



THE ART OF LIVING GREEN

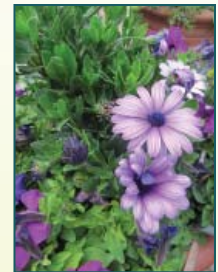
FNGLA's 2011 Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival Garden

Entering into FNGLA's Tuscan themed "The Art of Living Green" garden on the side towards Morocco, it's easy to see the elements of sustainability, recycling, water conservation and relaxation.

Adjacent to the wall's seating area is home to the Florida equivalent to an olive grove: a Loquat Grove. As the garden matures, the loquats will be ripe and ready for picking. Guests are encouraged to "walk the grove" to soak in a taste of Tuscany, Florida style!



The use of the burgundy geranium is intended to correspond to burgundy wines true to tuscany.



Among the signage, you'll see each of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping principles and a visual to bring each specific element to life such as "Reduce Runoff" paired with a rain barrel.

The interesting white daisy-like flower pictured above with the blue centers are *Osteospermum* and is a key interest of park guests and can be found in various containers throughout the garden.



Marrying the edible trend with true sustainable living, many of the garden's containers bring a clash of ornamental and edible. Among the containers you'll find edibles such as artichokes, fennel, rosemary and colorful ornamentals.

**A function of FNGLA's Marketing Committee.
Contact Jennifer Nelis at FNGLA for details.**



Part of the *Grow Your Own* movement, edible plants like rosemary, mint and oregano are within reaching distance from the outdoor kitchen area and are herbs frequently used in tuscan kitchens.



Tapping all the senses, we've included Society Garlic which not only fits the garden aesthetically, but gives a slight aroma authentic to the garden's inspiration.



Working to educate Florida's gardening enthusiasts as well as gardening novices, FNGLA's Garden *The Art of Living Green*, is nestled between Morocco and France and is the largest free-standing garden installed specifically for the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival. FNGLA estimates the garden foot-traffic between 120,000 and 150,000 individuals during the 75-day festival.



Colorful ornamentals mixed with edible garden herbs are a welcoming element to the garden's entry areas. From the entry closest to France, the pathway first leads to the naturalistic play area on the right. At the bend, is the water feature and to the left of the pathway is a collection of dry climate plants which leads into the citrus grove. The container garden across from the citrus and adjacent to the kitchen is a fabulous burst of color and purpose and an element to be certain to lead guests to view.



From the promenade, park guests encounter a view of the citrus grove as well as the vineyard area. While the grapes lack luster initially, they tend to be a popular element for guests and serve to inspire them to enter the garden area through the stoned entryway.

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The container garden located to the France side of the kitchen area is an explosion of form and function: many edible plants are mixed with ornamentals to create a fabulous presentation for park guest. Adjacent to the containers are arguably the most notable plant in the garden: the fruiting olive trees (check for signs they are or will be fruiting).



Signage located at the waterfall emphasizes the importance of plants near shorelines given they absorb excess pollutants and hold the soil in place while attracting wildlife.



The tuscan-style kitchen's armoire houses the volunteer sign-in sheets, the garden volunteer aprons and the booklet containing details on the FNGLA garden for volunteer reference while working the display. As a volunteer, you are tasked with interacting with park guests to educate them on the garden's elements and on gardening in general. Feel free to distribute festival guides as well as www.floridagardening.org promotional flyers to those interested.



Another of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping principles is nested among the lavender field.



The Citrus grove is home to Calamondin (ready for harvest November - April); Centennial Kumquat (ready for harvest November - May); Sambo Lemon (ready for harvest December & January); Ponderosa Lemon (everbearing).

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Also stationed in the garden are Disney volunteers who serve to interact with guests and serve an administrative function while in the space. These folks can help assist you with general park questions and the like.



The garden is home to approximately 40 containers helping to set the stage with the Tuscan look and feel as well as providing one more layer of sustainability with their assortment of edibles.

From the lavender "fields" to the citrus and loquat groves to the edible and ornamental containers texturing the garden's nooks to each of the nine Florida-friendly landscape principles set into play throughout the garden, the entire area is full of great inspiration and serve as a source of inspiration for gardeners of all experience levels.



The center of the garden is the Tuscan farmhouse kitchen. Attached to the kitchen guests will find a mock rain barrel to emphasize the use of water runoff. Out the entry near the living wall is a recycle station for composting. The mock cistern is easily recognizable with its circular shape and Latin writing. Among the sea of edibles, one gets the feel they could easily gather their afternoon snack.

