



When you select the right plants for planting around your patio, deck or porch, the results will connect the two areas becoming a large outdoor room. Once the weather warms and decks, patios and porches you probably begin your search for low growing shrubs and flowers. Following these suggestions will help you narrow down your search and select the perfect gardening plants to create your outdoor room with your patio, deck or porch. The first task is to sit on your patio, porch or deck and actually look out, away from the exterior walls and answer the following questions.

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What do you see?

Do you see an open lawn or, maybe it's a small enclosed area?

What could you see as a focal point in your view?

How do you feel about your deck?

Is it quiet and cozy or more of an open space where you would prefer more privacy?

The answers to these questions will determine how you will landscape around your deck, porch and patio outdoor living areas.

Let's discuss patios and low level decks and porches first. Your point of view from sitting in your chair should be with you looking through the lawn area. Basically, the lawn becomes an extension of that outdoor space.

Low-level sitting areas take more advantage of the open areas. Colors and textures can be used effectively from the immediate areas on to the outlying regions. The view will incorporate more of the ground up to the lower areas of trees. So, be sure to add in lots of colorful perennial plants and small flowering shrubs into the outlying landscape.

In landscaping around the perimeter of your low-level deck, patio or porch, you will want to select plants that are low growing to prevent blocking the view of the lawn. Remember to allow for stepping-stones or other access to the outlying areas.

When planting along the edges of your structure, select low growing garden plants and. Staying in the two to just over three foot height range should work quite well, especially with taller plants in that range that are airy at the tops such as ornamental grasses.

The following flowering shrubs and evergreen perennial plants that make excellent low growing borders for porches, patios and decks: coreopsis, astilbe, gaillardia, heucheras, low growing hydrangeas, hostas, chamaecyparis pisifera compacta, nandina dwarf firepower, salvia, Russian sage Little Spire, low growing weigelas, liriope, rosemary, lavender, thyme and sage.

These ornamental grasses work perfectly for low areas and to fill in spaces: acorus ogon, prairie dropseed, Karley Rose, Hameln, Little Bunny, Karl Foerster, and Pink Muhly grass

If the outside living space is large and extends considerably out from the house, consider placing small ornamental trees or other interesting plants about mid way nearer the perimeter to break up the space.

The following plants work great for this purpose: maple Japanese red, sky rocket juniper, blue point juniper, emerald green arborvitae, crape myrtle, kousa dogwood, kwanzan cherry, sourwood tree, red bud, sweetbay magnolia, clumping bamboo, Nishiki willow.

When planning your landscape around high-level decks and balconies, remember that you will be looking down onto the plants especially the plants immediately around the perimeter and only seeing the top portions of trees and shrubs in the outlying areas. High-level areas truly take on a different view of the lawn than low-level areas and should be landscaped accordingly.

High-level decks are considered to be, roughly, 5 to 6 feet and higher off the ground. Plant these areas for fragrance, long blooming periods, lots of texture and slightly away from the deck so you are fully able to enjoy the characteristics of these plants.

Shrubs and trees that work nicely in such situations are white birch, dogwoods, serviceberry, magnolias, tulip poplar, lilac shrubs, crape myrtles, red bud, flowering cherry, flowering pear, flowering peach, sourwood trees, laurel shrubs, rhododendrons, and holly.

Armed with this information, you can now confidently develop a plan for landscaping your patio, deck, porch or multi leveled outdoor living spaces.

If your garden is big enough to provide a beautiful view from inside the house, house some plants and to sit out, then it's just about right.

You will be rewarded with "WOWs" throughout the summer only "IF" you treat it right.

In this article, I will share some amazing ideas that will help you enhance and enrich the beauty of your small garden.

Let's Discuss a Couple of No Nos

Perfect-for-Privacy Trees

Believe it or not, this actually is a great tip.

Well, this idea is not for everyone. However, squeezing in some trees will give you good privacy and height. Canopy trees won't take up too much space in your garden but will give you a leafy roof.

*Prunus cerasifera* would be my personal choice. However, ornamental and decorative trees are also great options.

### Diagonal Pavement

Your garden will look smaller if you'll lay your pavers squarely. Diagonal pavement is the best option for small gardens. This little trick will allow you to enhance your garden's perceived size.

Furthermore, you can create larger planting pockets and longer lines by setting up your garden diagonally.

### Dining Set

First, you'll have to measure your available free space. Work out your clearance by using the dimensions of the dining set that you're looking to buy.

Miniaturising your garden dining set is not a bad thing at all. However, you shouldn't apply this tactic to other things like plants and pots.

### Tiers & Hammock

Be a magician. Conjure up the illusion of more space by creating tiers. This is just about as simple as placing pots on top of one another.

The best thing about hammocks is that you can squeeze it into the smallest of gardens. Plus, it'll give you a great laid-back feeling.

### Reflections are the Real Deal

People often use mirrors to create an illusion of depth in their homes. You can do the same in your garden. All you have to do is choose a focal or central point and angle the mirrors toward it.

Furthermore, your garden could use a little quirky touch.

However, this idea will only work well if your garden has something attractive to reflect like ornaments, furniture or plants.

### Little Accessories for Little Gardens

Fantasy accessories are quite trendy. They'll infuse a sense of charm in your small garden. It'll also give a unique look to your garden. Fantasy accessories may include gnomes and mushrooms.

### Expand Beyond Borders

Broaden your horizons; unleash your creativity beyond the borders of your garden. You can brighten up the exteriors by planting colourful flowers or buy some window boxes.

You can also make your very own herb garden right outside the window of your kitchen. You can have your fresh herbs anytime you want.

## A Wildlife Heaven

Exciting insect and bird activity will make your garden grow livelier and livelier. All you have to do is buy some insect hotels, roosting pouches, feeding stations and bird boxes.

There are also other ways of attracting wildlife. There are some flowers, which the butterflies and bees find enticing. It'll also [how everyday herbs can help with skincare](#) add the much needed colour to your garden.

Nature doesn't need big gardens to thrive. So, there is no need for you to feel hamstrung.

We at Home Gift Garden deal in an extensive range of garden furniture. Our inventory comprises of everything, ranging from rectangular dining sets to elegant garden daybeds and sofas. We have everything you need, so do pay us a little visit.