

Garden Plan Design Basics

1. **Study your site:** Take note of sun, shade, soil type, drainage and soil moisture.
2. **Map out your space:** Mark all existing plants currently on your site.
3. **Study your neighborhood:** Consider what design elements would look great in your community.
4. **Research designs you love:** Get inspiration from other garden designs specific to your region.
5. **Design with the right plant** in the right place.
6. **Leave enough room** for plants to reach mature size.
7. **Create a focal point** to draw your eye through your garden.
8. **Add water features** like birdbaths or small fountains to add interest and benefits to wildlife in your landscape.
9. **Group plants together** for visual impact. Plant in groups of odd numbers with a minimum of three of each plant.
10. **Choose three to five species** in broad drifts in each area that repeat throughout the entire planting area.
11. **Use a mixture of textures** with fine, bolder foliage, tall fine-textured grasses as a frame behind lower rounded perennials.
12. **Keep plants in scale:** maximum plant height should be half the width of your bed.
13. **Choose plants to ensure blooms** and foliage interest in all seasons.
14. **Give your planting bed a clean edge** to serve as a frame that accents your planting.
15. **Consider your budget:** Review the time and money you have available for installation and maintenance.