



WILD & WOVEN

How to Keep a Garden Journal

My
Garden
Journal

A SIMPLE, PRACTICAL GUIDE

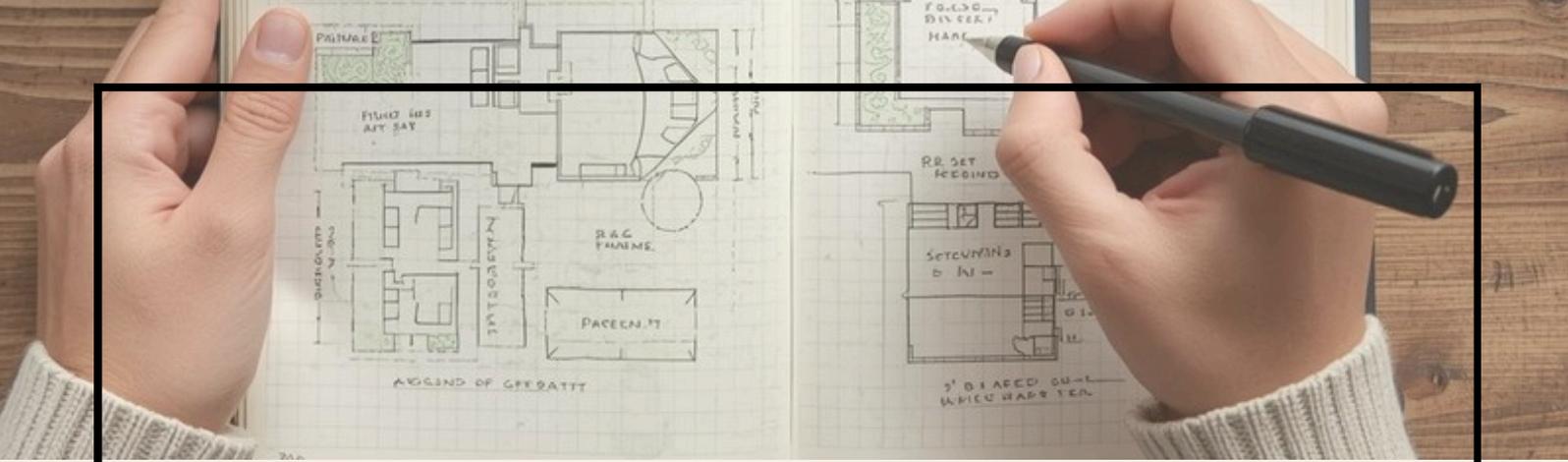


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01 Introduction

I would like this guide to be a helpful starting point for anyone who is **beginning their garden journey**, or for those who have been tending a space for years but would like to go a little deeper. My gardening experience comes from over 20 years working as a landscape gardener, alongside caring for my own town garden through all its seasons.

A garden is more than soil and plants. It is an **extension of the home**. It is the place we step into first thing in the morning, the view from the kitchen window, the space where children and dogs run, where washing dries in the breeze, where friends gather on warm evenings.

At its best, **a garden becomes a small sanctuary**. Not perfect, not showy, but welcoming. A place that feels settled. A place that holds beauty in summer and quiet structure in winter.

But real gardens are not magazine spreads. They grow faster than we expect. Weeds appear overnight. A fence leans. Pots dry out. Lawns surge ahead just when we are short on time. Even a well-loved space can feel overwhelming at times. That is exactly why a journal helps.

A garden journal is not another demand. It is a steady place to begin. Tending a garden keeps us grounded. It asks us to notice the weather, the light, the soil under our hands. It keeps us moving. It draws us outside. These are all things that are quietly good for us.

Each of us can shape our own small piece of land into something that feels abundant and cared for, not through perfection, but through steady attention. And if more people tended their gardens with that kind of care, imagine how different our streets and neighbourhoods might feel. **Softer. Greener. More alive.**



01

Introduction continued...

This guide will show you:

- What to record
- How to structure your pages
- How often to write
- How to make your notes genuinely useful next year

It is not a full planning system. It is a practical way to build a steady record of your garden so you can care for it with more confidence over time.

If you keep notes like this for a year, something shifts. The seasons no longer arrive as a surprise. You begin spring with memory behind you. You know roughly when blossom opens, when the lawn slows, when pests tend to appear. You begin slightly ahead, not scrambling to catch up.

Before you begin writing, it helps to understand the simple rhythm of the month.

Each month follows the same steady pattern:

- Set up your calendar grid.
- Prepare your weekly pages.
- Add brief notes as the days unfold.
- Gather what mattered at the end of the month.

