



# Five Keys to a Romantic Garden

*A classification for the gardener who plants with poetry in mind*



# HOVERERS

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*Plants that wave in the breeze and float above the plane of the blooming garden — airy, graceful, and always in motion.*

- Poppies (*Papaver*)
- Queen Anne's lace (*Ammi majus*)
- Gaura (*Oenothera lindheimeri*)
- Verbena bonariensis
- Knautia macedonica
- Bronze fennel
- Thalictrum (meadow rue)
- Linaria 'Canon Went'
- Dierama (angel's fishing rod)
- Sanguisorba



# STABILIZERS

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*The anchors of the garden — structural, reliable presences that give the eye a place to rest and hold the whole composition together.*

- Boxwood (including Better Boxwood)
- Dwarf yaupon holly
- Topiary — myrtle, rosemary, eugenia
- Evergreen hedges of Japanese holly
- Clipped germander (*Teucrium*)
- Hydrangea 'Limelight' on standard
- Carex 'Everillo' groundcover
- Lavender hedges
- Dwarf conifers for winter structure
- Obelisks, urns, trained standards



# PARTNERS

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*Beautiful combinations that look better together than in isolation — plants that have found their match and should always be introduced as a pair.*

- Larkspur and poppies
- Pansies and violas
- Anything chartreuse and anything blue
- Pincushion flower and golden feverfew
- Roses and catmint (*Nepeta*)
- Alliums and peonies
- Tulips and forget-me-nots
- Foxgloves and hardy geraniums
- Iris and *Salvia nemorosa*
- Lady's mantle and old roses
- Sweet peas and climbing roses
- Boxwood spheres and white tulips



# COME & GO PERENNIALS

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*The workhorses that return each year, rise, bloom, and quietly recede — offering successive waves of color without asking much in return.*

- Salvia nemorosa ('May Night', 'Caradonna')
- Veronica (speedwell)
- Penstemon
- Baptisia (false indigo)
- Peonies
- Bearded iris
- Amsonia
- Phlox paniculata
- Siberian iris
- Coreopsis
- Hardy geranium 'Rozanne'



# ENABLERS

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*The plants and strategies that allow us to have a more beautiful garden with less work — generous beauty in exchange for very little effort.*

- Blooming shrubs — hydrangea, spirea, deutzia
- Foliar-color shrubs — ninebark, smokebush
- Potted annuals instead of in-ground
- Self-sowers — larkspur, nigella, feverfew
- Flowering trees — dogwood, redbud, magnolia
- Climbing roses and clematis
- Long-blooming shrub roses
- Weed-suppressing groundcovers
- Bulbs — tulips, daffodils, alliums
- Ornamental grasses for late-season drama
- Evergreen topiary in pots
- Mulched paths and defined edges