymenum) at the other end of the fence were beginning to open, and, below, the thick border of Potentilla tridentata frothed with masses of tiny white strawberry-like flowers, while the deutzia at the corner was covered with white tassels.

Banked against the side fence were pink-flowered beautybush (Kolkwitzia) and the unusual Oriental plant Rodgersia aesculifolia. This has many-lobed leaves like a giant horsechestnut, but grows only 3 or 4 feet high. Its large, fluffy plumes of ivory-white flowers are borne in flat clusters on curved stems that seem to whir around the center stalk.

Inside the fence, on either side of lichenized stepping stones, many rock plants were in bloom: the blue-rayed discs of Aster alpina beside the rose-rayed discs of sempervivums, tall sprays of white-flowered Saxifraga macnabiana, and the pink bells of the heathlike Bruckenthalia spiculifolia. Most spectacular was a carpet of Dryas octopetala just going to seed. Instead of its white flowers, each stem bore a golden banner, a long feathery twist of shining filaments.

After searching some time in a low clump of small green leaves, Mrs. Garland found one tiny branch with two pink bells on it. "I'm sorry you couldn't have taken a picture when this was in full bloom," she said. "It is the twinflower, Linnea, the favorite flower of the great Swedish botanist, Linnaeus. It was Mrs. Farrand's..."

Photographs by ROCHE

At left: "The center of the garden was a sea of heather through which we walked on a path of Maine's lichenized rocks." Heathers shown are H. E. Beale and J. H. Hamilton.

View of side of house with corner of dooryard garden.

Portion of path edged with fluffy seed heads of dryas, Saxifraga macnabiana, Geranium sanguineum, sempervivums.
Entrance to dooryard garden with “gray woolly thyme, mounds of cranesbill, blue-green Spear of iris foliage.”

favorite flower, too. She liked having it right here by the doorstep.”

For the Garland garden was also the last garden of the late Beatrix Farrand, the well-known landscape gardener, who laid out the magnificent Bliss garden at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., and the equally magnificent Rockefeller garden in Seal Harbor, Maine, among fifty or sixty others. Her own Reef Point Gardens, in Bar Harbor, were internationally famous for the beautifully planted trees, shrubs and flowering plants and the collections of horticultural books and prints. The plants came from all over the world, but there was special emphasis on natural planting of native material. These gardens were an inspiration and became an enduring memory for the many horticulturists both amateur and professional who visited them.

The last years of Mrs. Farrand’s life were spent in the charming little house which she built behind the Garland homestead in Eden and in the gardens with which she surrounded it. Mrs. Garland was the horticulturist at Reef Point Gardens at Bar Harbor and she and Mrs. Farrand, together, used the knowledge that had created such spectacular showplaces to create the smallest and most perfect of dooryard gardens.

There are two and, as Mrs. Garland took us around to the second, which is in back of the house, we were greeted with the most delectable of all fragrances, the light, fresh scent of old-fashioned roses. The deep bank beside the path was completely covered with them; little single pink briers, small, intense red doubles, big double white rugosas and dozens of others.

Against the barn was an espaliered peach tree and beyond it the exquisitely neat vegetable garden that is Mr. Garland’s particular care and pride. Then we turned the corner of the house and saw the back terrace—like some fabulous tapestry woven by a master, but even more beautiful than that since nature’s invention (as usual) carried it beyond man’s handiwork.

The garden was enclosed within a tan fence hung with vines, and sheltered from the wind by cherry and elm trees. Bordered by paths of tan gravel, raised oblong beds overflowed with low plants of lush foliage jeweled with delicate flowers mainly in white, pink, blue and yellow.

Gray-green woolly thyme (Thymus serpyllum lanuginosus) and velvety snow-in-summer (Cerastium tomentosum) with their cascades of white flowers were set off against dark green mounds of candytuft and green, smooth-leaved mounds of dwarf cranesbill (Geranium sanguineum album) with its shallow white cups and blue-green spears of iris foliage. (Mrs. Garland had not been able to cut the seed heads off the candytuft as she usually does, since a white-throated sparrow had nested there and desired to bring up her young without any interference from meddlesome gardeners.)

A few fringed pinks and blue bellflowers (Campanula carpatica) added color to the pattern. The cottony white buds of clematis CRIMSON STAR were opening over the fence, while clematis NELLIE MOSER covered the side of the house with even bigger blossoms of palest lavender-pink with a strip of rose down the center of each petal.

The right side of the garden was mainly in yellows: the pale gold sun-roses (Helianthemum), rich golden Oenothera fruitosa, chartreuse spurge (Euphorbia cyparissias), creamy-yellow hybrid tea roses—and was sparked with the rich orange-and-yellow lily buds (Lilium umbellatum) and the red clematis MME. EDOUARD ANDRÉ.

The entire center of the garden was a sea of heather, through which we walked on another path of Maine’s lichenized rocks. The dense bushes with their woody stems and narrow leaves were different in texture from the perennials and annuals on either side and added a feeling of substance and permanence. Even in the winter, and after the snow had fallen, these undulating waves would remain, reminding one of the beauty to come.

Heathers and heaths are always attractive, even when not in flower, but Mrs. Garland said that there is always some bloom, from early spring to fall. On our June visit, the heaths (Erica tetralix alba and rosea) were covered with delicate oval bells, and the even smaller flowers of heather (Calluna rigida) were starting to open.

