

What makes a Mary Garden?

FLOWERS

Sweet 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'

Bleeding Heart *The Passion of Christ*

Because they resemble a bleeding heart this flower is associated with Christ's sacrifice on the cross

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*

Believed to have bloomed outside of Christ's tomb, these flowers are also associated with All Saint's Day

Columbine *Visitation*

This flower grew in Mary's footsteps on her way to visit Elizabeth

Cosmos *St. Michael's flower*

Cosmos continue to bloom until the end of September, around the Feast Day of St. Michael

Crocus *Blessed Virgin Mary*

These flowers represent Mary's eternal youthfulness and purity. A select breed of the flower is cultivated for the spice Saffron

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 flowers resemble the sword that pierced Mary's heart



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Hollyhock *St. Joseph's Staff*

This flower resembles the staff used by St. Joseph

Hosta *Assumption*

Blooms in late August around the Feast of the Assumption

Hyacinth *Desire for Heaven*

Based on the Ancient Greek myth that this flower would bloom over gravesites

Hydrangea *Ave Maria*

Depending on the color this flower can have many meanings, but the white bloom is most often associated with Mary

Iris *Our Lady of Sorrows*

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

Juniper *Flight to Egypt*

The Holy Family hid from their pursuers behind Juniper bushes

Lilac *The Ascension*

This flower bloomed under the Crucifix where Mary wept for her son.

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*

This flower represents Mary's true wealth, which is her love for mankind. Marigolds also have many medicinal properties

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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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 properties and a lovely flavor

Cornflower *Mary's Crown*

For its beautiful blue petals, this herb has many medicinal properties

Dandelion *Mary's Bitter Sorrow*

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

Lavender *Mary's Drying Plant*

When Mary left the Christ Child's clothes to dry on the grass, lavender grew in its spot

Marjoram *Mary's Bedstraw*

Mary used Marjoram to line the manger for the baby Jesus

Parsley *Our Lady's Vine*

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

Rosemary *Mary's Posy; Mary's Bouquet*

Because of its pleasant scent this plant was used by Mary as a personal bouquet

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 *The Crucifixion*

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

Figs *The Escape to Egypt*

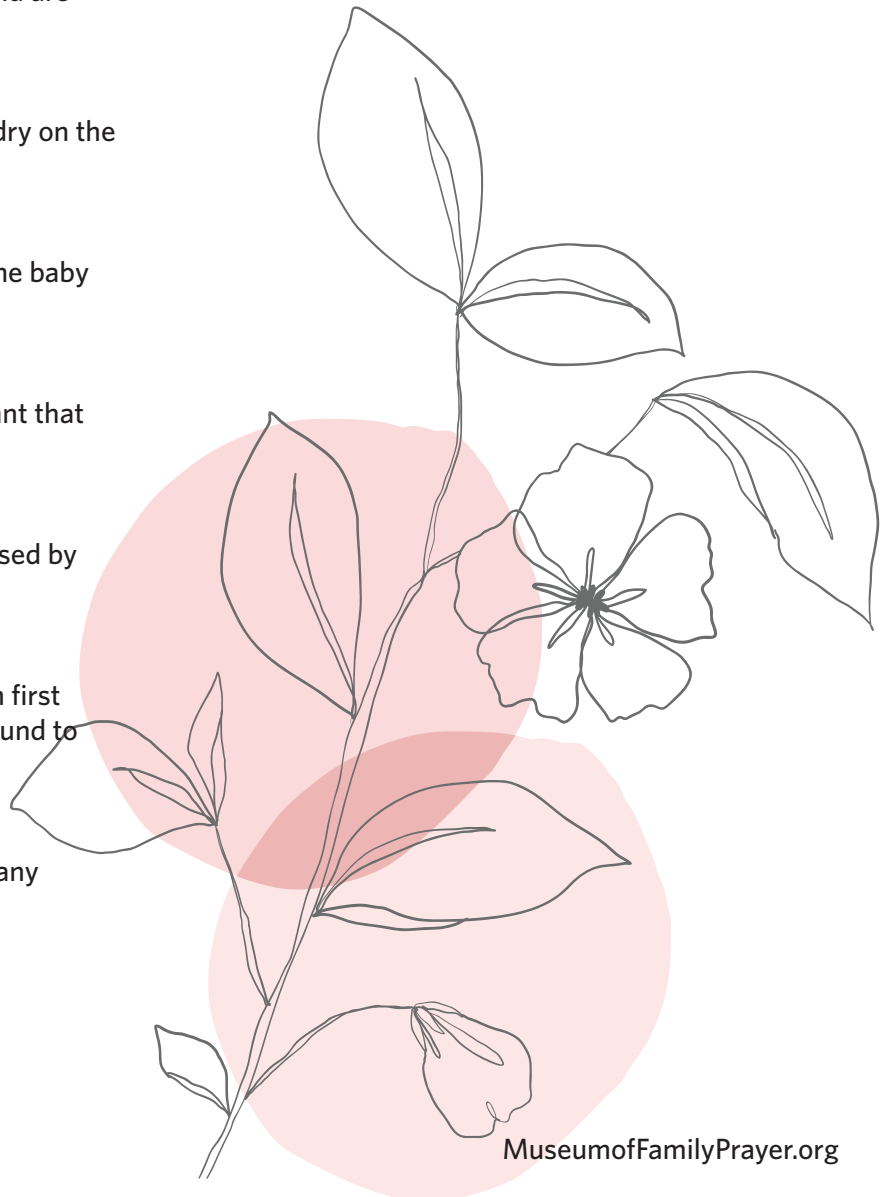
During their escape the Holy Family ate from Fig trees

Oranges *Mary's Fertility; New Eve*

Believed to be the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge

Strawberry *The Fruitful Virgin*

The strawberry's shape resembles a womb



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