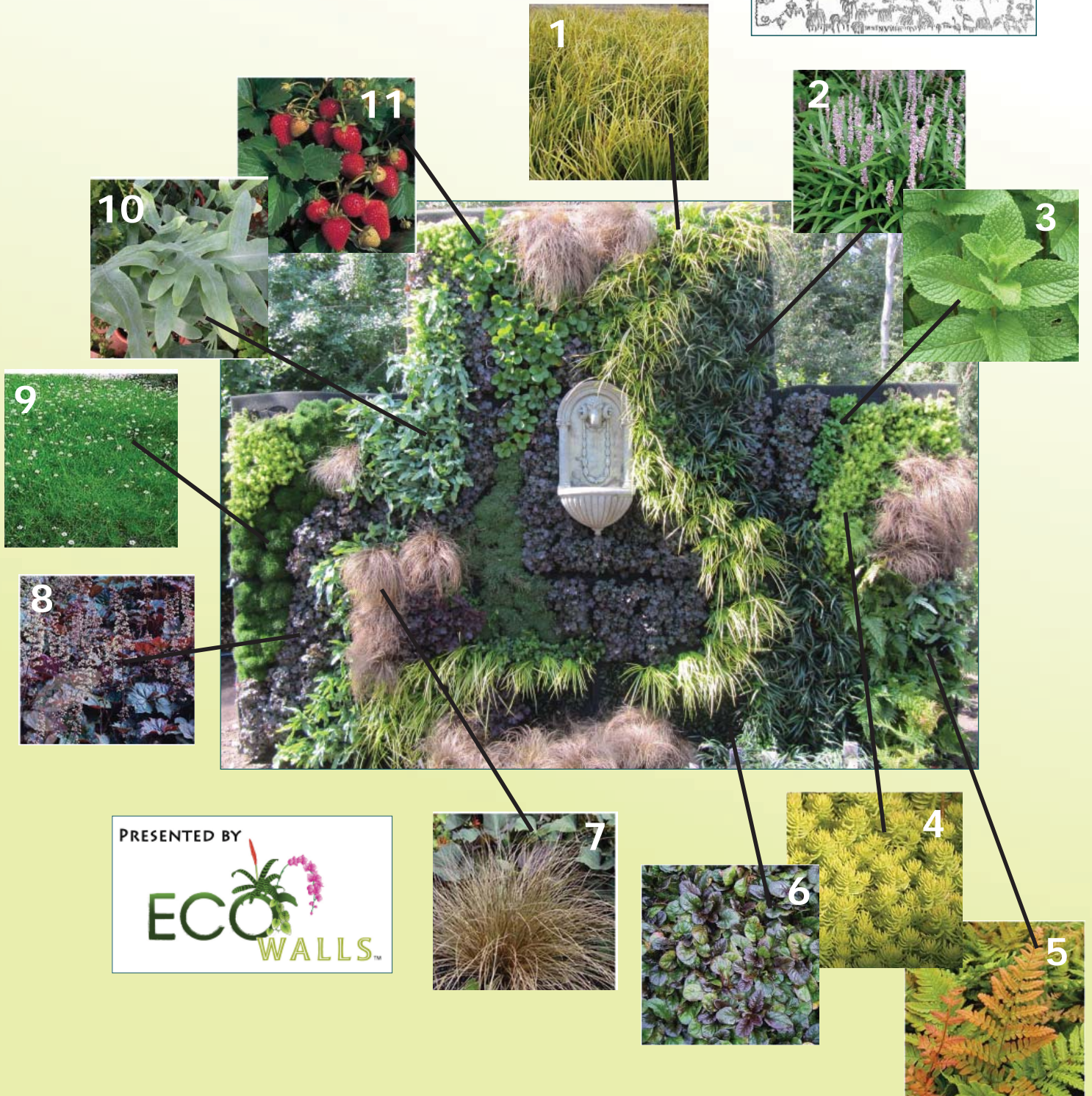


A glimpse behind the scenes: the landscape installation team was [AmeriScapes Landscape Management, Inc.](#) and the living wall is from [EcoWalls, LLC.](#) The gentleman in the blue collared shirt and safety vest is the Walt Disney World landscape architect who worked with the FNGLA team to take the space from concept to fruition.



FNGLA's new consumer website is a key resource to promote while in the garden. Look for the promo pieces in the garden to pass out: www.floridagardening.org

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***Acornus ogon* | Golden Sweet Flag**

USDA Zones 5 - 11

Full to partial sun

Grows from 6" - 14" in height

Perfect for containers, borders and beds, this Butter-yellow sword-like blades add wonderful contrast all season. It likes moisture. Deadheading Not Necessary. This grasslike plant provides fall interest.



