

# GARDENS OF ISLAM



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Traditionally, an Islamic garden is a place of rest and reflection, and a reminder of paradise. The theme of a traditional Islamic garden is water and shade, not surprisingly since Islam is generally a hot and arid climate. Unlike English gardens, which are often designed for walking, Islamic gardens are intended for rest and contemplation. For this reason, Islamic gardens usually include places for sitting. So, here are some key elements require for Islamic garden spaces:

- Water - By designing gardens with fountains, pools and flowing channels wealthy owners of large gardens made themselves feel close to water in hot, dry weather. The water also served to provide humidity to the plants in the garden resulting in lush green growth.
- Walls - to create a lush green space in an arid climate, you will require a wall to keep away dust and drying winds. This gives a sense of mystery, when you first go into them, and a feeling of privacy when you are inside.
- Shapes - Islamic gardeners follow the Islamic tradition of decorating things through beautiful geometric patterns. So pools and flower-beds are always precise geometric shapes like eight-pointed stars, octagons and rectangles. These are arranged according to a symmetrical, harmonious plan so that the garden itself is a beautiful, regular geometric pattern.

Want to learn more about Islamic Gardens and their elements? Attend the Monday, November 28th Edmonton Hort Society meeting.

[For more information click here.](#)

# An Islamic Garden in Alberta

So how do we replicate the look of grand Islamic gardens in our area?



- Garden walls - they need not be concrete or stone; our fences serve as the walls of our garden. The walls in Islamic gardens are quite tall to ensure shade - larger trees are not planted. Due to restrictions here on fence height, we would need to strategically place trees in high light areas to create a shaded garden.



- Water - unlike the natural ponds we tend to create in our area with large waterfalls and boulders, Islamic design needs something more refined. An aptly spaced fountain will suffice for small places, however in larger yards you will want to opt for a rectangular water feature or long narrow channel. The purpose is to be surrounded by water, as well as provide a place to sit and observe the water.
- Shapes - Intricately shaped designs created with small hedging plants and mosaic tiles may not be easy to create in our climate, however you can rely on décor to create shapes for you. Arched trellises will copycat

the arches seen often in Islamic gardens, while glossy waterbowls placed in the garden offer a look similar to shallow pedestal bowls seen in arid designs



Garden décor with mosaic patterns will also bring an Islamic touch to your design.