

Tubs and Shrubs Herb gardening

is far more interesting than the simple cultivation of the common popular dozen culinary herbs. A vast number of herbs were grown in the 16th and 17th centuries for both medicinal and culinary uses. Herb growing has a historical fascination which is shown in many “herbals” (early books on herbs). Early herbalists scoured the known world for new herbs.

A 16th– and 17th– century method of arranging a herb garden was the knot garden. Many gardens were based on geometric beds of single species of clipped herb, herb topiary and chequerboard designs.

Chequerboard parterre—herbs are clipped flat and kept square to accentuate the contrasting colours of the herbs and gravel
Suitable plants.
Rosemary - rue santolina or thyme.

Thyme bed.— we do such a large variety of thymes you should consider when making your choice, their leaf colour scent, habit and flower colour.

Perfect for window boxes or confined spaces.

Chamomile seats or turf seats have their origins in medieval gardens. Planted with pleasantly fragrant aromatic herbs make for a comfortable seating area. Seats were often placed in a niche or in an arbour frame festooned with scented climbers.

Small herb knot garden
The low, interlacing hedges divide up beds for herbs.
Box is the most popular but equally successful are hyssop or lavender. Coloured gravel can be used in beds.

Scent and colour. Using the right planting scheme can make the most of all the available colours but when the fragrance is released, many by touching , herbs come into their own. Many can be dried and used in pot-pourris. Lemon-scented verbena and lavender are popular as they retain their scent.

Whether it’s a scented bed or a culinary herb garden we can help. We are well known throughout the area for the supply of fresh cut herbs for hotels and restaurants. We even supply pre planted herb boxes for the chef who insists on the freshest ingredients (grown on their own doorstep). We welcome visitors to our Nursery next to the Red Lion in West Boldon Village