Secret Garden Hide-and-Reveal Checklist



Plan exact arch dimensions, receding paint, and pathways that double your yard's depth.

Create a convincing backyard escape with these precise spatial tricks. Narrow your entry, layer your screen plants, and mount a faux door to build a completely private oasis.

Key Garden Measurements

15 cm
Path narrowing at the final bend

5 cm
Road base tamped under pea gravel

3 days
Sunshine drying time before priming

2x
Planting hole width vs nursery pot

Measure from the gravel

Always measure your arch's vertical clearance from the finished gravel grade, not the raw dirt. This guarantees nobody bumps their head once the walkway is fully leveled.

The Hide-and-Reveal Illusions

- [ ] Entry arch 90 cm wide: Forces a deliberate shoulder turn.
- [ ] Black fence melts away: Dark paint removes the visual boundary.
- [ ] Door to nowhere, ajar: Weathered door suggests another room beyond.
- [ ] Bend hides path's end: Curve gravel behind tall ornamental grass.
- [ ] Star jasmine on arch: Evergreen vines mask the wooden structure.

Dimensions and Plant Layers

Find your row: **Your garden element**

Your garden element	Your pick	Why
Narrowest entry path	210 cm min height	Ideal for 4x4 Cedar posts
100 cm wide path	220 cm min height	Ideal for Redwood timber
Front planting bed	60 cm ferns	Tuck in deep hydrangea shadows
Back boundary screen	1.5 m hydrangeas	Blurs the wooden fence line

Mounting a Reclaimed Faux Door

1. **Locate structural posts** Find the heavy fence posts rather than drilling directly into thin wooden pickets.
2. **Brace the bottom** Rest the bottom edge of the door on a hidden pressure-treated ledge.
3. **Secure the door** Use heavy-duty exterior lag screws to safely bear the static weight over time.
4. **Seal the wood** Coat the entire slab with clear exterior marine varnish to block out ground moisture.

Check Before Building

- [ ] Verify the path bend completely hides the final boundary from the entrance.
- [ ] Check local salvage yards for rusted iron hardware with natural patina.
- [ ] Ensure the fence is power-washed and completely dry before priming.
- [ ] Confirm your exterior bonding primer is tinted to a deep gray base.

Garden Planning Notes

Enjoy building your secluded oasis—every hidden corner will feel completely magical!