

■ Complete Perennial Planting Calendar

Your Comprehensive Cottage Garden Guide

This guide covers all **15 cottage garden perennial combinations** featured in the article, including detailed bloom schedules, recommended plant spacing, companion planting charts, and monthly maintenance tasks to keep your garden thriving year-round.

1. Bloom Schedule – All 15 Combinations

#	Combination	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	Lavender & Echinacea					●	●	●	●				
2	Rose & Salvia					●	●	●					
3	Foxglove & Geranium				●	●	●						
4	Delphinium & Achillea					●	●	●					
5	Penstemon & Catmint				●	●	●	●					
6	Astrantia & Heuchera					●	●	●	●				
7	Verbena & Rudbeckia						●	●	●	●			
8	Agapanthus & Crocosmia						●	●	●				
9	Monarda & Phlox						●	●	●				
10	Knautia & Scabious					●	●	●	●				
11	Allium & Nepeta				●	●	●						
12	Sedum & Aster								●	●	●		
13	Geum & Aquilegia			●	●	●							
14	Eryngium & Stachys					●	●	●	●				
15	Hellebore & Pulmonaria	●	●	●									●

● = Primary bloom period

2. Recommended Plant Spacing

#	Combination	Plant A Spacing	Plant B Spacing	Row Spacing	Mature Height
1	Lavender & Echinacea	45 cm	60 cm	75 cm	60–90 cm
2	Rose & Salvia	90 cm	40 cm	90 cm	60–120 cm
3	Foxglove & Geranium	45 cm	35 cm	60 cm	45–150 cm
4	Delphinium & Achillea	60 cm	45 cm	75 cm	60–180 cm
5	Penstemon & Catmint	40 cm	45 cm	60 cm	40–90 cm
6	Astrantia & Heuchera	45 cm	30 cm	50 cm	30–75 cm
7	Verbena & Rudbeckia	35 cm	60 cm	60 cm	45–120 cm
8	Agapanthus & Crocosmia	45 cm	15 cm	60 cm	60–100 cm
9	Monarda & Phlox	60 cm	45 cm	75 cm	60–120 cm
10	Knautia & Scabious	45 cm	40 cm	60 cm	45–80 cm
11	Allium & Nepeta	15 cm	40 cm	50 cm	30–120 cm
12	Sedum & Aster	45 cm	60 cm	60 cm	30–90 cm
13	Geum & Aquilegia	30 cm	30 cm	45 cm	30–90 cm
14	Eryngium & Stachys	45 cm	30 cm	60 cm	30–120 cm
15	Hellebore & Pulmonaria	45 cm	30 cm	50 cm	30–60 cm

3. Companion Planting Chart

#	Primary Pair	Good Companions	Avoid Planting Near	Benefit
1	Lavender & Echinacea	Rosemary, Thyme, Allium	Mint, Fennel	Pollinator magnet
2	Rose & Salvia	Allium, Catmint, Geranium	Brassicas	Pest deterrent
3	Foxglove & Geranium	Aquilegia, Astrantia	Fennel	Shade tolerance
4	Delphinium & Achillea	Salvia, Penstemon	Competitive grasses	Height layering
5	Penstemon & Catmint	Lavender, Echinacea	Tall brassicas	Long season bloom
6	Astrantia & Heuchera	Ferns, Hostas, Foxglove	Aggressive spreaders	Shade garden fill
7	Verbena & Rudbeckia	Echinacea, Monarda	Tall delphiniums	Late season colour
8	Agapanthus & Crocosmia	Hemerocallis, Kniphofia	Heavy clay plants	Structural drama
9	Monarda & Phlox	Rudbeckia, Echinacea	Susceptible mildew spp	Wildlife habitat
10	Knautia & Scabious	Verbena, Achillea	Heavy feeders	Butterfly garden
11	Allium & Nepeta	Roses, Salvia, Lavender	Legumes	Natural pest ctrl
12	Sedum & Aster	Rudbeckia, Knautia	Wet-soil lovers	Autumn interest
13	Geum & Aquilegia	Geranium, Astrantia	Invasive mints	Spring woodland
14	Eryngium & Stachys	Lavender, Achillea, Allium	Moisture lovers	Drought tolerance
15	Hellebore & Pulmonaria	Ferns, Epimedium, Galanthus	Full-sun plants	Winter/spring colour

4. Monthly Maintenance Tasks

January
• Plan new planting areas and order seeds/bare-root plants
• Cut back ornamental grasses if not done in autumn
• Check hellebores – remove tatty foliage to expose flowers
• Apply grit around crowns of vulnerable plants in wet weather
February
• Divide snowdrops 'in the green' after flowering
• Start hellebore seeds under glass (slow germination – patience!)
• Feed borders lightly with balanced granular fertiliser
• Remove slug-damaged foliage and apply copper tape barriers
March
• Cut back penstemons to live growth buds
• Divide large clumps of asters, monarda, and phlox
• Stake tall delphiniums and kniphofias as growth emerges
• Weed borders thoroughly before growth obscures weeds
April
• Plant out hardy annuals to fill gaps between perennials
• Feed roses with specialist rose fertiliser
• Deadhead early tulips; allow allium foliage to die back naturally
• Pot up tender agapanthus if needed and resume watering
May
• Chelsea Chop – cut back echinacea & rudbeckia by one-third for later, sturdier bloom
• Tie in climbing and sprawling plants before summer growth rush
• Apply mulch 5–8 cm deep to suppress weeds and retain moisture
• Watch for aphids on roses and salvia; blast off with water jet
June
• Deadhead lavender, salvia, and catmint regularly to extend flowering
• Cut back geraniums hard after first flush for a second flush
• Water new plantings deeply during dry spells (less frequent, deep soaks)
• Support phlox and monarda against wind and rain

July
• Deadhead roses, echinacea, and rudbeckia continuously
• Collect seed from aquilegia and foxglove if desired
• Continue watering containers and recent plantings
• Clip catmint and nepeta back by half for late flush
August
• Take semi-ripe cuttings of lavender, salvia, and penstemon
• Leave seed heads of eryngium, achillea, and allium for wildlife
• Apply potassium-rich feed to boost next year's flowering
• Divide and replant bearded iris after flowering
September
• Plant spring bulbs – alliums, tulips (from late October), narcissus
• Divide hostas, hemerocallis, and astrantia while soil is warm
• Cut back crocosmia foliage after it dies down
• Begin reducing watering frequency as temperatures drop
October
• Plant bare-root roses and shrubs while soil is still warm
• Cut back summer-flowering perennials, leaving some for winter structure
• Lift and store tender agapanthus in colder regions
• Apply slow-release fertiliser and organic matter to borders
November
• Protect hellebore crowns with a light mulch of leaf mould
• Plant garlic between perennial clumps as a companion deterrent
• Clean tools and cold frames; check stored bulbs and corms
• Leave ornamental grass plumes and seed heads standing for birds
December
• Plan and order for next year – review bloom schedule and gaps
• Cut back spent perennial growth if not already done
• Protect pot-grown agapanthus with fleece or bring into unheated greenhouse
• Rest, reflect, and appreciate evergreen and structural planting

This calendar is a general guide for a temperate, maritime climate (UK/Northern Europe). Adjust timings by 2–4 weeks depending on your local microclimate, aspect, and soil type. Always observe your garden – it will tell you what it needs.