

PLANT SCHEDULE

for the Garden at



The logo for Samantha McKay Garden Design. It features the name "Samantha McKay" in a large, green, serif font. To the left of the name is a stylized green grass icon. Below the name, the words "Garden Design" are written in a smaller, green, sans-serif font. A thin green line runs horizontally across the page, passing behind the text.

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Plant recommendations for the back garden

Tree	Quantity	Eventual Size Height & spread	Season	Description
<i>Acer palmatum bloodgood</i>		5m x 5m At 10 years = 2.5 x 2.5m	Autumn	This upright Japanese maple is one of the best purple-leaved varieties. It has deeply cut, dark red-purple leaves that turn bright red in autumn and tiny purple-red spring flowers. Try it as a focal point in a small, contemporary or minimalist garden, where the intensity of the autumn colour can really sing. It needs a sheltered spot, away from strong winds or all-day sunshine. Add a top-dressing of a multi-purpose fertiliser around the base of a newly planted tree in late spring and keep well watered. No routine pruning is required; just remove any dead, damaged or crossing branches in late autumn or winter when they are fully dormant.
<i>Betula utilis var jacquemontii</i>		18m x 10m At 20 years = 7m plus	Spring and winter	Attractive bright white bark, dark green leaves, which turn yellow in autumn and yellowy brown catkins in spring. An elegant tree that is perfect for all gardens, large or small. It can be grown as a specimen in the lawn, grown in a group in woodland or just planted as a feature in the garden border.

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Shrubs	Quantity	Type & size Height and spread after 10 years	Season	
<i>Buddleja Davidii</i> <i>Black Knight</i>		Deciduous 1.5m x 1.5m	Summer	Much maligned for its habit of colonising railway sidings, buddleja can be a fabulous addition to a sunny border, with dramatic, fragrant flowers that are attractive to butterflies and other beneficial insects. Pruned hard in spring, 'Black Knight' produces dense spikes of tiny, fragrant, dark purple flowers. In autumn the pointed grey-green leaves turn butter-yellow. Prune back hard in March to three or four buds.
<i>Cornus alba elegantissima</i>		Deciduous 1.8m x 1.5m	Winter	This deciduous shrub has pretty, grey-green leaves with white margins and produces small, creamy-white flowers in May and June. But it's really grown for the vivid red stems that are revealed when the leaves fall. This lovely dogwood looks stunning planted in groups in damp areas of the garden, beside water, or in a winter border. Best in full sun, it works particularly well with orange or purple-stemmed varieties of dogwood. In March cut the stems back hard to within 5-7cm (2-3in) from the ground and apply a generous 5-7cm (2-3in) mulch of well-rotted garden compost or horse manure around the base of the plant.
<i>Osmanthus burkwoodii</i>		Evergreen 1.8m x 1.2m	Late spring	This popular, rounded, evergreen shrub has glossy, finely toothed, dark green leaves beautifully offset by highly scented, jasmine like, white flowers in mid and late spring. In flower, it will light up a shady corner of the garden and as an evergreen, makes a lovely foil for other flowering plants and ferns. Minimal pruning is required. Remove misplaced, dead or diseased branches in late spring and apply a generous 5-7cm (2-3in) mulch of well-rotted garden compost or manure around the base of the plant.
<i>Philadelphus</i> 'Manteau d'Hermine'		Deciduous 0.75m x 1.5m	Summer	In June and July, the arching shoots of this deciduous shrub are smothered in deliciously fragrant, double, creamy-white flowers and mid-green leaves. On warm, summer evenings, the delicate, orange-blossom fragrance floats on the breeze. This compact, bushy, variety of the popular mock orange is perfect for a small garden or where border space is limited. An essential, low-maintenance shrub for a sunny mixed border, it can also cope with urban pollution and salt-laden air. Mulch around the roots in spring with a deep layer of well-rotted garden compost or manure. Prune in late summer, immediately after flowering, removing one in four of the older stems to ground level.

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Perennials	Quantity		Season	
<i>Agapanthus</i> <i>Headbourne hybrids</i>			Mid summer	Showy globes of trumpet-shaped flowers ranging in colour from deep blue, pale blue to white appear from July to September on straight stems above clumps of strap-shaped, mid-green leaves. Headbourne Hybrids are a particularly fine variety of African lilies, ideal for a sunny well-drained border or a large patio pot. Keep well-watered during the growing season, applying a balanced liquid fertiliser each month from spring until the plant flowers. In cold, exposed areas protect the crown of the plant with a deep, dry winter mulch.
<i>Digitalis purpurea f</i> <i>albiflora</i>			Mid summer	This elegant foxglove produces stately spires of white, tubular flowers in June and July held above rosettes of large, hairy, dark green leaves. This pretty white foxglove is perfect for lighting up a shady border or for dotting through a mixed border among evergreen shrubs. Although it is a short-lived plant, given favourable conditions it will self-seed freely. All parts of the plant may cause severe discomfort if ingested and contact with the foliage may irritate skin. Ensure that the soil is kept moist in summer. After flowering, cut back the flowered spikes to encourage more sideshoots. Cut down to the ground after flowering. Apply a generous 5-7 cm (2-3in) mulch of well-rotted organic matter around the plant in early spring. These plants are mainly biennial, although if happy they will produce plenty of new sideshoots and self-seed freely.
<i>Heuchera Obsidian</i>			Spring	Airy sprays of tiny, pale pink summer flowers appear on wiry stems above rosettes of silver dusted, plum purple leaves. Like most heuchera, this variety is grown mainly for its distinctive foliage, and its marbled leaves look fantastic planted in large drifts and contrasted with other foliage plants. It is semi-evergreen and makes an eye-catching front-of-border plant, in sun or in dappled shade. Heucheras do not like dry soil. Remove tatty foliage in autumn. Lift and divide clumps every couple of years in early autumn and replant with the crown just above the surface of the soil. Apply a generous 5-7 cm (2-3 in) mulch of well-rotted organic matter around the crown of the plant in spring.
<i>Lamium white</i> <i>nancy</i>			Late spring	Delicate silver leaves, narrowly edged in green give this lamium an ethereal quality. It quickly forms a silvery carpet of foliage with whorls of long-lasting, nettle-like, magenta flowers in late spring and early summer. A beautiful evergreen groundcover plant that will light up the base of deciduous or even evergreen shrubs and trees. It prefers partial shade, and once established, will even flourish in difficult areas of dry shade. If you are growing this in dry shade, keep it well watered until it is established. After it has finished flowering, remove the faded flower heads to encourage fresh new foliage. Lift and divide large clumps in late autumn or early spring.

