



**MINI CHALLENGE 2026**  
by Penny Dowdell

## GARDEN

Thinking about gardens brings Gardener's World to mind: a beloved BBC series hosted by the calming Monty Don. This week's design is a celebration of everything gardens represent and all the wonder they spark. Gardens are magical: the way they change with the seasons, reward patience, and always have something new to offer. That sense of gentle discovery is what I wanted to capture here.



## THE PATTERN

**This pattern, when printed onto A4 paper, will fit a 3" hoop.**

**Stitch the black lines in black perle thread, size 12.**



# STITCH GUIDE

## Tree

301 trunk: split back stitch  
3347 leaves: split back stitch  
3774 french knot flowers

## Background

In my embroidery, I've not stitched the background, but you might want to add a blue sky and green path if you like!

## Man (Monty)

All satin stitch  
838 hair & shoes  
932 shirt  
930 trousers  
3774 hands

## Left side planting

From top to bottom  
All split back stitch/French knot flowers  
3051 bush & 223 flowers  
3053 bush & 932 flowers  
581 grass

## Dog (Ned)

301 split back stitch

## Right side planting

From top to bottom  
All split back stitch/french knot flowers  
581 grass  
3051 bush & 223 flowers  
3347 bush & 3774 flowers  
3053 grass

## DMC Colour Codes:

- DMC 3051 (dark green)
- DMC 3347 (mid green)
- DMC 3053 (pale green)
- DMC 581 (yellow green)
- DMC 301 (orange brown)
- DMC 838 (dark brown)
- DMC 930 (dark blue)
- DMC 932 (blue)
- DMC 223 (pink)
- DMC 3774 (pale peach)

**Unless otherwise stated, stitch with THREE strands of thread.**

# STITCH TIPS



Stitch all the green first, then add two-loop french knots on top. Use two hands to keep the tension correct.



Or if you prefer an evergreen look, just leave the tree and bushes bare! It still looks very peaceful and magical!



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I hope you enjoyed stitching this pattern!

I'd love to see your projects! Tag me @pennydowdell on Instagram, or use the hashtag #pennysabcchallenge!