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Meadow Brook Farm

Grandmother's Fan Agri-Garden

THE AGRI-GARDEN...

It's appropriate to have the Quilt Gardens TourSM's only crop garden at this site. The farm has a rich history and was once used for the Farm Betterment Club Fairs that drew crowds to hear the governor, congressmen and judges speak. This 840-square-foot garden features alfalfa, buckwheat, corn, soybeans and sunflowers each representing the blades of a fan. It relies heavily on texture to convey the quilt pattern. Varying heights and habits of the crops make it an interesting "test" garden. "Forever Red" geraniums make up the handle of the fan and are planted along the fence to add color and interest.

THE INSPIRATION...

The Grandmother's Fan was among the favorite quilt patterns used by the owner's great-grandmother. This lovely design, dating back to at least the Victorian era, was frequently interpreted using silks, satins, velvets, ribbons and lace then embellished with embroidery and beading. A lady's fan was as much a part of her summer ensemble as a hat; and with no air-conditioning - a necessity. The pattern gained renewed interest during the depression, since it could be crafted using small, mismatched pieces of fabric.

THE FACTS...

- Due to their growing cycle, the crops were planted earlier than the annuals in the garden.

THE FLOWERS...



234 Forever Red Geraniums

The unique characteristic of this plant is the absence of pollen.



Soybeans

Also known as Glycine max



Sunflowers

Also known as Helianthus annuus Irish eyes



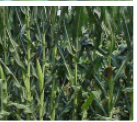
Alfalfa

Also known as Medicago sativa



Buckwheat

Also known as Eriogonum compositum

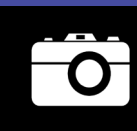


Corn

Also known as Zea mays sweet



Be sure to have the FREE Amish Country Travel Guide handy to learn more about Meadow Brook Farm.



Try the lower left side (captures the crop's contrasting heights best) or the lower right with the red barn as a backdrop.

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