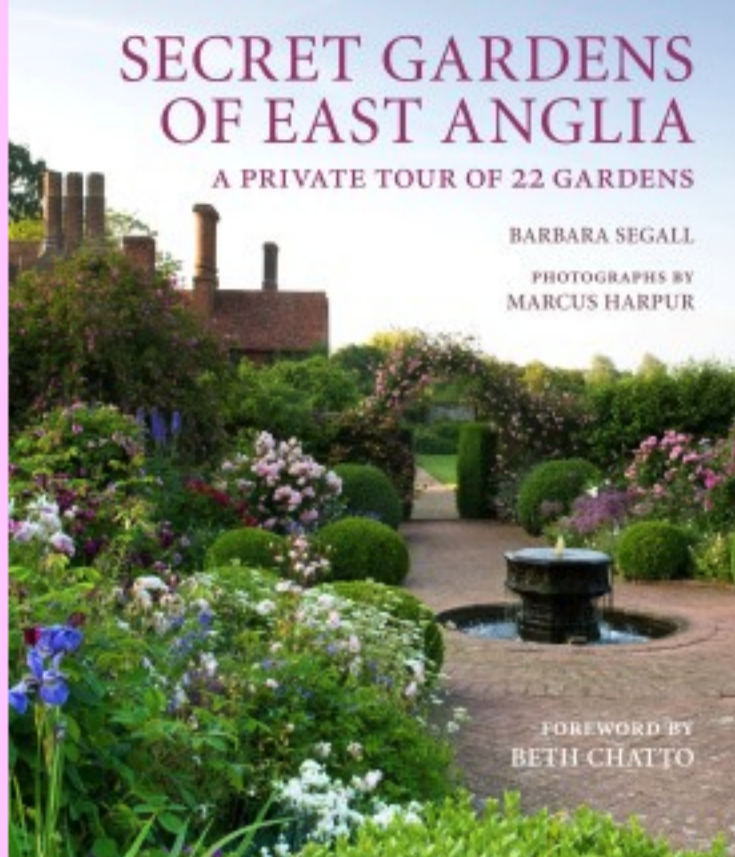


# Secret Gardens of East Anglia

By Barbara Segall

Review by Simon Fine



The skies, the light, the sea, the farmland and the coast make East Anglia unlike anywhere else in Britain, and offer the most amazing natural conditions in which to create gardens. In this richly illustrated hardback, horticulturalist Barbara Segall has selected twenty-two gardens which celebrate the culture, beauty and diversity of the counties of Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex.

Introduced by eminent East Anglian plantswoman Beth Chatto, the gardens are brought to life by the words of Barbara Segall and the photographs of Marcus Harpur. For each garden we learn about the history of the property and the garden, we meet the owners and learn how they and their predecessors designed and developed their garden. There are a whole range of styles of planting, the use of colour, hedges, lawns, topiary, water features and architectural objects which reflect the personalities of the owners and the geography of the land.

There is enormous variety in the selected gardens. Helmingham Hall in Suffolk, covers several acres and features an impressive historic home, a moat and is surrounded by a deer park. The smallest is a bijou residence in Cambridge where a garden of 8 by 4 metres is crammed with colour and imaginative features. The most unusual is Winterton Lighthouse on the Norfolk coast.

All but one of the twenty-two gardens are open to the public either on a regular basis or under the National Gardens Scheme or by appointment. A handy map and details of openings are provided at the end of the book. What I found particularly impressive is the roughly equal balance between Barbara Segall's well researched and in-depth description of each garden combined with Marcus Harpur's brilliant rich photographs. It left me enthused to see as many of these wonderful gardens as possible.



## Author Barbara Segall, photograph by Marcus Harpur

Barbara Segall is a well-known horticulturist and garden writer. Her work appears in a number of popular publications such as *The English Garden* and the website *Richard Jackson's Garden*. She is editor of *The Horticulturist*, the journal of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture and also editor of *Herbs* magazine for The Herb Society.

Marcus Harpur is a contributing photographer to the RHS Garden Plant Selector and the *Colourful Gardening* series and principal photographer on titles such as *How to Garden*, *Dream Gardens of England* and *The English Country House Garden*.

**Secret Gardens of East Anglia** is published by Frances Lincoln. Price is £20 for the hardback.

For more information about the book visit the website at [www.quartoknows.com](http://www.quartoknows.com)