

# A perfect dooryard garden

MARY ALICE ROCHE

**E**ASTWARD IN EDEN, in the first garden, grew "every plant of the field . . . every herb bearing seed . . . and every tree that is pleasant to the sight." Eastward in Eden, Maine, in the garden of Lewis and Amy Magdalene Garland, grow every pleasant plant and tree that can be fitted into such a miniature paradise. It seems impossible that so much beauty could be found in such a small place.

At our first visit in June, the *Clematis macropetala* was already decorating the front fence with its pale gold seed heads, and only a few florets remained on the azaleas and rhododendrons, which had put on a gorgeous show earlier in the spring. But the rose-and-gold blooms of the honeysuckle (*Lonicera perichlymenum*) at the other end of the fence were beginning to open, and, below, the thick border of *Potentilla tridentata* frothed with masses of tiny white strawberry-like flowers, while the deutzia at the corner was covered with white tassels.

Banked against the side fence were pink-flowered beautybush (*Kolkwitzia*) and the unusual Oriental plant *Rodgersia aesculifolia*. This has many-lobed leaves like a giant horsechestnut, but grows only 3 or 4 feet high. Its large, fluffy plumes of ivory-white flowers are borne in flat clusters on curved stems that seem to whirl about the center stalk.

**I**nside the fence, on either side of lichenized stepping stones, many rock plants were in bloom: the blue-rayed discs of *Aster alpina* beside the rose-rayed discs of sempervivums, tall sprays of white-flowered *Saxifraga macnabiana*, and the pink bells of the heathlike *Bruckenthalia spiculifolia*. Most spectacular was a carpet of *Dryas octopetala* just going to seed. Instead of its white flowers, each stem bore a golden banner, a long feathery twist of shining filaments.

After searching some time in a low clump of small green leaves, Mrs. Garland found one tiny branch with two pink bells on it. "I'm sorry you couldn't have taken a picture when this was in full bloom," she said. "It is the twinflower, *Linnea*, the favorite flower of the great Swedish botanist, Linnaeus. It was Mrs. Farrand's

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROCHE

At left: "The center of the garden was a sea of heather through which we walked on a path of Maine's lichenized rocks." Heathers shown are H. E. Beale and J. H. Hamilton.



View of side of house with corner of dooryard garden.



Portion of path edged with fluffy seed heads of dryas, *Saxifraga macnabiana*, *Geranium sanguineum*, sempervivums.



Entrance to dooryard garden with "gray woolly thyme, mounds of cranesbill, blue-green spears of iris foliage."

favorite flower, too. She liked having it right here by the doorstep."

For the Garland garden was also the last garden of the late Beatrix Farrand, the well-known landscape gardener, who laid out the magnificent Bliss garden at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., and the equally magnificent Rockefeller garden in Seal Harbor, Maine, among fifty or sixty others. Her own Reef Point Gardens, in Bar Harbor, were internationally famous for the beautifully planted trees, shrubs and flowering plants and the collections of horticultural books and prints. The plants came from all over the world, but there was special emphasis on natural planting of native material. These gardens were an inspiration and became an enduring memory for the many horticulturists both amateur and professional who visited them.

The last years of Mrs. Farrand's life were spent in the charming little house which she built behind the Garland homestead in Eden and in the gardens with which she surrounded it. Mrs. Garland was the horticulturist at Reef Point Gardens at Bar Harbor and she and Mrs. Farrand, together, used the knowledge that had created such spectacular showplaces to create the smallest and most perfect of dooryard gardens.

There are two and, as Mrs. Garland took us around to the second, which is in back of the house, we were greeted with the most delectable of all fragrances, the light, fresh scent of old-fashioned roses. The deep bank beside the path was completely covered with them: little

single pink briars, small, intense red doubles, big double white rugosas and dozens of others.

Against the barn was an espaliered peach tree and beyond it the exquisitely neat vegetable garden that is Mr. Garland's particular care and pride. Then we turned the corner of the house and saw the back terrace—like some fabulous tapestry woven by a master, but even more beautiful than that since nature's invention (as usual) carried it beyond man's handiwork.