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Grasses	Quantity		Season	
<i>Festuca glauca</i> <i>Elijah blue</i>		Evergreen	All year	<p>A compact, blue leaves ornamental grass, with needle-like, silvery blue-green leaves and short spikes of blue-green midsummer flowers, gradually fading to buff. Neat and rounded in shape, it looks great in a gravel garden, combined with the spires of blue and purple-flowering perennials, or with Mediterranean-style plants.</p> <p>Comb through the plant with your fingers in winter to remove dead foliage. Container-grown specimens should be watered well when they are establishing. Plants need replacing every few years as they become tatty-looking.</p>
<i>Hakonechloa macra aureola</i>		Semi evergreen		<p>A small, ornamental grass native to the wet, rocky cliffs of Japan's Honshu Island, including the area around Mount Hakone, after which the species is named. It is a slow spreading, semi-evergreen grass which builds into gently cascading hummocks of bright green that are useful as a simple understorey to light shrubs and as a soft edging to paths or steps. Fine, light sprays of lime green flowers appear during June and July, giving a billowing lightness to planted drifts. The clean, minimalist style of this grass makes it a good choice for formal courtyards or in minimalist urban planters and the fresh green foliage gradually acquires rich russet tones as autumn advances.</p> <p>Incorporate lots of well-rotted garden compost into the planting hold. Leave flower heads to dry out through the winter, adding valuable texture to plantings. Apply a light mulch (3cm) of well-rotted garden compost after cutting back old foliage and before new growth emerges in spring.</p>
<i>Imperata cylindrica Rubra</i>		Deciduous	Late summer and winter	<p>Blood-red spikes that fade to bright green at the base and become translucent with age make this grass a spectacular addition to the perennial border. It takes a while to strut its stuff, but in late summer, it shines like a jewel. <i>Imperata cylindrica</i> is particularly effective planted with other grasses, or shown off in a container.</p> <p>Cut down to the ground in February. In cold areas, protect the roots by mulching with straw or well-rotted compost. If you are growing it in a container, keep it well watered.</p>
<i>Stipa arundinacea</i>		Evergreen	Mid summer to winter	<p>One of the best and most versatile evergreen grasses, this will thrive in sun or shade, and glows shades of copper, gold and bronze in the autumn, hence its common name, Pheasant's Tail Grass. It has a soft, arching habit, so plant it among shrubs for textural contrast, or in a mixed or herbaceous border.</p> <p>In spring, tease out dead foliage by gently running your fingers through it as if it were hair. It may self-seed, but simply pull out seedlings when you see them.</p>

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Climbers	Quantity		Season	
<i>Akebia quinata</i>		Semi evergreen	Spring	A very pretty climber, this has beautiful maroon-chocolate flowers which have an exotic spicy fragrance with a hint of vanilla, and appear in spring. They stand out against the bright green, three-lobed leaves, which have a purple tinge in winter. This unusual semi-evergreen climber is excellent for training against walls or up a pergola, and in a warm summer, large sausage-shaped fruit can form.
Clematis arctic queen		Deciduous Group 2 pruning	Spring and summer	Elegant, double, white, spring flowers with creamy centres. This compact, spring-flowering clematis produces a second flush of semi-double flowers, up to 18cm (7in) across, in August and September. A prolific flowerer, it looks lovely scrambling through a strong shrub or tree, in full sun or partial shade. While no regular pruning is required, removing the dead stem-tips in late February or early March will keep the plant looking tidy. Apply a slow-release balanced fertiliser and a mulch of well-rotted garden compost around the base of the plant in early spring.
Hydrangea petiolaris		Deciduous 3m x 4m	Summer	A star plant, this climbing Hydrangea thrives in some of the most shady, inhospitable areas of the garden. Slow to establish, it will eventually romp along a wall or fence, clinging by aerial roots. Its almost heart-shaped, dark green leaves turn yellow in autumn, and masses of showy, lacy, white flowerheads appear in late spring and early summer. Plant in moist, fertile soil and do not allow the soil to dry out while the plant is getting established. This hydrangea flowers on the previous season's wood, so if you need to prune it back, do so in late autumn or early spring, but be warned that this will restrict flowering the following year.
Jasminum officinale		Semi evergreen 10m	Summer	A popular, sweetly scented climber smothered in clusters of highly fragrant white flowers from June to August and pretty, fine foliage. This versatile, deciduous climber appreciates a sheltered, sunny, well-drained site, and can cope with dry conditions. Since it spreads quickly in all directions, it's ideal for covering a large south or west-facing wall or an unsightly garden building. In small gardens, it is best planted in a pot and trained up a trellis or wall. After flowering remove old and over-crowded shoots. Prune hard in autumn to keep it within bounds, but be warned that flowering will be retarded the following year.