***Liriope muscari* 'Big Blue' | Big Blue Lilyturf**

USDA Zones 5 - 10

Full to partial sun

Grows up to 24" X 24"

A tufted grass-like perennial with abundant blue flower spikes which rise above the foliage followed by clusters of black berries. It tolerates dry conditions once established in the landscape. It grows by slowly expanding it's clumps.



***Mentha* | Mint**

USDA Zones 3 - 9

Full to partial sun

Grows up to 24" X 24"

A genus of about 25 species, mint is a perennial herb which enjoys a damp location, shaded from strong afternoon sun, and rich soil and has an array of culinary uses. It is also associated with stomach-ache relief. Birds, butterflies and bees are attracted to the scent of this plant. Harvest by clipping foliage as needed.



***Sedum rupestre* 'Angelina' | Stone Crop**

USDA Zones 3 - 9

Full sun

Grows 4" - 6" tall and trails

A terrific low evergreen groundcover for sunny areas with poor dry soil. It forms a trailing mat of succulent golden-yellow leaves and clusters of yellow starry flowers which appear during the summer. When planted in containers or on a wall this develops a beautiful cascading habit.



***Dryopteris erythrosora* | Autumn Fern**

USDA Zones 5 - 9

Full shade

Grows to 18" - 24" tall by 18" wide

A fantastic fern to use in moist locations, this popular fern's new growth has an orangy tint. Use to cover barren spots in shaded areas or add for seasonal color. Drought resistant, it is a labor saver in courtyards and atriums.



***Ajuga reptans* | Bugleweed**

USDA Zones 3 - 9

Full to partial sun

Grows to 2" - 6" tall by 12" to 18" wide

Ajuga grows along the ground, spreading by runners, and soon creates a thick carpet of foliage. It is an excellent plant to use for erosion control due to it's extensive root system. A member of the mint family, it has a rapid growth rate. Small blue flower spikes will likely appear during the festival adding to it's striking foliage.



***Carex flagellifera* 'Tofee Twist' | Sedge Grass**

USDA Zones 7 -10

Full to partial sun

Grows from 8" - 24" in height & width

Sought for its dramatic tusks of foliage which display slender, iridescence bronze leaves with an elegant sweeping, trailing habit. A great filler to add cool-season interest to perennial borders or as a groundcover. Consumer may mistake its bronze color for a traditional grass' winter look.



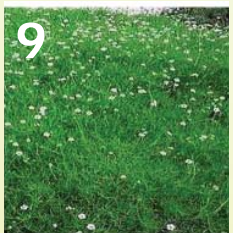
***Heuchera micrantha* 'Palace Purple' | Coral Bells**

USDA Zones 7 -10

Full to partial sun

Grows from 8" - 24" in height & width

Great for adding color and vivid contrast with green foliage, the brilliantly colored foliage creates a spectacular background for its spray of tiny white flowers which will appear if planted under some shade.



***Sagina subulata* | Irish Moss**

USDA Zones 4 - 8

Full to partial sun

Grows 1" tall by 12" wide

This evergreen pathway perennial has handsome, lush deep green moss-like foliage which forms a soft mat that is an excellent plant for walkways and between stepping stones as it tolerates moderate foot traffic. Tiny translucent white flowers add to its beauty in spring.



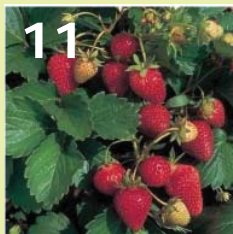
***Phlebodium aureum* | Blue Star Fern or Rabbit Foot's Fern**

USDA Zones 9-12

Light shade to partial sun

Grows 24" X 36" tall and wide

With it's large pale gray green arching fronds with deeply separated wavy-edge leaflets. This fern has creeping rhizomes covered in a brown scale which look like fur. A very nice garden plant in well drained soils or as a potted specimen, it can tolerate situations where it gets only occasional irrigation or wetter conditions.



***Fragaria 'Quinalt'* | Strawberry**

USDA Zones 4-9

Full sun

Grows 12" - 18" tall " X 24" wide

A compact variety which yields large and abundant berries, this variety is ideal for the home gardener with 4 -5 months of continuous fruiting. It's berries have intense fragrance and its foliage holds its deep green color throughout the season.

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