

# Knot Gardens

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Comments
<i>Allium senescens</i> 'Glaucum'	ornamental onion	4-12"	Grey-green twisted foliage; pink flowers Aug-Sept; tolerates partial shade.
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	sea thrift	6-12"	Short; pink flowers April-May; requires well-drained soil.
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> 'Crimson Pygmy'	'Crimson Pygmy' barberry	2'	Attractive purple-red foliage, turns greener in shade; tough.
<i>Buxus</i> 'Green Velvet'	'Green Velvet' boxwood	2-4'	Broadleaf evergreen; protect from winter sun and drying winds.
<i>Buxus</i> 'Wintergreen'	Korean boxwood	2-4'	Hardy; fine-textured foliage; may turn bronze or brown in winter.
<i>Euonymus alatus</i> 'Compactus'	dwarf burning bush	4-10'	Brilliant red fall foliage; can be trimmed to a hedge; easy to grow.
<i>Hyssop officinalis</i>	hyssop	1-2'	Perennial in Zone 4; aromatic foliage; small blue flowers.
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	lavender	8"-2'	Winter kills in Zone 4; 'Hidcote' may be hardier; grey, scented foliage.
<i>Nepeta</i> 'Walker's Low'	catmint	10-24"	Grey-green, fragrant foliage; small blue flowers; sprawling form.
<i>Pinus mugo</i>	dwarf mugo pine	1-4'	'Mugo,' 'Teeny,' 'Mops,' or 'Valley Cushion' grow very slowly.
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	rosemary	2-4'	Annual in Zone 4; dark green, fragrant foliage.
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	lavender cotton	1-2'	Annual in Zone 4; attractive grey-white foliage.
<i>Taxus cuspidata</i> 'Nana'	Japanese yew	3-6'	Slow-growing evergreen; hedge plant; requires well-drained soil.
<i>Taxus xmedia</i> 'Hicksii'	Hicks yew	2-8'	Evergreen hedging plant; requires well-drained soil.
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	germander	6-12"	Small attractive foliage; grow as an annual in Zone 4.

Knot Gardens require high maintenance, but are a beautiful sight in many English and European gardens. Regular pruning into small compact forms can be stressful for many plants, so dwarf, naturally small plants work best. Select different foliage colors for an effective knot year-round. Annual herbs and rapidly growing leafy vegetables, such as lettuce and chard can make showy annual knot gardens.

Compiled by Mary Laine, Ramsey County Master Gardener, who developed this list on Zone 4 knot gardens before her trip to England to tour them.



*Boxwood, 'Crimson Pigmy' barberry, and ornamental onion have contrasting foliage that makes a colorful knot garden.*



*Lavender is the grey foliage in this Minnesota Landscape Arboretum knot garden, which requires winter protection in Zone 4. Purple barberry and green boxwood are also pictured.*