

2 Plan Your Garden

Part A: Brain dump

1. Theme of garden: _____

2. Brainstorm a list of plants ideally suited to theme: _____

3. "Must have" plants from list: _____

4. Overall colour patterns of "must have" plants: _____

6. New list of "must have" plants: _____

7. Other optional plants to consider that might complement the short list of "must have" plants: _____

8. Look at your lists. Cross off any plants that won't thrive in your space due to shade or water concerns.

Part B. Design

Choose one of the perennial beds designed in Worksheet 1. Draw the general outline of this bed, to scale, on the graph paper on the next page.

1. Look at the general design of your beds. The footprint is how you see it from above, but I want you to think about how you see it from in front. Which areas need taller plants? Start sketching these into your bed footprint. Completely ignore flower colour while placing plants.
2. Start placing the mid-sized plants, then fill in the holes with shorter plants.
3. While working on your design, remember the following concepts:
 - a. you are not building the pyramids
 - b. texture
 - c. variety
 - d. repetition
 - e. bloom time
4. Now that you have everything's location chosen, start looking at the colour of the flowers. In most cases, this is pretty flexible. Start with the plants that are not flexible. This is what you are designing around. Choose the colour of the other flowers in the bed. Remember:
 - a. colour echo
 - b. repetition
 - c. contrast
 - d. colour families
5. Repeat these steps with the remaining beds. Remember that any beds that you can see at the same time need to both match the overall theme as well as have an element of repetition to tie them together. This can be a signature plant, complementary colour scheme, same plants as other beds but put together differently, and so on.
6. Before you plant a single thing, make sure you amend the soil, if necessary. Good soil is absolutely crucial to a healthy, lower maintenance garden.