When we returned in mid-July the front fence was covered with blossoming honeysuckle, but the flowers...
Planting Plan for the Perfect Dooryard Garden

1. Clematis: A. texensis; B. fremontii; C. integrifolia; D. Crimson Star; E. viticella kermesina; F. Comtesse de Bouchard; G. Jackmani; H. Nellie Moser; J. Mme. Edouard Andre; K. montana
2. Lonicera hestrothii
3. Iris, tall bearded
4. Thymus serpyllum lanuginosus
5. Astilbe, white
6. Peony Mikosewitschi
7. Veronica amethystina
8. Dianthus plumarius, pink
9. Campanula carpatica, blue & white
10. Hosta plantaginea
11. Japanese Iris, white
12. Cerastium tomentosum
13. Penstemon glaucus
14. Campanula persicifolia
15. Artemisia abrotanum
16. Delphinium, hybrid
17. Arabis albida flore-pleno
18. Sedum spectabile
19. Centaurea americana
20. Euphorbia cyprissias
21. Iris pumila, purple, blue, white
22. Rudbeckia speciosa
23. Dwarf French marigolds
24. Lithium umbellatum
25. Mexican zinnias
26. Drought plantagineum
27. Eryngium amethystinum
28. Oenothera biennis
29. Cynoglossum Firmament
30. Akebia quinata
31. Jasminum nudiflorum
32. Primrose, yellow
33. Aluga reptans
34. Dictamnus rubra
35. Sedum acre
36. Nepeta mussini
37. Saxifraga macropetala
38. Phlox subulata
39. Thymus serpyllum rosus
40. Dicentra exima
41. Iris pumila, yellow
42. Armeria maritima lauchoana
43. Geranium sanguineum album
44. Aquilegia akinesis
45. Delphinium grandiflorum, blue
46. Filipendula hexapetala flore-pleno
47. Artemisia stelleriana
48. Iberis sempervivem
49. Polemonium reptans
50. Helioponum minus
51. Iris florentina
52. Artemisia Schmidiana
53. Pulmonaria angustifolia
54. Petunias, pink & phlox Quedlinburg
55. Alyssum saxatile flore-pleno
56. Helianthemum Gold Nugget
57. Veronica Incana
58. Oenothera missouriensis
59. Campanula glomerata
60. Achillea tomentosa

BB. Bird bath
R. Hybrid tea roses, pink on right, yellow on the left
come into bloom, or the handsome
glossy foliage was allowed to remain as a
planned part of the garden picture.

In the back garden, in midsummer,
the somewhat ragged cerastium
had been shorn of its faded flowers,
but its dainty gray foliage was still
a decorative accent. Clematis Nel-
lie Moser had finished blooming,
but the violet umbrellas of Clematis
viticella 'Kermesina' had opened at
the end of the fence and the
honeysuckle ('Lonicera heckrottii')
on either side was a riot of rose and
gold. A few white blossoms lingered
on the geraniums, while campanula,
dianthus and lavender were now in
full bloom and had been joined by
pink petunias and starred and
fringed phlox Quedlinburg. Dazzling
white Japanese iris highlighted
one corner, and creamy plumes of
astilbe were set off by a background
of red clematis, which was now
covered with flowers. Roses still
bloomed and a few low French
marigolds were flowering under
them.

In August these marigolds had
become a solid carpet of yellow,
spiced here and there with red-
brown. Black-eyed bright yellow
rudbeckia and yellow-and-red Mexican
zinnias were massed against the
fence, backed by fantastic slate-blue
sea-holly ('Eryngium') and next to
blue cynoglossum Firmament.

Since Maine has cool days and
cooler nights, flowers last a long
while and plants are not forced to
exhaust themselves at the first
flowering. Due to this—and to Mrs.
Garland’s practice of cutting off all
dead flowers at once (with the
exception of those which have orna-
mental seed heads)—annuals bloom
and bloom and many perennials con-
tinue to have some flowers through-
out the summer, as does the lovely
campanula, whose bright blue flowers
on both sides of the garden
related the predominantly pink-and-
white side to the predominantly
yellow side.

But the crowning glory at the end
of the summer was, of course, the
heather. The sea of dense foliage was
now a sea of dense flower spikes
ranging from white to lavender-pink
to bright pink and deep rose—the
florets sometimes oval bells and
sometimes enchanting, double, Lil-
putian roses. Never before had we
seen such a sight.

This perfection of flowering is
partly a result of the Maine weather,
but we were sure that it was mostly
due to Mrs. Garland’s care. (Out-
side of some help from Mr. Garland,
she looks after it all herself.) She
is the perfect gardener, combining
book knowledge and practical
knowledge with an innate love of all
growing things. She has another
incentive, too. In caring for this garden
Mrs. Garland is also perpetuating a
most fitting memorial to another
great gardener—Beatrice Farrand—
who left a legacy of living beauty,
not the least of which is this little
garden in Eden.

POWER TIPS

Spread lawn fertilizers with care.
Do not overlap or skip areas, or
your lawn will have distinct
stripes—dark green where you
overlapped or light green where
you skipped. Follow wheel marks
of spreader or install markers to
show treated area.

Water lawn after applying fertil-
izer. Be on the safe side and wash
residue off grass blades. This
applies to all fertilizers.