

# What makes a Mary Garden?

## FLOWERS

### **Alyssum** *Mary's Flower*

These tiny flowers have a sweet aroma

### **Baby's Breath** *Our Lady's veil*

The fresh aroma from these small flowers makes them a common choice for wedding bouquets and flower crowns

### **Begonia** *Mary's Heart*

There is a breed of Begonia's called 'Angel Wing Begonia's'

### **Bluebell** *Mary's Clothes*

The deep blue color was believed to be where Mary got the dye for her clothes

### **Buttercup** *Our Lady's Locks*

This lovely yellow plant is said to match the blonde hair of Our Lady

### **Calla Lilly** *St. Joseph's staff*

The Calla Lilly stands straight and proud, resembling the staff St. Joseph used

### **Carnation** *Motherly Love; the Crucifixion*

These grew from Mary's tears when she met her son on the way to Calvary

### **Chrysanthemum** *All Saint's Day Flower*

A common flower for funerals and grave-sites

### **Columbine** *Visitation*

This flower grew in Mary's footprints when she journeyed to see her cousin, Elizabeth

### **Cosmos** *St. Michael's flower*

Cosmos continue to bloom until late September (Feast Day of St. Michael); this hearty plant can grow almost anywhere

### **Daffodil** *Mary's Star*

Resembles the Star of Bethlehem

### **Daisy (Oxe-Eye)** *Mary's Star*

The simplicity of this flower was said to resemble the pure spirit of the Christ Child

### **Easter Lily** *Easter*

This type of Lily blooms during the Easter season

### **Forget-Me-Not** *Mary's Eyes*

Their light blue color is said to mirror Mary's eyes

### **Foxglove** *Our Lady's Gloves*

The long, delicate bloom resembles a glove

### **Fuchsia** *Our Lady's Earrings*

Legend says that these resemble the earrings worn by Mary, which Baby Jesus played with

### **Geranium** *Gentle Virgin*

These flowers bloom in May, the month dedicated to Mary

### **Gladiolus** *Our Lady of Sorrows*

Also known as a 'sword lily' these blooms resemble the seven swords that pierced Mary's heart

### **Hollyhock** *St. Joseph's Staff*

Hollyhock might resemble a shepherd's staff, but is still dedicated to St. Joseph

### **Hosta** *Assumption*

Blooms in late August, around the Feast of the Assumption

### **Hyacinth** *Desire for Heaven*

Based on the ancient Greek tradition that Hyacinth would bloom over grave-sites



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### **Iris** *Our Lady of Sorrows*

The royal purple color and the sharp petals represent Mary's sorrow at the Foot of the Cross

### **Job's Tears** *Rosary*

The shiny, tear-like grain was used to make rosaries

### **Juniper** *Flight to Egypt*

The Holy Family hid from their pursuers behind Juniper bushes

### **Lilac** *Ascension*

Lilac blooms extend towards the sky, and their purple color represents Christ as King.

### **Lily of the Valley** *Mary's Tears*

These white lilies droop towards the ground, resembling tears. They formed under the Crucifix where Mary stood and wept.

### **Marigold** *Mary's Gold*

When the Holy Family was escaping to Egypt, they were attacked by robbers. But when they took Mary's bag, inside was only flowers

### **Morning Glory** *Mary's Mantle*

They resemble Mary's blue cloak

### **Pansy** *Trinity*

Pansies not only have groups of three petals, but they are also tri-colored, representing the Trinity

### **Peony** *Pentecost Rose*

Considered to be a rose 'without thorns'

### **Petunia** *Our Lady's Praises*

Petunia's come in many different colors; Mary loves and praises everyone

### **Rose** *Emblem of Mary*

This flower has always been associated with Mary

### **Snapdragon** *Baby Jesus' Shoes*

This fun bloom resembles a baby's shoe

### **Snowdrop** *Candlemas Purity*

They bloom at the end of winter when we celebrate Jesus' Presentation in the Temple (Feb. 2nd)

### **Tulip** *Mary's Prayer*

Before blooming the petals of the Tulip resemble hands in prayer

### **Violet** *Our Lady of Humility*

Our Lady of Humility refers to images of Mary seated on the ground or a cushion (instead of a throne); Violets are a rich purple color and stay low to the ground.

### **Wisteria** *Our Lady's Bower*

Mary and the baby Jesus took shelter from the hot sun under this large, blooming flower

### **White Lily** *Annunciation*

The angel Gabriel often presents three white Lilies to Mary in depictions of the Annunciation



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# What makes a Mary Garden?

