



How to Create a Patio for All 5 Senses

What does your perfect patio look like? Feel like? Smell, taste and sound like? We believe the ideal area engages all five senses; by embracing yours you can make your patio into a magical space to relax, unwind and be inspired.

1. Create a Patio for Sight - In addition to beautiful plants and seating, here are some things that can help make your patio more pleasing to the eye:

- **Lighting:** Create ambiance with candles (real or battery-operated for safety) in enclosed hurricane containers, lanterns, citronella candles and torches, light strings or outdoor sconces.
- **Outdoor Art:** Make your patio more visually pleasing with sculptures, canvas art, metal art, specimen rocks and more...
- **Create Privacy & Visual Interest:** You can create privacy or distinct patio areas, as well as take advantage of vertical space by using a variety of items including: rain chains hung in a row to create a “screen”, old doors or window frames, bamboo sticks, trellises, potted small trees, vertical planters/gardens and hanging plants.



2. Create a Patio for Sound

- **Fountains:** Fountains come in a variety of shapes and sizes, and there is a perfect one out there for your patio. Relax to the sounds of running water right next to you.
- **Wind Chimes:** Wind chimes are another great source of sound to add to your patio. When that cool breeze rolls by, you’ll be treated to the sound of your hanging chimes. These decorations come in a variety of types including bamboo, seashell, beaded and more; which is your favorite sound?
- **Attracting Birds:** Birds play an important role in our garden’s ecosystem. They control plant-eating pests like aphids and snails, and they assist with flower pollination by spreading nectar. Birds such as sparrows, finches and many others eat weed seeds, eliminating those unwanted plants. And last but not least, birds can act as stress relievers with their melodic songs and happy movement as they show you how much they appreciate the natural habitat you so kindly created for them. Birds appreciate a nice bird bath and feeder where they can eat a little something from your patio.



3. Create a Patio for Scent - While you're enjoying the sights and sounds of your patio garden, wouldn't it be nice to smell something pleasant? Here are some of our favorite scented flowers that will have you closing your eyes and taking in a deep breath of their pleasing aromas.

- **Jasmine:** Jasmine flowers produce an aromatic, sweet rich fragrance when blooming. They grow best in full sun, so place them in a spot on your patio that gets a lot of light.
- **Gardenias:** Gardenias are often found in perfumes and can be enjoyed in your patio garden. HGTV described the aroma as a, "Sweet, heady scent that will make you savor sultry summer evenings like never before." Who wouldn't want to relax next to that scent?
- **Roses:** Roses are one of the most classic aromas that people crave. Some of the best smelling roses include *Honey Perfume*, *Fragrant Plum*, *Autumn Damask* and *Mister Lincoln*.



4. Create a Patio for Taste - Fresh herbs are one of the greatest additions to any meal, and many gardeners grow them right on their patio! Imagine needing chives for your favorite dish, stepping out your door and getting them fresh from the pot!

- **Basil:** The leaves have a warm, spicy flavor, which is perfect for soups, sauces, salads, omelets, meat, poultry, fish and a base for pesto.
- **Chives:** These leaves have a mild onion flavor. Chop them up and add them to salads, egg and cheese dishes, cream cheese, mashed potatoes, sandwich spreads, and sauces.
- **Mint:** Brew leaves into tea, or to garnish cold drinks. Spearmint is generally used to make mint sauce or jelly. You can also sprinkle dried or fresh leaves over lamb before cooking. They also make a nice dessert; dip large mint leaves in chocolate and let them harden for a sweet light treat. Mint is also great for digestion.

5. Create a Patio for Touch - When designing your patio, it's important to consider the space around you and what you'll be able to feel and touch as relax. Do you want to utilize every inch available or do you want a more open flow? Keep these tips in mind as you begin to create your own patio garden:

- **Container Size:** Round containers can take up more space. Consider rectangular containers or pottery that has a flat back and can be placed against or hung on a wall.
- **Stands:** Try pots on stands to fill your space vertically and create tiers of interest.
- **Comfortable Seating:** Select seating that fits in your space with fabric you can't help but touch and that provides the comfort you desire.