The garden was enclosed within a tan fence hung with vines, and sheltered from the wind by cherry and elm trees. Bordered by paths of tan gravel, raised oblong beds overflowed with low plants of lush foliage jeweled with delicate flowers mainly in white, pink, blue and yellow.

Gray-green woolly thyme (*Thymus serpyllum lanuginosus*) and velvety snow-in-summer (*Cerastium tomentosum*) with their cascades of white flowers were set off against dark green mounds of candytuft and green, smooth-leaved mounds of dwarf cranesbill (*Geranium sanguineum album*) with its shallow white cups and blue-green spears of iris foliage. (Mrs. Garland had not been able to cut the seed heads off the candytuft as she usually does, since a white-throated sparrow had nested there and desired to bring up her young without any interference from meddling gardeners.)

A few fringed pinks and blue bellflowers (*Campanula carpatica*) added color to the pattern. The cottony white buds of clematis CRIMSON STAR were opening over the fence, while clematis NELLIE MOSER covered the side of the house with even bigger blossoms of palest lavender-pink with a strip of rose down the center of each petal.

The right side of the garden was mainly in yellows: the pale gold sun-roses (*Helianthemum*), rich golden *Oenothera fruticosa*, chartreuse spurge (*Euphorbia cyparissias*), creamy-yellow hybrid tea roses—and was sparked with the rich orange-and-yellow lily buds (*Lilium umbellatum*) and the red clematis MME. EDOUARD ANDRÉ.

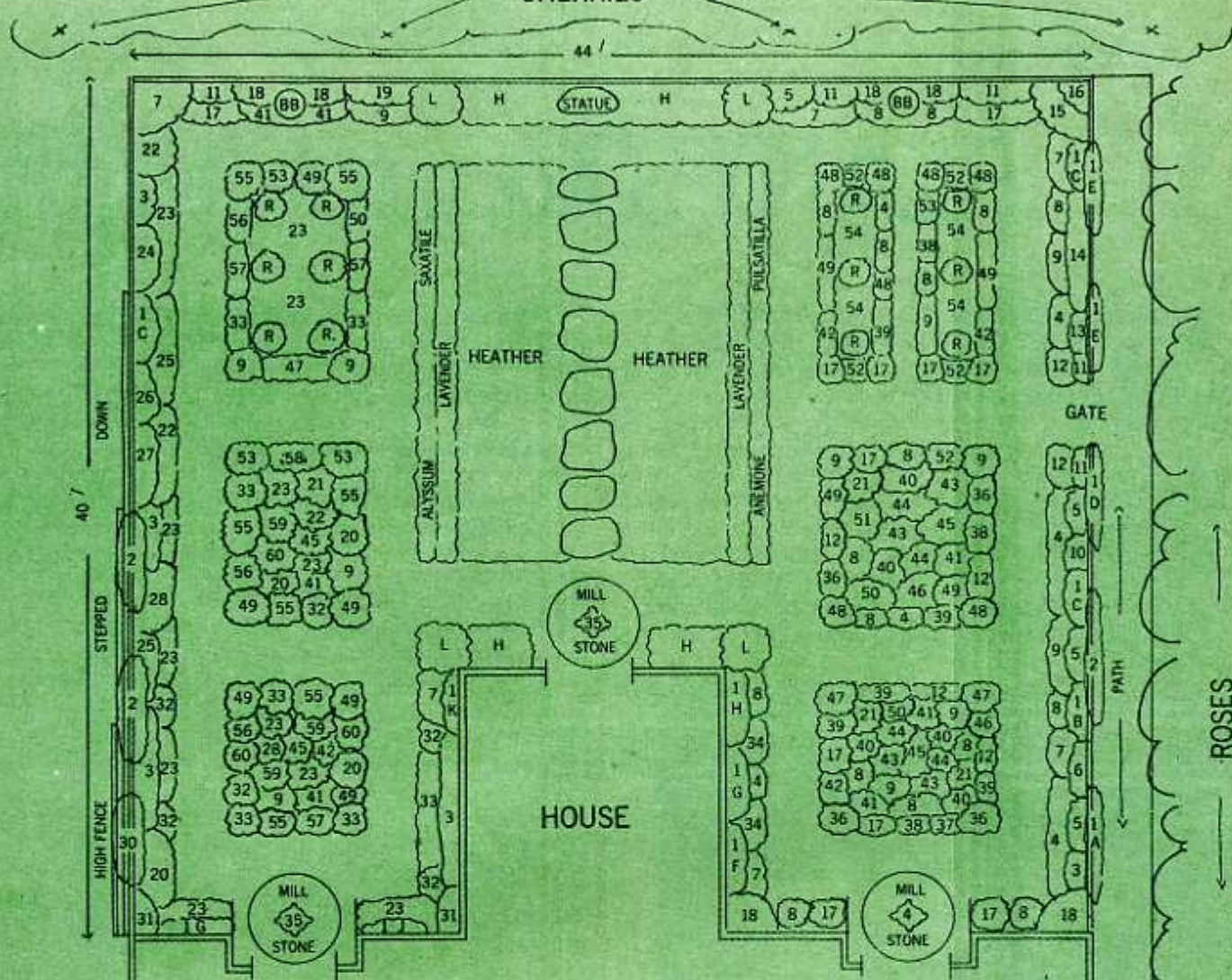
The entire center of the garden was a sea of heather, through which we walked on another path of Maine's lichened rocks. The dense bushes with their woody stems and narrow leaves were different in texture from the perennials and annuals on either side and added a feeling of substance and permanence. Even in the winter, and after the snow had fallen, these undulating waves would remain, reminding one of the beauty to come.