## HERBS

### **Chamomile** *Our Lady's Flower*

For its resemblance to a daisy and its many healing properties

### **Chives** *Our Lady's Garland*

This plant has many medicinal uses and a lovely flavor that can be added to any meal

### **Dandelion** *Mary's Bitter Sorrow*

The leaves of dandelion have a bitter flavor and are often seen in depictions of the Crucifixion

### **Marjoram** *Mary's Bedstraw*

Mary used Marjoram to line the manger for the baby Jesus

### **Parsley** *Our Lady's Vine*

Parsley leaves resembles Ivy, a long-lasting plant that represents God's eternal presence

### **Rosemary** *Mary's nose*

The rich scent was beloved by Mary

### **Sage** *Mary's Mantle*

This medicinal plant has purple flowers which first appeared after Mary laid her cloak on the ground to rest

### **Thyme** *Our Lady of Humility*

This herb grows low to the ground and has many medicinal properties

## FRUIT

### **Cherries** *Crucifixion*

The bitter flavor and red juice are a reminder of Christ's sacrifice

### **Figs** *Escape to Egypt*

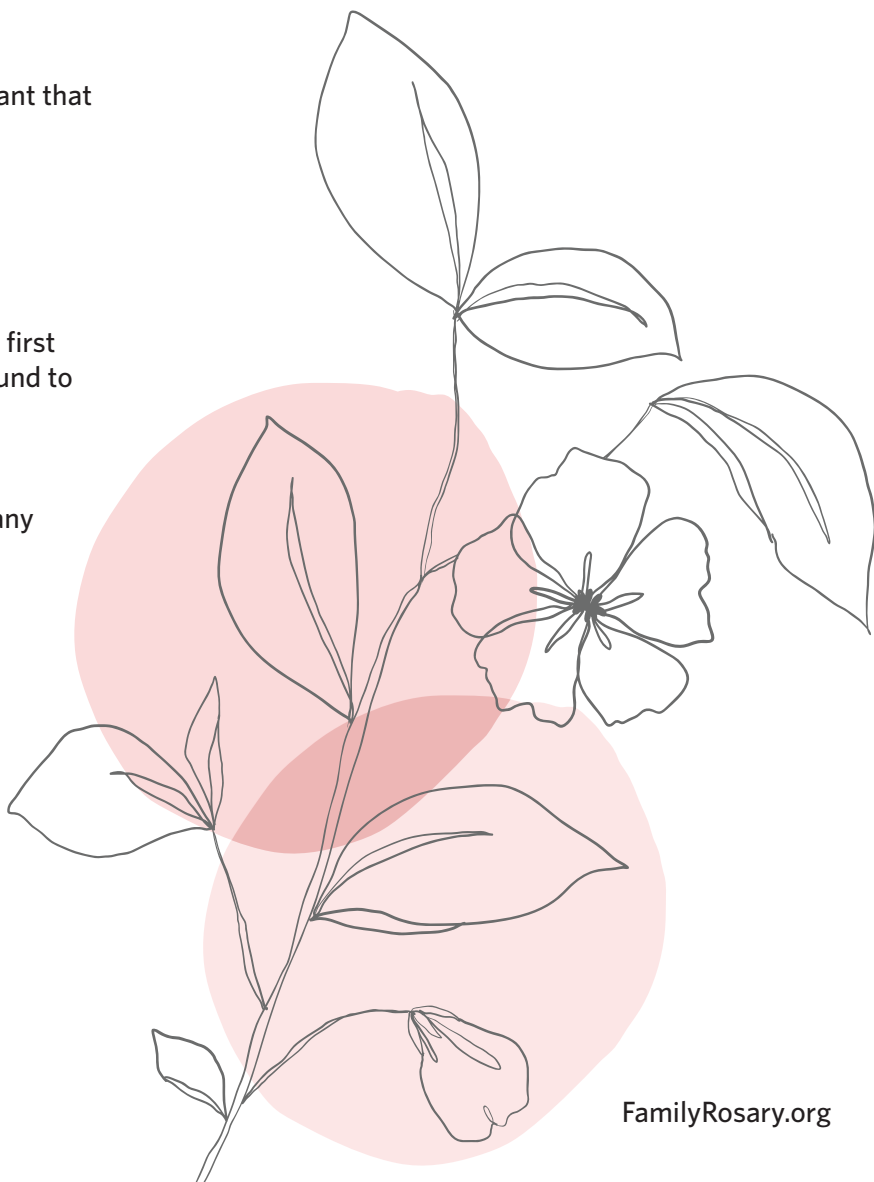
During the Holy Family's escape, Fig trees appeared on the road for them to eat

### **Oranges** *Mary's Fertility; New Eve*

Oranges, when brought to Europe, were thought to be the fruit Eve ate from the Tree of Knowledge

### **Strawberry** *The Fruitful Virgin*

The strawberry's shape resembles a womb



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