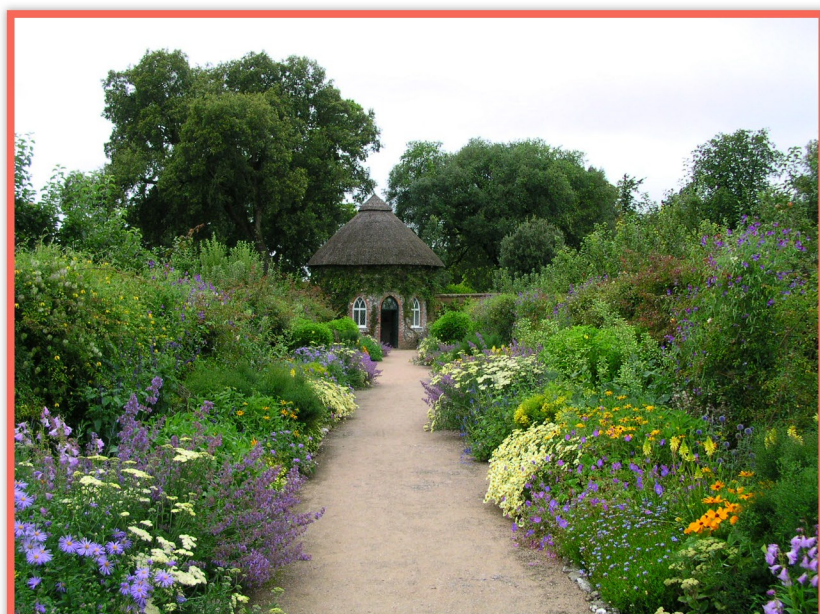




Did you hear the news story about the garden centre workers who planted 5,000 flowers in the shape of a rainbow outside the hospital in Melrose as a thank you to NHS staff during the pandemic? What a wonderful thing to do! You can read about the project at:

www.thesouthernreporter.co.uk/business/floral-rainbow-message-hope-borders-health-workers-2540131

This isn't the first rainbow border though. In fact, rainbow borders have been planted in gardens for over a hundred years! Creating a garden border with a gradation of colours from red through to violet is a design technique which began with the famous Edwardian garden designer Gertrude Jekyll. Let's find out about 5 of the best-known rainbow borders.



West Dean Gardens in West Sussex

Gertrude Jekyll was involved in the design of these beautiful gardens. Jekyll is famous for creating border designs based on colour theory. She often used 'colour grading' and 'complimentary colours' in her planting designs.

The Dahlia Garden at NT Anglesey Abbey Gardens near Cambridge

The Dahlia garden has a curved border with over 70 different Dahlia varieties planted in the colour spectrum – just like a rainbow! Every September there's a Dahlia festival here with fun floral displays.





The Walled Garden at Floors Castle in Kelso, Scotland

The walled garden has four beautiful herbaceous borders each with a different 'colour theme'. The 'red border' has flowers in shades of red and orange, while the 'blue border' is full of plants with blue flowers and silver leaves.



The Great Broad Walk Borders at RBG Kew in London

This pair of 320-metre long herbaceous borders are the world's longest. 30,000 plants are arranged in large drifts of eye-catching colour combinations to provide a spectacle of colour from May to October.

Monet's Garden at Giverny in France

Monet saw his garden as a living canvas. Plants were paints for colour experiments like putting pale flowers behind dark ones to create depth or planting blue flowers in shade and orange flowers in sun to highlight them.

