

Perennial Bed Planting Design Checklist

Size and Shape of Site

Dimensions: _____

Square Footage: _____

Shape: _____

Cultural Conditions

| Hours of Sun Per Day | Soil Moisture | USDA Plant Hardiness Zone |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Sun (6 hours or more) <input type="checkbox"/> Part Sun (4-6 hours) <input type="checkbox"/> Part Shade (2-4 hours) <input type="checkbox"/> Full Shade (0-2 hours) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry <input type="checkbox"/> Medium/Well-Drained <input type="checkbox"/> Wet | <input type="checkbox"/> 5a-5b <input type="checkbox"/> 6a-6b <input type="checkbox"/> 7a-7b <input type="checkbox"/> 8a-8b <input type="checkbox"/> 9a-9b <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Plant and Site Characteristics

| Plant Type | Wildlife Benefits | Native/Nonnative | Bloom Period | Bloom Color | Plant Height | Plant Shape | Plant Effect |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herbaceous Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Ornamental Grass | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Butterflies/Moths <input type="checkbox"/> Bees <input type="checkbox"/> Birds <input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly/Moth Larvae <input type="checkbox"/> Hummingbirds <input type="checkbox"/> General Pollinators* <input type="checkbox"/> Other Pollinators** <small>*General Pollinators = unspecified **Other Pollinators = beetles, flies, wasps, etc.</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> Native to State <input type="checkbox"/> Ecoregion Native <input type="checkbox"/> US Native <input type="checkbox"/> Nonnative <input type="checkbox"/> Cultivar <input type="checkbox"/> Species | <input type="checkbox"/> January <input type="checkbox"/> February <input type="checkbox"/> March <input type="checkbox"/> April <input type="checkbox"/> May <input type="checkbox"/> June <input type="checkbox"/> July <input type="checkbox"/> August <input type="checkbox"/> September <input type="checkbox"/> October <input type="checkbox"/> November <input type="checkbox"/> December | <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Pink <input type="checkbox"/> Orange <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Blue <input type="checkbox"/> Lavender <input type="checkbox"/> Purple <input type="checkbox"/> Violet <input type="checkbox"/> Brown <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Tall <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Short | <input type="checkbox"/> Upright <input type="checkbox"/> Mounded <input type="checkbox"/> Trailing | <input type="checkbox"/> Wild <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Wild <input type="checkbox"/> Contained |

Notes:

This checklist does not support a particular design philosophy. Its main purpose is to help organize the design process for a simple perennial bed.

To adapt this checklist to a landscape other than a perennial bed, determine the planting type and landscape function, then modify the plant and site characteristics. See below for examples of planting types and landscape functions.

Planting Type

- Foundation Planting (located next to a house or other structure)
- Island Bed (a garden area that is not connected to other areas of the garden)
- Perennial Bed (composed of plants, usually flowering, that live through multiple growing seasons)
- Perimeter Planting (located around the outer edge of a property)
- Rain Garden (designed to capture runoff and allow it to filter through the soil)
- Other Landscape Area

Landscape Function

- Canopy (tall trees that form an overhead layer)
- Understory (shorter trees and shrubs that grow below the canopy)
- Shrub Layer (shrubs only or shrubs mixed with perennials)
- Meadow (densely planted grasses, often mixed with flowering perennials)
- Groundcover (low-growing masses of plants that cover the soil; may be referred to as green mulch)
- Edge (where two landscape types meet)
- Flowering Focal Point (annuals and/or perennials selected with a focus on color)