

Fairies and Fairy Gardens

According to Brian Froud, author of the beautiful book "Good Faeries/Bad Faeries":
Faeries "are luminous ...creatures who dance by the light of the moon, beautiful as the music itself, trailing patterns of color and mist in their wake. Faeries often dance in circles, leaving rings of flattened grass to mark the sites of their midnight revels-- or circles of toadstools springing up where faery feet have trod."

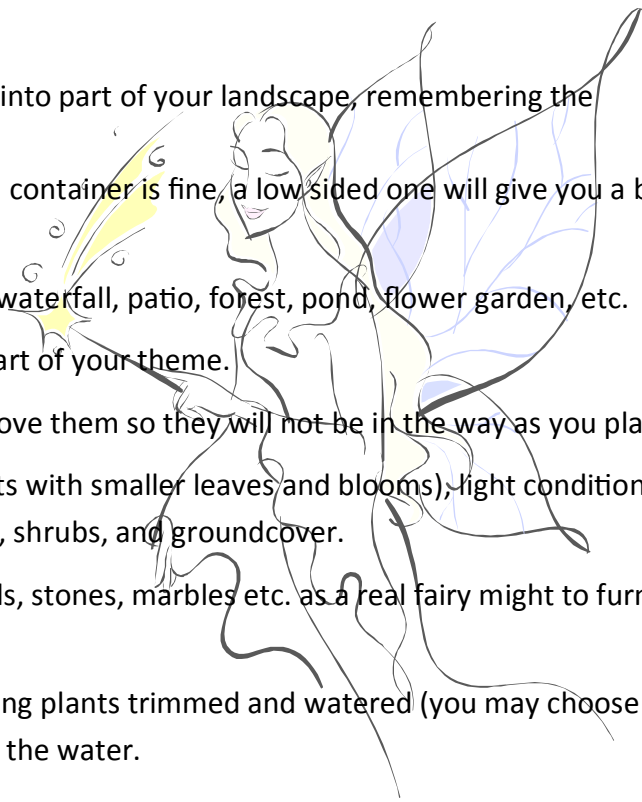
"When we dance with the faeries, we dance with the reflections of our true selves and the true inner self of the world."

They are "irrational, poetic, absurd, paradoxical, and very, very wise. They bestow the gifts of inspiration, self-healing, and self-transformation...but they also create the mischief in our lives, wild disruptions, times of havoc, mad abandon, and dramatic change.... He has "attempted to divide faeries into good and bad-- a convenient conceit for us humans, but laughable to the faery folk. Faeries insist on being themselves, shape-shifting endlessly. Good and bad coexist in some degree in all of Faery's creatures."

They can be helpful or spiteful if you get on their wrong side: so providing a suitable fairy size garden with a few charming amenities may be your best way to stay on the good side of these magical, mischievous creatures.

A Fairy Garden can be self-contained, or nestled into part of your landscape, remembering the following tips:

- Choose a container or location. Any material container is fine, a low sided one will give you a better look.
- Pick a theme to keep your diorama focused: waterfall, patio, forest, pond, flower garden, etc.
- Choose a fairy or two that would like to be part of your theme.
- Place your fairies, mark their spot, then remove them so they will not be in the way as you plant.
- Choose your plants: keep in mind scale (plants with smaller leaves and blooms), light conditions, and chose a variety of heights to mimic trees, shrubs, and groundcover.
- Add a few miniature accessories, or find shells, stones, marbles etc. as a real fairy might to furnish their miniature garden.
- Help the fairies maintain the garden by keeping plants trimmed and watered (you may choose to use a mister or turkey baster to better target the water).



There are many different aspects of Fairy Lore in Celtic Ireland, just as there are many different types of fairy people and creatures. In America, we are used to 'Tinkerbell' types of fairies, who love plants, animals, and nature. Most fairies are not so nice. Just to name a few:

1. Banshee– harbinger of death
2. Leprechaun– fairy shoemaker, hoarder
3. Black Dogs– sinister or helpful
4. Changelings– fairies substituted for human babies
5. Wood Sprites– general name for fairies as spirits

There are many 'Fairy Trees' along the roadsides and especially at the crossing of roads throughout Ireland. Usually these are gnarled old Hawthorne bushes or sacred Oak and Ash trees. It is said that Fairies and otherworldly creatures dwell in these trees, and superstitious people would not pass by them late at night. It is also believed that fairies had enchanted certain rocks, and impressions in the rocks (fossils) were fairy curses.

Fairy paths are suspected to run throughout the length and breadth of Ireland. Known now as Ley Lines, these are underground lines of force associated with magical, paranormal, or unusual happenings. In some rural areas up until recent times, people would consult a dowser or wise woman to discover where it was safe to build their homes.

Great care should be taken to avoid dark green 'fairy rings' in the grass, which mark where the fairies have held a circular dance at midnight (actually a fungus). It is thought to be very dangerous to sleep in one, or even to step in one after nightfall. To be on the safe side, passersby should reverse their hats to confuse any fairies who might attempt to make them join in their dread dance. A more daring person may hear the sound of the fairies laughing and talking if he runs nine times around the ring in the direction that the sun takes, or the runner will fall prey to the fairies' powers.

Destruction of a fairy ring is extremely foolhardy, and is in any case futile as it will regenerate itself.

A great source for fun fairy garden ideas and crafts is on Pinterest. Start at our fairy garden board and go from there! [Pinterest.com/knollwoodgarden](https://www.pinterest.com/knollwoodgarden)



www.KnollwoodGardens.com 937-426-0861
3766 Dayton-Xenia Rd., Beaver Creek, OH 45434

Plant Suggestions

Roundy-moundy, small and sweet, easily stepped on by fairy feet!

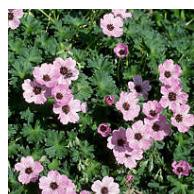
Perennials for Shade

Ajuga 'Chocolate Chip'
 Columbine—dwarf
 Epimedium 'Lillafee'
 Fern—Japanese Painted
 Maidenhair
 Fernleaf Bleeding Heart
 Heuchera
 Hosta—miniature to medium
 Iris cristata
 Japanese Forest Grass
 Lamium
 Lily of the Valley
 Tiarella
 Trillium
 Trout-lily
 Violas 'Heartthrob'



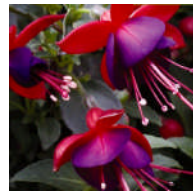
Perennials for Sun

Artemesia 'Silver Mound'
 Blue Star Creeper
 Campanula 'Birch's Hybrid'
 'Dicksons Gold'
 Geranium 'Ballerina'
 Groundcover Sedums
 Hens & Chicks
 Irish Moss
 Scottish Moss
 Stachys 'Silky Fleece'
 Thyme 'Wooly Elfin'
 Veronica 'Aztec Gold'



Annuals

Ageratum
 Alyssum
 Calibrachoa
 Carniverous Plants*
 Celosia
 Convolvulus
 Cuphea
 Fuchsia 'Upright Jollies Nantes'
 Gomphrena (Globe Amaranth)
 Grasses 'Live Wire'
 Hypoestes (Polka Dot Plant)
 Laurentia
 Mecardonia
 Melampodium
 Nierembergia
 Norfolk Pine*
 Ornamental Pepper 'Calico'
 'Chilly Chili'



Palm*—dwarf
 Scaevola
 Shamrocks (Oxalis)
 Streptocarpella
 Torenia
 *Tropical



Herbs

Bay Laurel
 Lavender
 Marjoram
 Mint
 Rosemary
 Scented Geranium
 Thyme

