Decorative elements and species recommended for a rustic garden

Buta Erzsebet*, Cantor Maria¹, Buta M.¹

University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca, 3-5 Mănăștur Street, Romania

*Corresponding author. Email: ebuta2008@yahoo.com

Abstract The traditional gardens are known as rustic gardens. The character that best describes it is homely. Gardens that are arranged in this style are usually surrounded by wooden fences or a border made from solid rock that emphasises its natural character.

About the importance of flowers in human life is not nobody doubts today. The number of flower cultivators by passion and the designers of own garden is still growing.

Rustic gardens with their unique charm, are characterized mostly by their color, shape and diversity, in fact they are optimal combination of plants, small trees and garden accessories. These gardens are the result of free composition, in which natural elements are combined with built ones.

For a natural impression there are used several design pieces, as pebbles, water, gardening furniture, pottery, metal, wooden bridges, rustic pavilions and casings.

Water design is also created naturally: lakes, rivers, ponds, cascades, which take an important place in composition, harmonized with relief forms and existing vegetation.

In these gardens we often see flowers like roses, daisies, mallows, peonies, poppies and aromatic plant, flowers that do not require so much care and attention from their keeper and also plants with an abundant flowering.

Key words flowering plants, garden furniture, water

Rustic plants are considered by some people as being common, banal plants, but in combination with each other, give birth to unique creations, true masterpieces. Placing in value of these plant can be realized by anyone, and the simple and elegant patterns obtained afterwards can offer intimate relaxation and rest spaces.

The design of rustic garden are more relaxing: the harmony of relief, the present of water in different forms, various groups and the effect of vegetation, landscape charm, constitute a large amounts of elements attraction.

In this paper we want to offer some practical ideas for a rustic garden design with all the necessary functions, primarily aesthetic function, utilities and a list of plants suitable for such facilities.

Any rustic arrangement must be designed depending on several key elements that can determine the existence and evolution of them over the year: climate, the level of pollution of land or quality of light. Also, in such a project should take account of other aspects such as the relaxation or the playground for children, promenade, and size, limits the family or a gardener can maintain that space and also by budget.

Another essential thing is the arrangement of a rustic garden, is that it must be completely concordance with the owner's personality and tastes, it is important to decorate and arranged as a beautiful and economically to enhance oxygenation and beauty of the relaxation and comfort area.

The nice environment of a rustic garden is given by the animal’s figures, straw baskets, sprinklers, galvanized buckets, pots of clay. Garden furniture may consisting in a table, four or six chairs and a parasol, through benches, swings, various lighting, to stunning artifacts in weathered oak. A picnic table, is used for the purpose of eating a meal outdoors such as in a garden.

The decorative elements have an important role, mostly during spring and autumn, when plants are covered with snow; the garden attracts its visitors with these special elements as statues, furniture and other elements.

The materials used to manufacture the rustic gardens belongings include stones, glass, ceramics and treated woods.

To keep the wild style of the garden, it is recommended to use wood and stone. A table and some
chairs can represent, during the summer, a special place. Is avoid tent type kiosks, the decorative elements of metal - they are very modern and not at all match with the traditional features of rusticity. For the delimitation of alleys inside the garden is it used the tree bark.

The flowers from the garden impresses with a variety of forms and colors. The growth of them in natural conditions gets them a special brightness.

Choice of planting material will be made so as to combine coherently the all decorative elements from the garden with floricultural plants, which will delight the eye with flowers, ornamental foliage or branches once with the change of the season. Basically, any perennial flower (Fig. 1) from temperate climate is welcome and can choose according to the preference. So find the place here dahlia (Dahlia variabilis), decorative onion (Allium giganteum), lavender (Lavandula angustifolia), yarrow (Achillea sp.), yellow coneflowers (Rudbeckia speciosa) and blanket flower (Gaillardia aristata).

At the selecting of the planting material to take account of its adaptability area where the garden is find, the rhythm of growth of the plants, the necessity for water and light resistance to freezing and flowering periods so that the garden (a living organism) to be changing on its color appearance.

Perennial plants that require minimal maintenance works and that we recommend may be: Hemerocallis (daylily), Paeonia (peony), Lilium (lily), Sedum (stonecrop), Hosta (Corfu lily), and all bulbs such as Narcissus (daffodil), Hyacinthus (hyacinth), Tulipa (tulip), Muscari (grape hyacinth) and Crocus (saffron).

Large-sized plants (Fig. 2) are suitable as solitary or in groups on the lawn, along the alleys of movement or to mask some of the garden unaesthetic walls. Here are some perennial species, which may be associated and have a decorative effect: Dahlia, Knephofia, Delphinium, Achillea, Allium, Echinacea, Eremurus, Liatris and ornamental grasses.

The floral species are selected depending the flowering period, so the garden does not remain free of any colored beauties. Dahlias have a long flowering period, Hemerocallis is a flower of summer in the true meaning of the word, like love lavender (Lavandula). Allium (decorative onion) is spectacular from April till June. Hosta starts to bloom in August. Achillea may bring a drop of color even in arid areas of the garden.

There is the possibility to create the rustic gardens, some green areas, that do not require special
maintain work using procumbent or upholstered floricultural species (Fig. 3), extremely attractive, with decorative flowers and leaves, such as *Vinca minor*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Iberis sempervirens*, *Phlox subulata*, *Arabis albida*, *Acaena buchananii*.

Water is an attractive element in the garden, almost indispensable, in rustic design. Its charm is derived not only from the components (water mirrors, springs, sides, ponds), but the presence of characteristic vegetation (aquatic plants) and many specific creature of water. Fixed items such as rocks, fountains, statuary, waterfalls and watercourses can be combined with the pool to add visual interest and integration with the local landscape and environment. Adding a water garden to a landscape encourages birds, butterflies, and nature's small creatures to frequent and interact with the garden (Fig. 4).

At the selection of aquatic plant, consider both the ornamental qualities and the practical value of each plant. A good combination will oxygenate the water, compete with algae to keep the water clear, and take up nitrogen to balance the pond's ecosystem.

Rustic garden is an oasis of green, restful and relaxing by the beautiful combination useful because floral vegetation and accessories from the garden owners love the look makes the soul a sense of accomplishment and relaxation.

Most important in style of rustic gardens is to plant very common flowers that can be found everywhere. In rustic gardens there are plenty of colourful flowers. We can also find small corners to spend a quiet and peaceful time. This all serves to create a space that brings us back the times where everything was simpler and natural.

References