With photographs of real pages alongside this guide, you will be able to see exactly how this looks in practice. The structure is simple. Once it is drawn, you only need to fill it in.



02 The Calendar Grid, Your Field Notes

Long before planners and digital apps, gardeners kept notebooks in their pockets. In the nineteenth century especially, it was common to record first blossom, bird arrivals, frost dates and unusual weather.

These notes were not written for display. They were practical, personal observations of a place.

Some of those Victorian flowering records are still used today by researchers studying long-term climate patterns. What began as one person quietly noticing their hedgerow became part of a much larger understanding of seasonal change.

Your calendar grid continues that tradition in a simple way.

Draw a clear monthly grid with a box for each day. It does not need decoration. It only needs enough space for a few words.

This is where you keep brief field notes.



02

The Calendar Grid, continued...

You might record:

- The weather, using small symbols if you like, sun, cloud, rain, frost
- Temperature, daily or perhaps once a week
- First blossom on a tree
- Slug activity after rain
- Hedgehog sighting
- Strong winds that battered a fence
- Lawn looking stressed in heat
- Pond level dropping in a dry spell

Some entries will be only a few words. Hard frost. Warm rain. First bees. Deck slippery after algae.

Over time, you will see the shape of each month at a glance. You will begin to recognise patterns. You will know roughly when blossom tends to open, when pests usually appear, when the lawn slows. These notes are small, but they build familiarity.

For example, you might write one April: "Late frost after early blossom." The following year, when the tree flowers early again, you cover it for two cold nights. The fruit holds. That is the quiet power of a small record.



Your Field Notes



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Small, consistent
acts of care quietly
change a place.



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03

Weekly Working Pages

Where the calendar grid captures observation, the weekly pages capture tending.

A garden is not only planting. It is edging lawns, clearing sheds, repairing fences, oiling decking, cleaning ponds, mending raised beds and restoring paths.

Your weekly page is where you record that wider care. You might include:

- Tasks planned
- Tasks completed
- Adjustments made
- Immediate results

One week might look like this:

- Mowed lawn and edged borders
- Treated decking with protective oil
- Cleared shed and reorganised tools
- Replaced broken fence post
- Fed tomatoes
- Cleaned pond filter



03

Weekly Working Pages continued...

You do not need long descriptions.

Deck cleaned and re-oiled, dry spell helped.

Fence repair took longer than expected.

Raised beds topped up with compost.

These short records show where your time and energy went. They also help you see what truly made a difference.

Even if someone else carries out the heavier work, your journal keeps you connected to what is happening in your space. You remain involved in the decisions and the direction of your garden.



Weekly Record



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Even a small, well-
cared-for garden
can soften the
edges of the world
around it.



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04

End of Month Summary

At the end of each month, pause briefly.

You are not writing an essay. You are gathering what mattered. You might note:

- What shaped the month most
- What progressed well
- What needs attention next month
- One or two notes to remember next year

For example:

September, cooler and steady. Lawn renovation successful. Pond cleared. Slugs reduced as nights cooled. Next year, begin lawn work slightly earlier if weather allows.

This page turns scattered notes into something clear and usable.

In medieval monastic gardens, planting dates and harvest yields were carefully recorded so communities could feed and care for themselves year after year. Practical notes ensured continuity.

Your small monthly summary serves the same purpose in a modern way.



End of Month Summary



February		
What is growing?	Jobs Completed	Notes
Week 1 5 th - 8 th Snowdrops	Divided some Snowdrops. Planted some bulbs.	So much rain! Everything is soggy.
Week 2 9 th - 15 th Crocuses are doing well.	Lefts are beginning to flower in my garden.	Had some thunder this week!
Week 3 16 th - 22 nd Cattuns on the hazel are looking bright.	Swept up sawdust from tree removal. Moved logs & cleared path. Bark added to side border.	Another cold frosty spell at the beginning of week 3 snow Wednesday!
Week 4 23 rd - 28 th Pheasants are flowering. Bud appearing on cherry fig. Myraea birds are big.	Got oak sleepers in and cleared space. Started building the wall.	A little behind on what I wanted.

Summary

What shaped the month most?
The weather! I just didn't want to be out in the rain so much as drying the logs to the top was tricky.

What progressed well?
Cleared the path and got the wall sorted - it's needed attention for quite a while!

