

Garden Up! Vertical Gardening for Small and Large Spaces

By Susan Morrison and Rebecca Sweet

Introduction

For many, the term vertical gardening brings to mind the vast, multi-story living walls found in urban centers and public gardens throughout Europe and the U.S. But there's a place for vertical gardening in home gardens as well. There are living wall options that are simple enough for beginners to install and maintain, not to mention a whole range of vertical strategies for skinny planting beds, blank walls and fences, edible gardening and under-utilized side yards. Urban or suburban, large or small, every garden can benefit from gardening up.

Gardening Vertically

- Turn a fence into a focal point
- Edible options
- What makes a trellis? You'd be surprised
- Vertical solutions for garden eyesores
- Side yard makeovers
 - Privacy plus
 - View corridors
 - Inside-out design

Living Walls for the Home Gardener

- Choosing a system
 - Tray systems
 - Pocket systems
 - Kits
 - DIY ideas
- Recipe for success

Vertical Gardening Plant Lists

The plant picks in *Garden Up!* are organized by solution rather than plant type. The following are a few of our favorite problem solvers and design mainstays, all appropriate for USDA Zone 8.

Problem Solvers

Skinny Space Perennials

- *Calamagrostis acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' (Feather Reed Grass) Sun to Part Sun/Low Water
- *Canna indica* (Indian Shot) Full Sun/Low Water

Tall and Narrow Trees

- *Ginkgo biloba* 'Tremonia' (Maidenhair Tree) Sun to Part Sun/Moderate Water
- *Prunus caroliniana* 'Compacta' (Compact Laurel Cherry) Sun to Part Sun/Moderate Water

Vines for Balconies & Courtyards

- *Passiflora sanguinolenta* ‘Maria Rosa’ (Dwarf Passion Vine) Sun to Part Sun/Moderate Water
- *Lonicera xylosteoides* ‘Clavey’s Dwarf’ (Dwarf Honeysuckle) Full Sun/Moderate Water

Design Delights

Eye Candy Blooms

- *Gloriosa superba* (Gloriosa Lily) Sun to Part Shade/Moderate Water
- *Kennedia nigricans* (Black Coral Pea) Sun to Part Sun/Low Water

Exclamation Points

- *Ilex crenata* ‘Sky Pencil’ (Japanese Holly) Full Sun/Low Water
- *Cupressus sempervirens* ‘Tiny Tim’ (Dwarf Cypress) Sun to Part Sun/Low Water

Succulents for Living Walls

- *Sempervivum* Part Sun/Low Water
- *Echeveria* Part Sun/Low Water
- *Crassula* Part Sun/Low Water

About the Presenters

Susan Morrison is a landscape designer, garden writer, and Master Gardener based in Northern California. Her design philosophy is simple: to create beautiful, sustainable gardens that fit her clients’ lifestyle. In addition to writing for traditional media publications such as *Fine Gardening*, Susan blogs about her life as a garden designer and shares her challenges and successes as a home gardener at *Blue Planet Garden Blog*.

Rebecca Sweet is the owner of Harmony in the Garden, located in Northern California. Rebecca’s signature ‘Garden Fusion’ style blends her clients’ personal desires with regionally appropriate plants. Her gardens have been featured in *Woman’s Day*, *Fine Gardening*, and *Fine Homebuilding*, as well as regional publications. In addition to designing, Rebecca is a featured columnist for *Horticulture*, writes design-focused articles for Fiskars and has her own blog, *Gossip In The Garden*.

Learn more about Susan and Rebecca, including a look inside the new book, *Garden Up! Smart Vertical Gardening for Small and Large Spaces*, and their upcoming media and events at www.morrison-sweet.com

Resources

Tray systems: VertiGarden - www.plowhearth.com

Pocket systems: Woolly Pockets - www.woollypocket.com

Mail order succulent wall kits: Succulent Gardens- www.sgplants.com