

HOW TO MAKE A HERB SPIRAL WITH POND

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BEFORE BEGINNING

Spiral forms are very decorative in the garden, and some believe that they have magical powers. There is a lot of spiral shapes in nature. In addition to all known snail shells, the spiral shape follows the layout of leaf stems in some plants, the arrangement of shells in the cones, the space galaxies, the flow of water or air when a vortex is created.

The herb spiral is, in fact, a highly productive and energy efficient, vertical garden design, on which you can stack plants horizontally and vertically to maximise space. We mostly plant perennial culinary and medicinal herbs on it, but some types of vegetables and flowers can also be inserted.

How does a Herb Spiral design work?

This design maximizes the natural force of gravity. It allows water to drain freely and seep down through all layers. This leaves a drier zone at the top (perfect for hardy herbs) and a moist area at the bottom for water lovers. The design also creates microclimates. This allows you to plant a diverse range of herbs in a variety of positions (sunny, sheltered and shady). In a typical garden bed or pot, all plants are grown on the one level. So the growing conditions are the same. The herb spiral design offers you multiple options in a compact space.

The Herb Spiral design is easily accessible from all sides: to plant, water, fertilise and harvest. The walls of stones, rocks, bricks or blocks that are used to build a herb spiral, retain heat absorbed during the day. This helps to insulate the garden at night, keeping it warm when temperatures drop. A major advantage in cold climates!

The herb spiral garden is watered from the top. Moisture filters down to the bottom, creating different moisture zones.



1 feverfew	6 fennel	11 thyme
2 calendula	7 yarro	12 oregano
3 coriander	8 sage	13 dill
4 parsely	9 echinacea	14 rosemary
5 chives	10 chamomile	

Herb Spiral Orientation

You can also orientate herb spirals so they are built in the same direction that water flows down a drain. Water rotates down a drain in a clockwise direction in the Northern hemisphere, and anti-clockwise in the Southern hemisphere. Likewise, in the herb spiral garden. In our hemisphere, the bottom of the spiral where the pond is sited (if using one) faces north. A northern position helps

reduce evaporation and maximize moisture and shade. When it comes to planting, this will allow you to position your plants according to their sun, shade and water requirements.

Best implementation time: spring and fall

Material list

- Wall materials– old brick, stone, wooden logs, old tiles etc..
- Organic matter: Garden soil,
- sand
- compost or well rotted manure _(for planting your herbs into)
- old basin or a thick foil
- cardboard (without ink or tape) – sheet mulch
- mulch (whatever you have available) e.g. lucerne/alfalfa, sugarcane, baled grassy mulch hay, pea straw, grass clippings, leaves, etc.
- Herb seedlings; bay tree and vegetable seedlings if planting.
- Pond materials

Tools:

- Wheelbarrow, shovels, rake, meter, rope, rubber hammer (for woods and bricks)
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HOW TO BUILT A HERB SPIRAL

STEP 1. Define the space for the Herb spiral, best somewhere near the house –kitchen to make your herbs always at your fingertips. Try to choose a spot which ideally receives 5 full hours sun/day and has easy access from your kitchen.

Use a stick to draw a circular shape of approximately 1,5–2 m in diameter. Dig the hole in the north section of the circle for the size of the old basin you prepared. The remaining part of the circle cover with the cardboard and water it (or soak it before until very wet – this accelerates decomposition) The cardboard serves to prevent weed penetration, it is not obligatory. On a cardboard lay some gravel base, and position the pond (some old basin)



STEP 2. Using your edging material of choice, start laying your bricks/rocks on the outer edge, from the northern side of the pond. Work inwards to create a spiral shape. Allow about 0.5m width to plant into or adjust if making a smaller spiral.



STEP 3. When your wall is built up, add your organic materials and soil nutrients. Start from the lowest part near the pond, and put there your best garden soil with enough clay that will keep the water and nutrition. In the middle you can put less quality soil, and on the top put some sand.



STEP 4. Pond's role is creating a wetland habitat, and will increase moisture in this microclimate area..On the bottom of your old basin is good to put some gravel, and on the edges you can also put some stones to improve the design

PLANTING

Finally you can plant something!

At the top of the spiral there is the sunniest spot, and the ground has more sand, so the water slides faster toward the lower parts. There will be the best spot for the Mediterranean plants – sage, rosemary, lavender, thyme, savory and immortelle. The herb spiral further unroll toward the south. A good drained and sunny position on the middle part of the spiral favors the growth of marigolds, coriander, chili peppers chamomile, parsley and celery. The more we move toward the bottom, the soil is getting drier and more fertile, and the wall is creating slight shade. In such conditions it will be good to have basil, marjoram, lovage, horseradish, garlic, coarse and fennel. Care should be taken to ensure that the coarse grain and growl can grow very high and need to be cut or cut before the flowering stems begin to grow. It is the same with the pelin that is best planted on the bottom of the spiral, at places where the soil is very fertile and almost always wet. This habitat is also suitable for various kinds of minths. Most plants that are planted on the spiral are perennials and you can breed them in the fall by dividing their bushes or take cuttings and leave them in the damp ground until they are hardened. Seedlings of course, you can also buy. Most of the herbs types you can breed by seeding.



MULCHING

After planting, the surface of the ground remains naked and water is easily evaporated. In nature the soil is never naked. If you look at forest or meadow soil, you will notice that it is always covered with a layer of leaves, branches, dry grasses and other organic material. This cover maintains the moisture of the soil surface, which allows life to numerous microorganisms and, by its decomposition, enriches the soil with nutrients. In order to use advantages of a natural cover of habitats in our spiral, space between plants should be covered with straw, leaves, fallen grass (only if there is no grass seed) or paper (if possible with colorless or black-and-white) , Chopped bark, etc.



MAINTENANCE

Occasionally it is necessary to pull out the weeds. When you remove it you do not have to throw it away but just leave it around the plants. It will dry and serve as a mulch, and with time it will break down and nourish the soil. Watering is necessary mostly in summer, and once a year it is good to muck the garden with compost or well rotten manure to fertilize the lower parts.

