

Donegal

GARDEN TRAIL

GARDENS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

1. Carrablagh House, Portsalon. Jan Bradley. 074 9159113. All the Thursdays in May and first Thursday in June 2-4pm. Irish Robinsonian garden with botanical treasures throughout the woodland. Tiny walled garden filled with unusual trees, shrubs and flowers. Awarded Donegal Garden Trail Medal of Distinction 2012.

2. Greenfort, Kerrykeel. Paddy Perry. 087 7574823. Saturday 3rd May to Sunday 11th May 10am-6pm and subsequently by appointment. Walled garden. Hundred year old ponticum bushes, species rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias. Large areas of spring bulbs. 15 acres of broadleaf woodland established in 2003.

3. Rathmullan House, Rathmullan. Mary Wheeler. 074 9158188. March to October 10am - 4pm daily. November to February 10am - 4pm weekends. A tranquility garden and an organic fruit and vegetable walled garden with seaside walks.

4. Glenalla House, Ray, Milford. Patrick Burkitt. 086 6064409. Monday, Wednesday and Friday June 9th, 11th, 13th, 16th, 18th, 20th (10am - 4pm) Groups by appointment. Country estate garden - trees, shrubs, roses, rockery, lake.

5. Beltany View, Braehead, Raphoe. Marjan Bangert. 074 9144974. By appointment only. A garden with large borders and ponds and beautiful panoramic views

6. Ros Ban, near Mongorry, Common, Raphoe. Ann & Bob Kavanagh. 074 9145336/086 0805214. Dawn to dusk from Easter to Autumn. A modern wildlife, educational garden with medicinal herbs, posters and plants for sharing.

7. Oakfield Park, Oakfield Demesne, Raphoe. Brian McElhinney. 074 9173068. 16th April to 28th September, Wednesday to Sunday 12 - 6pm (Closed Mondays & Tuesdays except Bank Holidays) Gardens will be closed first week of July. Sweeping parkland, mature trees, walled garden and train rides around man-made lake.

8. Dunmore, Dunmore House, Carrigans. John & Maryette McFarland. 074 9140120. July and August 2pm - 6pm and any time by appointment. A remarkable two acre walled garden with fruit, vegetable and ornamental plants.

9. Mrs Jessie Mahaffy's Garden, Blackrock, Lifford. Belinda Mahaffy. 074 9141216. Sat 28th June & Sun 29th June (2 to 5.30pm). A rare garden built on a rocky outcrop, with numerous shrubs and plants.

10. Irish Garden for The White House, CPI Complex, Castletinn. Michael Carlin 074 9143976 /087 2655525 Saturdays & Sundays only 10.00am-6.00pm Sat 31st May to Sun 12th October. Diarmuid Gavin designed garden inspired by Ireland's links to the USA. Exact replica built in the garden of The White House in Washington. Walled garden containing many plant species which have arrived from America over the centuries.

Northwest Garden Show, CPI Complex, Castletinn. Saturday 24th - Sunday 25th May. The North West's biggest garden fayre, with an impressive line-up of celebrity guests, activities, demonstrations and guaranteed fun. The perfect event for everyone interested in gardening and outdoor living.

11. Backleas, Backleas, Stranorlar. Tony Gallinagh. 074 9131107 /087 2516806. Sunday 18th May and Sunday 13th July (1-6pm) or by appointment 1st May to- 30th September. New garden with much colour combined with old natural woodland, remains of famine aqueduct, stone mill wheels and famine pot.

12. Nora's Rose Garden, Ballybofey. Nora & Jeet Singh 074 9190067. Every Monday in July (1-5pm) August by appointment. A tiny gem of a rose garden. Huge range of variety and colour with fragrances that will knock your socks off.

13. Cannon's, Donegal Town. Maureen Cannon 086 1082029. July by appointment. Half acre where every inch is utilised. Perennials, shrubs, trees and climbers featuring clematis. Window boxes and hanging baskets abound.

14. Sea View, Salthill, Mountcharles. Dorothy Jervis. 074 9735350 /087 9131393. Fri 20th, Sat 21st & Mon 23rd June (2-6pm) However, visitors welcome throughout the season if owner at home. Please check. A plant enthusiast's garden with all year round colour.

15. Salthill Garden, Salthill House, Mountcharles. Elizabeth Temple. 074 9735387. 1st May to 30th September Monday to Thursday (2-6pm). Saturdays in May, June, July. Heritage Week Sat 23rd to Sun 31st August. Walled garden with lawns, herbaceous borders and heritage planting, traditional vegetable growing using traditional Donegal 'lazy beds'. This garden is a must see!

16. Lower Cranny, Inver. Joan Donleavy. 087 9895099. Sun 1st & Mon 2nd June (Bank Holiday) 2-6pm OR any time throughout the season. PLEASE phone ahead. Lake, bluebell woodland, wild flower meadow, mature trees, perennial beds, shrubs, 'fairy ring', conservatory with potted plants.

17. Bruckless House, Bruckless. Joan Evans. 074 9737071. 1st May to 30th June by appointment only. Fine mature trees, spacious lawns, mixed borders, rockery, formal planting on stone terrace, exotic trees & shrubs, woodland and sea views.

18. Cille, Kill, Kilcar. Carmel & Martin McLaughlin. 074 9738107 /087 6712341. Sat 19th & Sun 20th July, Sat 26th & Sun 27th July, or by appointment at other times. Hidden terraces with a large range of plants, many most unusual. Big pots and containers with specimen plants a feature.

19. Summy, Portnoo. Michael Classon. 074 9545242. May to September when owners are home, please check. Rocky outcrop garden, trees (many rare), shrubs, perennials, roses, native wildflowers and ferns. Emphasis on blending nurture with nature.

20. Brigid's Garden, 21 Clos Naomh Duigh, Annagry. Brigid Gallagher. 074 9562698. Sat 19th and Sun 20th July (12-6pm) and other times by appointment. Small new thriving garden with wildlife pond, raised beds, fruit trees, wildflower bed, climbing roses, clematis and honeysuckle.

21. Cluain na dTor Nursery Gardens, Falcarragh. Seamus O'Donnell. 087 6267599. 3rd June to 20th September (12-5pm). Tropical Garden with many rare seaside plants attached to a well-stocked Garden Centre.

22. Glenveagh Castle Gardens, Glenveagh National Park, Churchill. Sean O'Gaoithin. 076 1002692 (or Visitor Services 076 1002537 or 2551). Gardens and Park open every day all year round (10am to 6pm). Tours available on request. Please book in advance. The great garden of Donegal - not to be missed. A National Park where the concept of nature and garden are fused.

23. St Columb's, Glebe Gallery, Churchill. Michael Galligan (Head Gardener) or Gallery Reception 074 9137071. Access to grounds every day, dawn to dusk, all year round. Good collection of unusual trees and shrubs with natural herbaceous planting.