

# Gardens and Glasshouse



Pittencrieff  
PARK

A guide to Pittencrieff  
Park's Gardens and  
Glasshouse - some of  
the Park's most well-  
loved and popular  
features!



# Gardens and Glasshouse



## Kitchen Garden



In keeping with the vision of Geddes, a Kitchen Garden has been designed and created within the park.

As part of the Heritage Lottery Funded project, this new Kitchen Garden was created in 2015 with raised beds which are designed to enable easy access for all ages and abilities.

Species planted and cultivated vary between seasons but you will find a mixture of vegetables and fruits alongside a selection of herbs.



### What we're doing in spring

---

- cut back dead growth
- plant seeds indoors for planting out later
- apply mulches as required
- fertilise if needed

### What we're doing in summer

---

- plant out propagated seedlings
- continuous weeding
- herbs ready for harvesting
- early vegetables and summer fruits ready for harvesting

### What we're doing in autumn

---

- harvest any remaining vegetables and fruit
- seed collection and take cuttings for propagation
- reapply mulches

### What we're doing in winter

---

- general tidy up

# Rock Garden



Having become overgrown in recent years, the Park's wider Heritage Lottery Funded restoration has allowed it to return to a condition that resembles the original layout and planting design.

## Spring

---

Spring flowering crocuses, aconite and daffodils provide an early nectar source for bees and butterflies.

### What we're doing

- remove dead flower stems
- replant empty areas
- lift and divide large plants

## Summer

---

Pollinators are particularly busy at this time of year and enjoy the nectar of *Cotoneaster* and *Primula* species found in the rock garden.

### What we're doing

- continuous weeding

## Autumn

---

The exotic *Acer* species and other deciduous tree and shrub species can be spectacularly colourful as their leaves change from green to vivid yellows and reds.

### What we're doing

- remove dead leaves
- lift and divide specimens for propagation

## Winter

---

The evergreen trees and shrubs, such as yew, holly and conifers provide shelter and food supplies for some of our resident birds such as woodpigeons and great tits.

### What we're doing

- protect delicate species from winter temperatures by covering, staking, mulching or wrapping



## What can I find in the garden?

Originally created and planted in the early 1900s, the rock garden was replanted in the 1950s and contains a variety of trees, shrubs and plants.

### **Dawn Redwood**

(*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)

- a deciduous tree and one of three species known as redwoods
- native to the Hubei province of China
- can grow up to 45m in height and 2m in diameter



### **Chilean Firebush**

(*Embothrium species*)

- native to South America
- can grow up to 20m in height
- leaves are evergreen and the flowers grow in dense bunches of brilliant red



### **Japanese Red Cedar**

(*Cryptomeria japonica* 'elegans')

- endemic to Japan (meaning it is only found naturally in Japan)
- a small, ornamental evergreen tree
- also grown in forestry plantations where the wood is used to produce planks
- known as 'Sugi' in Japan it is their national tree and often planted around temples and shrines





# Japanese Garden



The rustic oriental style summerhouse was built in 1906 as a landscape feature of the Japanese garden. The designed landscape includes cliffs, rustic steps and paths, planned viewpoints, seats and a bridge.

## Spring

---

Early flowering snowdrops and crocuses attract pollinators which in turn provide food for nesting birds. The summerhouse offers good views of the garden and burn where Grey Wagtails and Dippers can be spotted. Bats have been recorded flying along the burn and under the Double Bridge too.

### What we're doing

- remove dead flowers and stems
- replant empty areas
- cultivate soil lightly

## Summer

---

Species such as lime trees and Candelabra *Primula* are alive with the sound of buzzing bees and chirruping birds. Activity levels are high with the abundance of nectar available.

### What we're doing

- continuous weeding

## Autumn

---

As well as colourful leaf changes, bats can be seen close to the Tower Burn and Double Bridge.

### What we're doing

- remove dead leaves
- pruning of shrubs and similar species

## Winter

---

The evergreen trees and shrubs, such as bamboo and laurel, provide shelter and food supplies for some of our resident birds which include Magpies.

### What we're doing

- seed collection
- lift and divide large plants



## What can I find in the garden?

As with the Rock Garden, the Park's wider Heritage Lottery Funded restoration has allowed the Japanese Garden to return to a condition that resembles the original layout and planting design.

### **Bearberry Cotoneaster** (*Cotoneaster dammeri*)

- shrubs or small trees
- entire leaves and clusters of small white or pink flowers during spring and summer
- bright red berries in autumn



### **Rough-leaved Hydrangea** (*Hydrangea aspera*)

- can be deciduous or evergreen shrubs
- flowers in clusters of small, fertile flowers and larger, showy flowers
- natural range throughout India and Asia



### **Guelder Rose** (*Viburnum opulus*)

- evergreen foliage
- clusters of small, often fragrant flowers
- elliptic, deep green, leathery, three-veined leaves
- red or black berries produced in autumn (both male and female plants are needed to produce fruit)



# Glasshouse



Pittencrieff Park's original conservatories were built in 1913. A replacement Floral Hall, still known as the Glasshouse, was built in 1973 as a single unit, partitioned into three sections. It was extensively refurbished in 2015 as part of a wider restoration project for the Park.