Heathers and heaths are always attractive, even when not in flower, but Mrs. Garland said that there is always some bloom, from early spring to fall. On our June visit, the heaths (*Erica tetralix alba* and *rosea*) were covered with delicate oval bells, and the even smaller flowers of heather (*Calluna rigida*) were starting to open.

When we returned in mid-July the front fence was covered with blossoming honeysuckle, but the flowers

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# CHERRIES



## Planting Plan for the Perfect Dooryard Garden

- |   |                                      |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Clematis: A. texensis; B. fremonti; C. integrifolia; D. Crimson Star; E. viticella kermesina; F. Comtesse de Bouchard; G. Jackmani; H. Nellie Moser; J. Mme. Edouard Andre; K. montana | 19. Centaurea americana              | 42. Armeria maritima lauchena                          |
| 2. Lonicera heckrotti   | 20. Euphorbia cyparissias            | 43. Geranium sanguineum album                          |
| 3. Iris, tall bearded   | 21. Iris pumila, purple, blue, white | 44. Aquilegia akitensis                                |
| 4. Thymus serpyllum lanuginosus   | 22. Rudbeckia speciosa               | 45. Delphinium grandiflorum, blue                      |
| 5. Astilbe, white   | 23. Dwarf French marigolds           | 46. Filipendula hexapetala flore-pleno                 |
| 6. Peony Mlokosewitschi   | 24. Lilium umbellatum                | 47. Artemisia stelleriana                              |
| 7. Veronica amethystina   | 25. Mexican zinnias                  | 48. Iberis sempervirens                                |
| 8. Dianthus plumarius, pink   | 26. Doronicum plantagineum           | 49. Polemonium reptans                                 |
| 9. Campanula carpatica, blue & white  | 27. Eryngium amethystinum            | 50. Thalictrum minus                                   |
| 10. Hosta plantaginea   | 28. Oenothera fruticosa              | 51. Iris florentina                                    |
| 11. Japanese Iris, white  | 29. Cynoglossum Firmament            | 52. Artemisia Schmidiana                               |
| 12. Cerastium tomentosum  | 30. Akebia quinata                   | 53. Pulmonaria angustifolia                            |
| 13. Penstemon glauca  | 31. Jasminum nudiflorum              | 54. Petunias, pink & phlox Quedlinburg                 |
| 14. Campanula persicifolia  | 32. Primrose, yellow                 | 55. Alyssum saxatile flore-pleno                       |
| 15. Artemisia abrotanum   | 33. Ajuga reptans                    | 56. Helianthemum Gold Nugget                           |
| 16. Delphinium, hybrid  | 34. Dictamnus rubra                  | 57. Veronica incana                                    |
| 17. Arabis albida flore-pleno   | 35. Sedum acre                       | 58. Oenothera missouriensis                            |
| 18. Sedum spectabile  | 36. Nepeta mussini                   | 59. Campanula glomerata                                |
|   | 37. Saxifraga macnabiana             | 60. Achillea tomentosa                                 |
|   | 38. Phlox subulata                   | BB. Bird bath  |
|   | 39. Thymus serpyllum roseus          | R. Hybrid tea roses, pink on right, yellow on the left |
|   | 40. Dicentra eximia                  |  |
|   | 41. Iris pumila, yellow              |  |

