

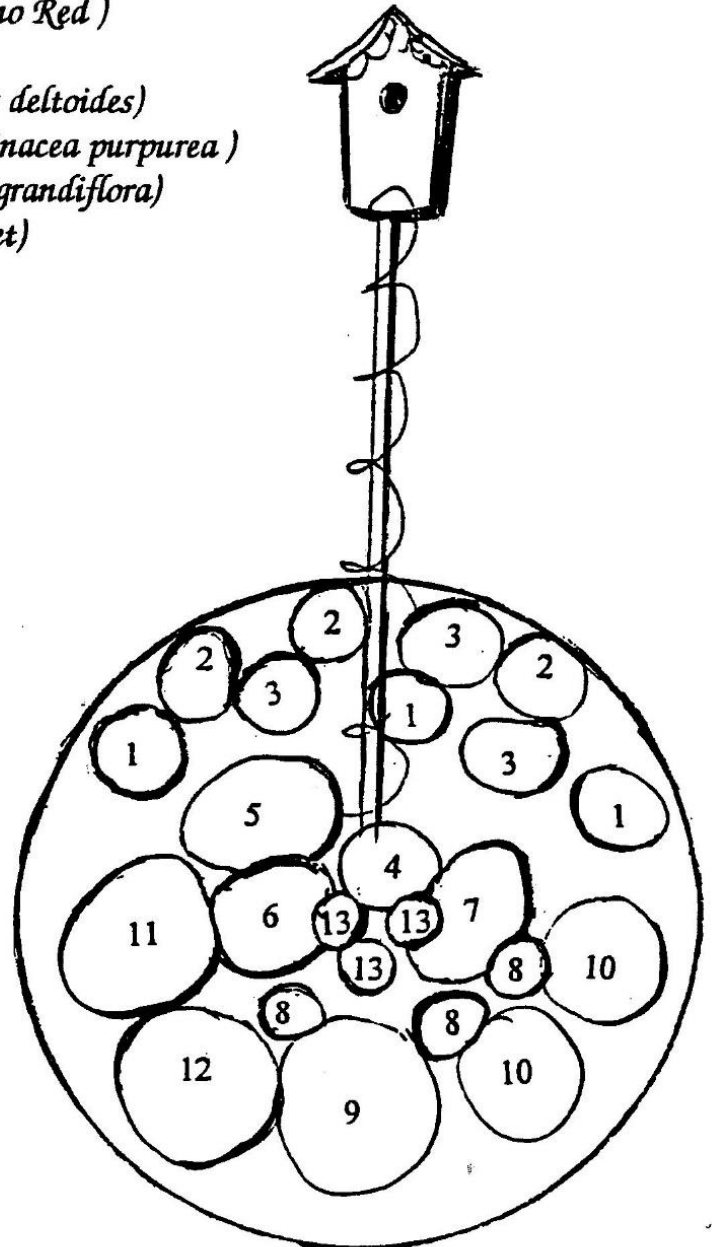


*A Sunny Birdhouse Garden*



BIRDHOUSE GARDEN  
PLANT LIST  
5 foot circle garden (24 plants)

<i>No of Plants</i>		
1.	3	<i>Delphinium (delphinium elatum)</i>
2.	3	<i>Yellow Perennial Foxglove (Digitalis grandiflora)</i>
3.	3	<i>Hollyhock (Alcea rosea)</i>
4.	1	<i>Heavenly Blue Morning Glory (Ipomoea)</i>
5.	1	<i>Cosmos (Single Sensation Mixed Colors )</i>
6.	1	<i>Monarda (Bee balm)</i>
7.	1	<i>Gloriosa Daisy (Rudbeckia hirta)</i>
8.	3	<i>Nicotiana (Dwarf Domino Red )</i>
9.	1	<i>Nasturtium (Alaska)</i>
10.	2	<i>Maiden Pinks (Dianthus deltoides)</i>
11.	1	<i>Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea )</i>
12.	1	<i>Early Sunrise (Coreopsis grandiflora)</i>
13.	3	<i>Dwarf Sunflowers (Sunset)</i>



5 foot circle

# BIRDHOUSE GARDEN

Congratulations on the purchase of your **BIRDHOUSE GARDEN**. Your garden has been designed to be low maintenance, easy care and provide a succession of blooms from early summer through fall.