A community learning and activity facility called the Glassroom, now occupies the west section.

## Spring

---

Look out for the Arum Lilies; they experience a growth spurt at this time of year.

### What we're doing

- propagation by taking cuttings and sowing seeds

## Summer

---

The various Geranium species and *Impatiens* come in to full bloom over the summer months as do climbing plants such as *Lantana*.

### What we're doing

- dead heading flowers
- taking shrub cuttings
- shading to avoid overheating

## Autumn

---

'Birds of Paradise' may still be in flower along with Begonias, *Pepperomia* and some of the cactus species. There are many foliage plants that look very attractive at this time of year including the many varieties of *Coleus*.

### What we're doing

- seed collection

## Winter

---

*Calliandra*, which resembles a powder puff, starts to bloom in November and can be seen throughout the winter months.

### What we're doing

- cutback of climbing plants and unwanted growth
- monitor temperature and increase heat where necessary



## What can I find in the glasshouse?

The middle section houses a variety of cacti and succulent species and the largest section, at the east end, is home to a variety of exotic species.

### Arum Lilies

(*Zantedeschia aethiopica*)

- native to central and southern Africa
- cultivated for their eye-catching, trumpet-shaped flowers and large glossy foliage
- known as the Arum lily, although the plant is neither a true Arum or a true lily!



### Lemon Scented Geranium

(*Pelargonium graveolens* 'Bontrosai')

- scent repels mosquitoes
- naturally present in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and parts of South Africa
- great importance in the perfume industry as cultivars can recreate a wide range of scents including rose, citrus, mint, coconut and nutmeg



### Coleus (*Solonestemon scutellarioides*)

- many varieties in the glasshouse
- colourful leaves all year round instead of seasonal flowers



### Banana Plant (*Musa sp*)

- bananas grow very quickly but stay green for a long time
- bananas need a long and sunny growing period of some 9-15 months, with temperatures above 15°C (60°F) to fruit - optimum of 27°C (81°F) for 2-4 months to ripen



### Aloe Vera (*Aloe vera*)

- foliage is fleshy with a waxy coating
- can tolerate temperatures of -1°C (30°F) but prefers temperatures above 15°C (60°F)
- used in the cosmetics and health industries



# Laird's Garden



Originally the garden for Pittencrieff House, noted town planner Sir Patrick Geddes later envisaged that it should be a garden for vegetable and fruit produce while retaining the central, decorative walk and herbaceous borders.

## Spring

---

Robins, blue tits and blackbirds can all be seen nest building in the trees and shrubs and later collecting insects and worms from the herbaceous borders and flower beds to feed.

### What we're doing

- cutback dead herbaceous flowers and stalks
- lift and divide large plants
- replant empty areas
- prepare beds for summer planting

## Summer

---

Pollinators such as bees and butterflies are abundant and at their busiest. They are particularly attracted to the Globe Thistles, Lavender and Lupins.

### What we're doing

- plant hanging baskets and annual bedding displays
- cut edges
- high amenity grass cutting
- continuous weeding

## Autumn

---

The leaves of the deciduous trees fade from green to orange, yellow and red before falling.

### What we're doing

- remove dead leaves from grass and beds
- lift out specimen plants, such as Fuchsia, from displays
- yew and privet hedge cutting

## Winter

---

Only our resident birds, such as Robins and Blackbirds, remain and can be seen rooting around for worms in the flower beds.

### What we're doing

- prune roses and shrubs

# What can I find in the garden?

## Giant Scotch Thistle

(*Onopordum acanthium*)

- native throughout Europe and western Asia and is the national emblem of Scotland
- flowers are produced every second year before setting seed and dying
- coarse, spiny leaves and spiny-winged stems
- uses include making oil from the seeds for cooking and burning



## Lavender

(*Lavandula angustifolia*)

- native throughout Europe, southwest Asia, southeast India, north and east Africa
- cultivated either as a culinary herb or for extraction of essential oils
- flower spikes with distinctive purple colour and scent
- lavender oils are used in cosmetics and perfumed products but also have antiseptic and anti-inflammatory properties



## Lupin (*Lupinus sp*)

- herbaceous perennial (the plant lives for more than 2 years)
- large, upright flower spikes
- historically lupin seeds were harvested and eaten throughout the world



## Katsura

(*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)

- native to Japan and China
- can reach 45m in height making it one of the tallest hardwood trees from Asia
- 'Katsura' is Japanese for 'tree'
- heart shaped leaves with bright red, yellow and orange autumn colours
- scent produced by the leaves in autumn resembles burnt brown sugar or cotton candy





## Pittencrieff Park restoration project

Thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund with match support from the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust and Fife Council, a £1.6 million transformation to return this much loved green space to its former glory began in Autumn 2012.

Producing information on the Gardens and Glasshouse in Pittencrieff Park, or the Glen as it is known locally, and the plants within them is part of this project.

