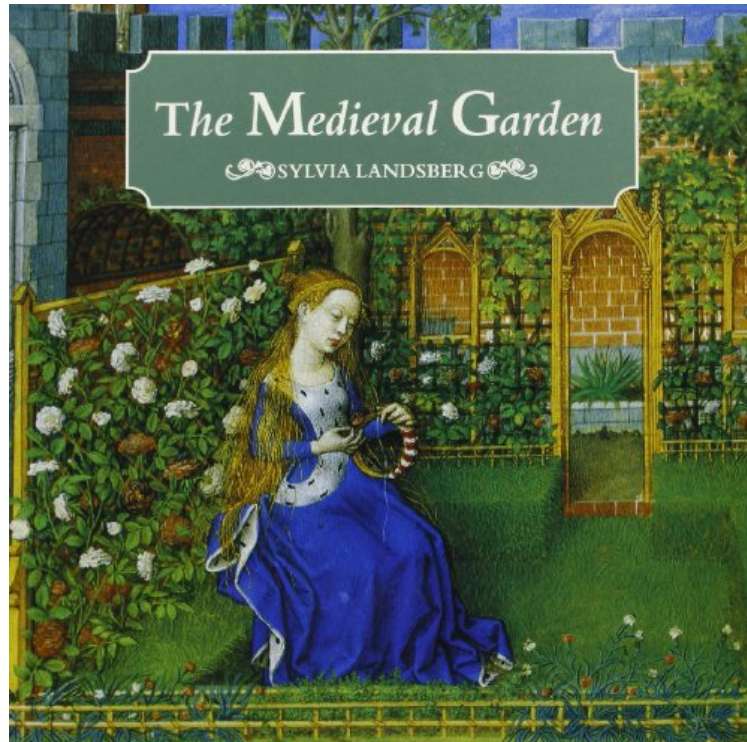


## The Medieval Garden

*Sylvia Landsberg*

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**Sylvia Landsberg : The Medieval Garden** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Medieval Garden:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Super book!By Linda HannahIt has explanations of why the gardens were created both in period and recreations. It lists plants used in the various types of gardens. It has wonderful drawings of gardens that no longer exist to show how they might have been. These are taken from archaeological finds. Great book with illuminations from the period! Super book for planning your own medieval garden. I got some new ideas for adding structures to make mine look more period in the deserts of Arizona0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The book is easy to readBy Brigit13This slim volume is dense with historically well research information. Orchards, vineyards and pleasure gardens all receive an attention to detail that is astonishing in its depth. There are instructions on creating one's own historical gardens, as well as examples of recreations already done. Pictures include the use of Medieval tools, types of hedging used, and diagrams of existing modern and period garden lay outs. The book is easy to read. This one is a candidate to read again and again. I highly recommend it for anyone with an interest in historical gardens.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Inspiring Garden Designs and HistoryBy DylanSylvia Landsberg's contemporary analysis of several medieval gardens provides case studies which enlighten scholars and amateur gardener's alike. For instance, here is how Landsberg analyzes the Bayleaf Garden (in my words):Bayleaf existed as a Yeoman's homestead, according to its design and purpose. The physical space of Bayleaf was outlined by wall-like boundaries called shaws. These shaws demarcated the property into distinct farm, orchard, and domicile zones. The property was a self-sufficient agrarian unit, but its

limited resources and land required annual crop rotation. It was occupied year-round, which meant that its architecture had to account for seasonal climates as well as the medicinal herbs and water supply necessary to support extended stays. Bayleaf house and gardens set topographical and resource limits on its occupants. The size of the main central room and its sleeping quarter served to artificially restrict the size of the family which resided therein. If you are designing a garden, or researching the role outdoor spaces played in medieval England, then this book will provide superb material for you. Otherwise, this book is not a picture book that you might expect from the cover.

As well as food and medicine, the medieval garden provided pleasure, repose and refreshment to the senses. From detailed manuscript descriptions and illustrations, Sylvia Landsberg builds up a picture of the various styles of garden from the small enclosed herber with plant borders, turf benches, and rose-covered trellises, to the vast cultivated parks of royalty and nobility. Amongst the species she finds in a fifteenth-century plant inventory are the familiar violet, lily and columbine, sage, basil and sorrel, pear, apple and vine, all still available to the modern gardener. Combining her historical knowledge with practical experience of recreating medieval gardens in various sites in England, Landsberg explains how she designed Queen Eleanor's garden at Winchester and Brother Cadfael's physic garden at Shrewsbury. She gives detailed descriptions of layouts, the measurements of beds, and the types of tools required. Landsberg also presents the marvelous medieval gardeners calendar, illustrated in the twelve 'Occupations of the Months.' Uniquely, the book offers practical advice on how to create typical medieval features, making it an interesting and unusual gift for any keen gardener.

From Library Journal How does one write about gardens that no longer exist? Landsberg, a garden historian and lecturer who has designed several 13th to 16th century-style gardens, re-creates medieval gardens by analyzing contemporary manuscripts and art, the results of recent archaeological studies, and the few remaining fragments of gardens and surviving horticultural practices from that period. She includes dozens of reproductions of medieval illuminated manuscripts, paintings, etchings, and woodcuts to illustrate gardens from the time of Charlemagne to the beginning of Renaissance gardens in England. These are fleshed out with hypothetical plans and diagrams pieced together from documentary sources, poetry, and texts on cookery, medicine, and social life. The lists of plants included in the gardens are deduced from the visual evidence but are mainly taken from the work of John Harvey (e.g., *Medieval Gardens*, 1982) who unambiguously equated almost every medieval plant name with plants still available. The last third of the book discusses re-creating medieval gardens and provides a list of gardens to visit, some of them designed by the author. Recommended for all gardening history collections. ?Daniel Starr, Museum of Modern Art Lib., New York Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Sylvia Landsberg is a garden historian and lecturer and has re-created several twelfth to sixteenth-century gardens.