

HIDDEN HERBS

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The Avice Hill Craft Centre at 395 Memorial Avenue is the site of a very interesting and little-known herb garden. Originally established by Mrs Hill, it was later gifted by her to the Christchurch City Council which now administers the whole property. However, the routine care and maintenance of the garden itself rests with members of the Canterbury Herb Society.

Formal in design, with radial paths and a central sundial, the garden has culinary and bee herbs together with medicinal and fragrant herbs. Most of the original stock was imported from either Seal, or Thompson and Morgan, well-known English Nurseries, in about 1956. Today many of these plants or cuttings from them are still growing here. This has ensured a good stock of true species.

Surrounding the herbal area are a number of interesting plants: a small collection of old fashioned fragrant roses, used in making pot-pourri; a white, single-flowered *Rosa banksia* with handsome red bark; *Calycanthus occidentalis*, Allspice tree; *Koelreuteria paniculata*, Golden Rain tree; *Sphacele chamaedryoides*, a blue-flowered sage-like shrub; and *Laurus nobilis*, Sweet Bay.

Anyone may visit this garden at any time. It is a quiet place where one can study and enjoy the plants or just rest in its tranquil setting.

Some plants in the Avice Hill Herb Garden:

<i>Allium tuberosum</i>	Chinese chives	<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk mellow
<i>A. sativum</i>	Garlic chives	<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	Lemon balm
<i>Artemisia dracunculus</i>	French tarragon	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Bergamot
<i>A. pontica</i>	Roman chamomile	<i>Nepeta faassenii</i>	Catmint
<i>Cedronella canariensis</i>	Balm of Gilead	<i>N. cataria</i>	Catnip
<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	Lawn chamomile	<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	Jerusalem sage
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Fullers' teasel	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tomentil
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's bedstraw	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary
<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>	Hyssop	<i>Ruta graveolens</i>	Rue
<i>Inula helenium</i>	Elecampane	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad burnet
<i>Iris florentina</i>	Orris	<i>Santolina</i>	Cotton lavender
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	Grey hedge	<i>chamaecyparissus</i>	
selected cultivars	Dwarf Munstead	<i>Salvia sclarea</i>	Clary sage
	Twickle purple	<i>S. officinalis</i>	Sage
	Verna	<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	Betony
	Hidcote	<i>Thalictrum flavum</i>	Meadow rue
	Folgate blue	<i>Thymus fragrantissima</i>	Thyme
	Seal	<i>T. vulgaris</i>	Thyme
<i>L. stoechas</i>	French lavender	<i>T. serpyllum</i>	Thyme
		<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Valerian