What needs attention next month?
I need to get the fence completed so I can plant the new tree before it blooms really important as I mess our old tree.
A busy month - if I can I want to get all jetwashing sorted and get some painting done - I hope we have some dry days!
Keep an eye on the weather forecast.

Notes to remember for next year.
Next year should be easier as there won't be log & fence disruption! Make the most of dry days even 1/2 hour!!



There is time to
begin again
tomorrow.



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05 Reference Pages, Focus and Patterns

Alongside your monthly and weekly pages, keep a small reference section at the back of your journal.

This is where you gather information that you will return to more than once.

You might divide this section into two parts. A Rotating Focus Page. Each month, choose one main area to observe more closely. This keeps you from trying to improve everything at once.

It might be:

- The lawn
- A fruit tree
- A border you are improving
- The pond
- A hedge
- A structural project such as replacing decking or repairing fencing

On this page, record:

- What you changed
- Why you changed it
- What conditions influenced it
- How it responded over the following weeks
- What you would adjust next time





05

Reference

Pages, Focus and Patterns

For example:

Lawn focus, March

Scarified lightly. Applied spring feed. Reseeded thin patch near gate.

Dry spell followed, watered twice weekly. Improvement visible by late April. Next year, start a week earlier if ground conditions allow.

This kind of page builds depth. Instead of scattered notes, you have one place where you can see the full story of that area.

Problems and Patterns Page

Keep one running page for recurring issues. Record:

- When it appeared
- What the weather was doing
- What you tried
- What worked, and what did not
- Whether it returned

Over a year or two, patterns become obvious. You are no longer reacting in surprise. You are responding with experience.

These reference pages are where confidence grows. They turn observation into understanding.

You may also wish to include sketches of plans and photos of progress in our journal.



06

Join In



If you would value steady companionship as you work, there is also a quiet Wild and Woven WhatsApp group where people share what they are tending, photographs of garden problems, solutions that have worked, and gentle encouragement. You can contact me on WhatsApp +44 7890 047684 if you are interested in joining.

Reminder

Begin simply.

Draw the grid.

Set up the week.

Make a note.

Small, consistent acts of care shape a garden.

Over time, they shape your confidence too.

Tending a garden also builds practical confidence in quieter ways. You learn what works in your soil and what does not. You improve tools, timing and technique. You see the results of steady effort.

In a world that can sometimes feel uncertain, there is something grounding about caring for a piece of land and watching it respond. It is physical. It is constructive. It builds self-reliance, skill and calm attention, one season at a time.





07 Closing Thoughts



Keeping a garden journal is not about adding pressure. It is about bringing clarity. When life feels busy or heavy, the garden can feel like one more demand. A few clear notes bring it back into proportion. You do not have to do everything at once. You simply record what happened, what mattered and what can wait.

Over time, the effect is subtle but powerful. You begin to prepare earlier. You notice warning signs sooner. You recognise what can be left alone. The garden feels less chaotic and more considered.

Gardening belongs to everyone. You do not need great strength, endless time or perfect knowledge. You may garden in pots on a balcony, in a small town plot, or across a larger space. You may do all the work yourself, or share it with family, friends or trusted professionals. The journal still supports you.

Even if someone else carries out heavier work such as fencing, decking or structural repairs, or mowing the lawn and weeding, your notes keep you connected to the direction of your space. You remain the person who sees it, understands it and guides it forward.

You may already read my monthly garden guides, where I share practical seasonal direction based on real gardens and long experience. This journal guide sits alongside that approach.



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One Final Thing!

If you are based in South Wales and would like practical help with fencing, decking or wider garden maintenance, Ark Fencing and Garden Services can be found at arkgardenservices.co.uk

Based in Cwmbran, our landscaping, fencing & garden services are fully insured and serve homes across South east Wales, including Newport, Caerleon, Undy, Caldicot, Chepstow, Monmouth, Usk, Raglan, Abergavenny, Blaenavon, Pontypool, Rogerstone, Bassaleg, St Mellons, Caerphilly, Blackwood, Newbridge, and Crumlin.

Our passion is transforming your garden dreams into a reality. Whether it's a simple, sturdy fencing project, a cosy deck area, or a tranquil garden retreat, we approach every garden with care, dedication, and that personal touch.

We offer a personalised service by listening to your needs and offering our advise on what could work well in your garden. We care about your outdoor space as much as you do and love seeing our clients' faces light up when their garden comes to life. We aim to achieve the highest standards and have excellent customer feedback.

Call us on 01633 489416 or WhatsApp 07890 047684 or email richard@arkgardenservices.co.uk



Best Wishes
Louise