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inside were gone, leaving a "green" garden featuring foliage of varied and interesting shapes, textures and shadings: the shiny, three-lobed potentilla, lacy fans of Hinok cypress, round, glossy galax leaves edged with bronze, serrated lances of fern (*Woodsia*), perfectly rounded mounds of cranesbill foliage, blue-green spikes of dwarf iris and thick mats of early dianthus—all against a background of deep green andromeda and dwarf rhododendron bushes.

The flowering stalks of dryas, saxifrage and sempervivum had been cut off, leaving their basal rosettes as ornamental ground cover. The sempervivums were especially lovely, ranging from pale gray-green, overlaid with white webbing, through yellow-green "ceramics," to bronze-tipped, blue-green plush and a lustrous, deep maroon.

Outside the fence the *rodgersia* flowers, being made up of sepals and no petals, had merely turned a light



Standing on the outside of garden looking in. Seed heads of *Clematis macropetala* grace the top of fence.

tan and remained on the plant throughout the summer. (They would make wonderful, naturally dried indoor decorations.) For the Garland garden was designed, and each plant selected, so that every spot is pleasing at all times. Some flowers dry attractively on the plant, or are followed by interesting seed heads. Other plants are cut back after flowering so that their neighbors can fill in the space as they

come into bloom, or the handsome foliage is allowed to remain as a planned part of the garden picture.

In the back garden, in midsummer, the somewhat ragged cerastium had been shorn of its faded flowers, but its dainty gray foliage was still a decorative accent. Clematis NELLIE MOSER had finished blooming, but the violet umbrellas of *Clematis viticella kermesina* had opened at the end of the fence and the honeysuckle (*Lonicera heckrottii*) on either side was a riot of rose and gold. A few white blossoms lingered on the geraniums, while campanula, dianthus and lavender were now in full bloom and had been joined by pink petunias and starred and fringed phlox QUEDLINBURG. Dazzling white Japanese iris highlighted one corner, and creamy plumes of astilbe were set off by a background of red clematis, which was now covered with flowers. Roses still bloomed and a few low French marigolds were flowering under them.

In August these marigolds had become a solid carpet of yellow, spiced here and there with red-brown. Black-eyed bright yellow rudbeckia and yellow-and-red Mexican zinnias were massed against the fence, backed by fantastic slate-blue sea-holly (*Eryngium*) and next to blue cynoglossum FIRMAMENT.

Since Maine has cool days and cooler nights, flowers last a long while and plants are not forced to exhaust themselves at the first flowering. Due to this—and to Mrs. Garland's practice of cutting off all dead flowers at once (with the exception of those which have ornamental seed heads)—annuals bloom and bloom and many perennials continue to have some flowers throughout the summer, as does the lovely campanula, whose bright blue flowers on both sides of the garden related the predominantly pink-and-white side to the predominantly yellow side.

But the crowning glory at the end of the summer was, of course, the heather. The sea of dense foliage was now a sea of dense flower spikes ranging from white to lavender-pink to bright pink and deep rose—the florets sometimes oval bells and

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