



The Seven-Step Herb Garden Layout Formula

Work through the steps in order and fill in the tables as you go. Observe the site first, choose plants second, and mark your paths before your planting zones.

01 RECORD THE SUNLIGHT IN YOUR GROWING AREA

Watch the space across one full day before buying anything. Note each area three times, then decide whether it counts as full sun, partial shade, or shade.

AREA OF THE GARDEN	MORNING	MIDDAY	AFTERNOON	VERDICT (SUN / PART / SHADE)
Area A				
Area B				
Area C				
Area D				

Also note the practical things that change how a spot behaves: a fence or wall can cast shade and create a rain shadow, and soil beside it may drain differently from the open garden.

02 SHORTLIST A MANAGEABLE NUMBER OF HERBS

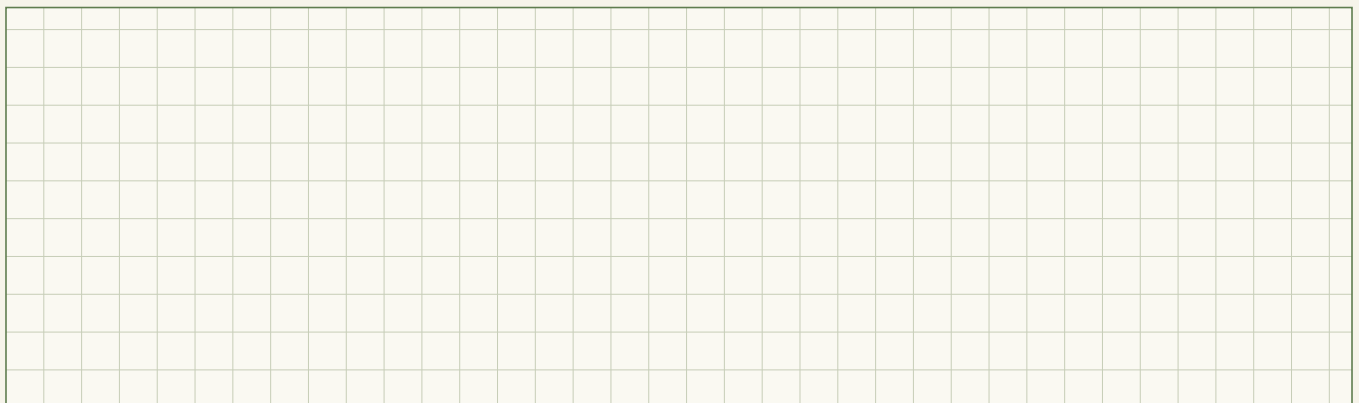
Choose plants suited to the conditions you just recorded, and only ones you will realistically harvest. Look up mature size now, not nursery-pot size.

HERB	SUN NEEDS	MOISTURE	MATURE SIZE	SPREADS?	WILL I USE IT?

Start with a few herbs, leave room for them to mature, and add more only once you see how the first group performs.

SKETCH THE PLOT

Mark the paths and access points first, then draw your planting zones around them. One square is roughly 25cm if you want to work to scale.



03 GROUP PLANTS BY GROWING CONDITIONS

Group by what each plant needs, not by how the leaves look together or by traditional use. Herbs used in similar preparations often want very different sun, soil, and water.

- ☐ A dry, sunny zone for sharp-drainage herbs
- ☐ A more consistently moist zone
- ☐ A container zone for spreaders and special soil
- ☐ A flowering section for ornamental value
- ☐ An everyday section nearest the path or door

04 PLACE TALLER PLANTS SO THEY DON'T SHADE

Decide where you will stand first, then set the heights around that. Consider how shadows move as plants mature, not just how they fall today.

- ☐ Tall herbs to the back of a one-sided border
- ☐ Tall herbs to the centre of an island bed
- ☐ Shadows checked as they will be at full size
- ☐ Nothing tall placed in front of a low favourite

05 KEEP EVERYDAY HERBS WITHIN EASY REACH

Sort plants by how often you pick them rather than by a rigid split between culinary and medicinal. A plant at the back is much less useful when reaching it means leaning across three others.

- ☐ Most-used herbs closest to the kitchen or path
- ☐ Beds shallow enough to harvest without leaning
- ☐ Access points into circular or keyhole layouts
- ☐ Larger, rarely cut perennials placed further out

06 CONTAIN THE VIGOROUS GROWERS

Mint is the usual example, but any plant with a spreading habit can travel well beyond its intended patch when conditions suit it. Containers also let you give one herb its own soil and watering routine.

- ☐ Spreading herbs given their own pots
- ☐ Or a defined, edged area with a clear boundary
- ☐ Pot size checked against the plant's mature root run
- ☐ Runners and self-seeders reviewed each season

07 LABEL EVERYTHING AND LEAVE ROOM FOR MATURE GROWTH

Write the final plan down, one row per plant. Correct identification matters most where several herbs have similar foliage.

HERB	ZONE IT GOES IN	SPACING ALLOWED	PLANTED	LABELLED

SEVEN MISTAKES TO AVOID

- Planting everything too close together.
- Treating every herb the same for sun and water.
- Tall plants set in front of smaller ones.
- Ignoring spreading habits.
- Beds too wide or deep to reach comfortably.
- Forgetting labels.
- Assuming natural automatically means safe.

BEFORE YOU USE ANYTHING YOU GROW

- Growing a plant safely and using it safely are two separate questions.
- Traditional use does not establish that a herb is suitable, effective, or safe for you.
- Take particular care with children, pregnancy and breastfeeding, existing conditions, allergies, and any medication. Some plants have toxic parts or significant interactions.
- Check identification and seek professional guidance before using anything you grow.

Sketch the paths and access points first, then drop your zones around them. abitarebello.com