

Graduate Certificate in Nature-Based Sensory Garden Design

# Principles of Sensory Garden Design

## Principles of Sensory Garden Design: Key Terms and Vocabulary

A sensory garden is a garden designed to stimulate and engage the senses, providing a unique and immersive experience for visitors. In the Graduate Certificate in Nature-Based Sensory Garden Design, students will explore the key principles and elements of sensory garden design, including the following key terms and vocabulary:

1. Sensory stimulation: The process of activating and engaging the senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch) in order to create a rich and memorable experience.
2. Sensory elements: The specific features and elements of a sensory garden that stimulate the senses, such as plants, water features, sculptures, and tactile surfaces.
3. Plant selection: The process of choosing plants that will provide sensory stimulation, taking into account factors such as color, texture, fragrance, and seasonal interest.
4. Color theory: The study of how different colors can affect mood and perception, and how they can be used to create a desired atmosphere or effect in a sensory garden.
5. Soundscaping: The use of sound elements, such as wind chimes, water features, and birdhouses, to create a soothing and interesting sound environment.
6. Fragrance: The use of fragrant plants, such as herbs, flowers, and shrubs, to create a pleasant and memorable scent experience.
7. Tactile surfaces: The use of different textures and materials, such as stones, sand, and water, to create a variety of tactile experiences for visitors.
8. Accessibility: The design of a sensory garden to be accessible and usable by people of all ages and abilities, including those with mobility impairments, visual impairments, and other disabilities.
9. Safety: The design of a sensory garden to be safe and secure for all visitors, including the use of non-toxic plants, well-maintained paths, and appropriate lighting.
10. Maintenance: The ongoing care and upkeep of a sensory garden, including watering, pruning, and pest control, to ensure that it remains healthy and vibrant.

## Examples and Practical Applications:

\* A sensory garden might include a variety of plants with different colors, textures, and fragrances, such as lavender, rosemary, and succulents. \* Sound elements, such as wind chimes and water features, can be used to create a soothing and calming atmosphere. \* Tactile surfaces, such as sand pits and rock gardens, can provide a variety of textures for visitors to explore. \* To ensure accessibility, a sensory garden might include wide, well-maintained paths, and raised beds for easy gardening. \* Safety considerations might include the use of non-toxic plants, and the installation of handrails and seating areas. \* Regular maintenance, such as watering and pruning, is essential to keep a sensory garden looking its best.

## Challenges:

\* Choosing the right plants and sensory elements to create the desired atmosphere and experience. \* Ensuring that the sensory garden is accessible and safe for all visitors. \* Maintaining the sensory garden to keep it looking its best. \* Balancing the needs and preferences of different visitors and user groups.

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In summary, a sensory garden is a garden designed to stimulate and engage the senses, using a variety of plants, sound elements, fragrances, and tactile surfaces. In the Graduate Certificate in Nature-Based Sensory Garden Design, students will learn about the key principles and elements of sensory garden design, including plant selection, color theory, soundscaping, and accessibility. By understanding these key terms and vocabulary, students will be able to create sensory gardens that are engaging, enjoyable, and accessible to all visitors.