

Creating a Landscape Plan

Supplies:

- Tape measure or measuring wheel
- Graph paper (you can print free graph paper from <https://www.printablepaper.net/category/graph>)
- Pencil and eraser
- Ruler (an architectural or engineering scaled ruler makes this much easier)
- Scaled stencil (extremely helpful but optional; they are available online)
- Trace paper and tape (optional)
- Markers or colored pencils (optional)
- Plant list

Instructions:

1. Begin by measuring out your garden space. Be sure to include any existing structures or plants that will not be moving.
2. Get some graph paper and figure out what size scale you want to use. If you are working with computer paper (8.5"x11") and you have a large garden bed, use a ¼ inch : 1 foot scale or tape a few pieces of paper together to use a larger scale. If you have a smaller garden bed, use a 1 inch : 1 foot or ½ inch : 1 foot scale so your drawing is a little bigger. If you have an architect's or engineer's ruler, simply use the side with the correct scale to measure out your garden. If you do not have a scaled ruler, convert all of your measurements to your correct scale (Ex: The garden is 17 feet long, and you're going to use a 1/2 inch scale. 17 feet x .5 inch scale = 8.5 inches in the drawing).
NOTE: I wanted to use a ½ inch scale for a larger drawing, but my garden bed was just barely too big to fit on one piece of computer paper, so I taped two pieces of graph paper together making sure to line them up correctly.
3. Draw the outline of your garden and any existing structures or plants that will not be moving. Make a key with the scale you are using and a directional arrow to indicate north.
**Since this portion of the drawing will not change, either make a copy to keep as a master, or begin using trace paper over this drawing so that you can keep a clean copy if you want to start over or change up the garden in the future.
4. If using trace paper, tape it down to keep it in place while you work. On the trace paper I traced over the garden outline and permanent structures with a pen since those will not be changing, and then began working with a pencil so I could make changes if needed without erasing the garden outline.
5. Begin drawing out plants, starting with focal plants. To draw out a plant, use its mature width and convert it to your scale (Example: My focal plants are three Dwarf

Bloomerang Lilacs which mature to 3' wide. At a ½ inch scale, each lilac in the drawing will be 1.5" in diameter). If you're using a circle stencil, choose the correct size circle. If you don't have a stencil, draw a horizontal line and a vertical line at the appropriate length of the diameter and then draw a rough circle around it. Label your plant with a letter and create a key so you know which plant is which.

6. Continue adding plants, remembering to vary the shapes, sizes and textures, until you've filled your design. Be sure to distribute your plants based on season of interest as well.
7. Once you've completed your design, you can add color with markers or colored pencils to better visualize the composition as a whole. I simply outlined each of the plants with its flower color to make sure the colors carried throughout the garden.

The next step is finding the plants in your landscape! Visit your local garden and nursery centers to find great quality and selection. Make sure to bring your plant list including at least quantity needed, sun requirement, and mature plant size, so that if you need to pick out a replacement you are able to find something with a similar size and similar needs.

Enjoy the process and best of luck creating your very own landscape design!