## **SOIL PREPARATION**

If you're beginning a new garden in an area that is now lawn, you'll first need to eliminate the grass. Do not power-till the grass into the soil, or the grass roots will return as weeds in your flower bed. It's better to remove the sod entirely, using a rented sod-stripper or a spade. Be sure the soil is moist, but not wet or soggy, when you begin working.

### **To mark the circle**

Place pole or stick in the center of the circle. Tie a string toward the bottom of the pole approximately 2 1/2 feet in length. Pull the string taut and using garden lime or spray paint draw a circle by moving in a circular direction, while holding the string. This should make a 5 foot circle. Use a spade or a half-moon edger to cut down into the sod along the lime marker. Then begin to strip off the sod with a spade by angling the flat end of the spade's blade just under the grass roots and pushing with your foot. Slice off the sod in easy-to-handle sections. You can add the sod to your compost heap where it will quickly rot, or replant it elsewhere. After the sod is gone, dig into the soil as deeply as you can— one spade depth or 1 1/2 feet—using a power tiller or a shovel or spade to turn it over.

Loosening the soil creates a fluffy soil that's easy for roots to penetrate. With clay soil, you might want to loosen the soil down deeper with a garden fork. Push the fork into the subsoil and rock it back and forth without turning the soil over. Spread organic matter (rotted manure) in a 2 to 6 inch deep layer over the surface of the loosened soil.

Then mix it all into the top 1 foot of soil, and smooth the soil with a garden rake.

Well-prepared soil gives perennial plants the best start possible—they'll send deep down roots and grow into healthy specimens that will bring you pleasure for years to come. Because perennials live so long, you won't get another chance to work the soil this deeply unless you renovate the entire bed, so take this opportunity to create the best soil possible.

When planting the birdhouse garden, work from the center outward to avoid trampling the plants. Anchor the pole into the ground at least 3 feet. Use 3/4 inch galvanized plumbing pipe and attach galvanized flange to bottom of birdhouse and screw onto pipe. The pole will stand 8-12 feet above the ground. You will need a pole at least 12 feet in length (ie. 3 feet underground) and 8-9 feet above. You can find this at any hardware store..

To save time I recommend a time released fertilizer that you use once (*Osmocote* or *Once*) and it will continue to fertilize up to 9 months. Dig the hole for each perennial place a heaping teaspoon of fertilizer at the bottom of each hole. The roots of the plants will be on top of the fertilizer. Water well. (Remember to place plastic markers to identify plants).

I do not recommend mulch because some of the flowers will go to seed and fall into the soil and come back again next year. If mulch is present the plant will not be able to reseed (ie. Sunflowers, Cosmos, Nicotiana, Nasturtium and Morningglory). In the fall you will find that the birds love the seeds from these flowers. Allow the flowers to go to seed, do not cut down the plant as it allows a perch for the birds to land upon while feeding.

You'll notice pods on the Morningglories and Nasturtium, tuck some of the seeds into the soil around the same area and they will likely grow again next year. Do the same with the seeds from the Cosmos, Nicotiana and Sunflowers- allow to shake down under the plant and land on the soil. Over the winter, rake leaves as usual and place several inches over the perennials to provide a protective mulch for all the other perennials (tuck in around the dried flower stalks to hold in place) that will return next year. The following year in April after the last snowfall, remove the leaves by hand to not disturb some of the annual seeds from taking root. Cut down dead flowers stalks and discard. Sprinkle time released fertilizer on top of soil, about one heaping teaspoon per plant. ***Water well and enjoy for another summer!***

Picking flowers for beautiful bouquets will encourage more blooms !

#### **EXTRA TIPS**

- *Cutting Foxglove and Delphinium before going to seed will promote another bloom.*