

Let's Grow
BORDBIA
Bloom

Easy Steps to Dream Gardens

Garden Designs from Bloom Award-Winning Designers



The Easy Care Garden

DESIGNER: OLIVER SCHURMANN



Easy Steps to Dream Gardens

What is 'Easy Steps to Dream Gardens'?

Brought to you by Bord Bia Bloom, Easy Steps to Dream Gardens is a new initiative designed to help you plant your own show garden at home.

We have worked with seven of Bloom's award-winning show garden designers to create individual garden designs suited to every lifestyle and location.

What are the benefits of using garden designs like these?

The gardens have been designed by some of Ireland's top garden designers and landscape architects who are experts in assessing outdoor spaces and creating beautiful designs that meet the needs of garden owners.

These designs have been carefully considered to provide year-round interest and are tailored to suit various conditions. There is a solution for almost any garden, whether it sits in full-shade, dappled shade or enjoys all-day sun.

How have the gardens been designed?

The seven designs are based on a garden size of 15 metres x 9 metres. However, elements from all the designs can be adapted to suit your own outdoor space, whatever the size or location.

Each of the seven design packs in the series feature an easy-to-follow planting plan and detailed planting information. Colour-, scent- and nature-friendly, the planting plans can be implemented in your garden

The Easy Care Garden

DESIGNER: OLIVER SCHURMANN



Though formal in structure, this north-facing natural garden is relatively easy to build and maintain.

While many intricate and complex hard landscaping projects are best left to the professionals, some of the hard elements of this formal garden designed by Oliver Schurmann could be tackled by skilled DIY enthusiasts. 'The idea behind this design was to create a garden that people can build themselves if they wish. The materials are all widely available and, while the raised beds are quite large, you will excavate enough topsoil to fill them when constructing the foundations, paths and pond,' says Oliver Schurmann.

The two interlocking raised beds define the overall formal structure of the garden and create an instant feeling of space, he explains. 'Trees and shrubs are the backbone of this garden and that's where the raised beds come in. The garden is quite small so you want to constrain the growth of the trees. You don't want them to turn into beasts that need butchering; they should be allowed to mature in their own beauty. A raised bed will allow them to do this without encroaching on the roots of other plants.'

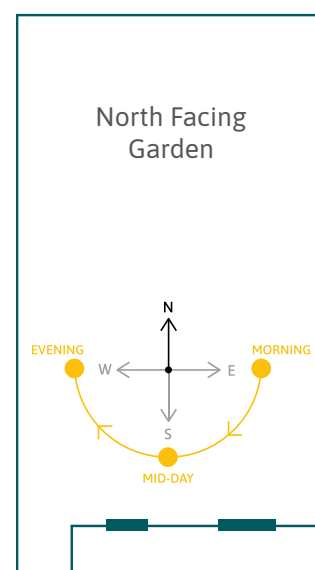
A raised pond, pergola, patio and space for home office or greenhouse also feature and Oliver have included a circular path of stepping stones for children to skip through a border. As the garden is facing north they have selected shade-tolerant plants that will provide interest throughout the year such as *Pachyphragma macrophyllum*, with pretty white flowers blooming in spring and foliage that may tinge red in autumn, and *Epimedium* 'Flowers of Sulphur', whose leaves flush from red in spring to green in summer and copper in autumn.

'This garden is designed to inspire people,' says Oliver. 'You don't have to replicate it entirely, just take the elements that you like and adapt them to suit your space. Planning is absolutely crucial to success. Do your homework before starting.'

***Note:** Never leave small children unattended around water features.



Oliver and Liat Schurmann are founders of Mount Venus Nursery in Rathfarnham, Dublin. Drawing on their vivid imaginations to create new and cutting edge garden designs, they have won nine awards for show gardens at Bord Bia Bloom.



Designer's Tips

THE EASY CARE GARDEN

Oliver's tips for creating a successful garden.

Edging: Formal edging between paved surfaces and planting areas is not required. The plants will edge the paths and patio eventually as they spread out.

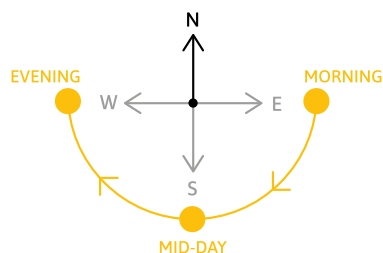
Aquatic Plants: Try to use as little mains water as possible to fill the pond as mains water can have a high content of nitrate, which will encourage algae to multiply. Be patient if your pond does go green; the algae will starve after a while and the water will naturally clear up as soon as a good, healthy, well-balanced population of bacteria is established.

Weeding: Use a little hand fork to loosen the soil and the roots of weeds before pulling them out. Always weed from the plant outwards as the weeds closest to your plant do the most damage.

Planting: Generally when planting perennials and trees dig a hole twice the size of the pots, then tease out the potting compost from the roots without damaging them too much (with some exceptions, like Daphne's, that hate to have their roots disturbed). Then mix the rich peat with the infill soil. More tips from Oliver are included on the website.

Garden Plan

THE EASY CARE GARDEN



North Facing Garden

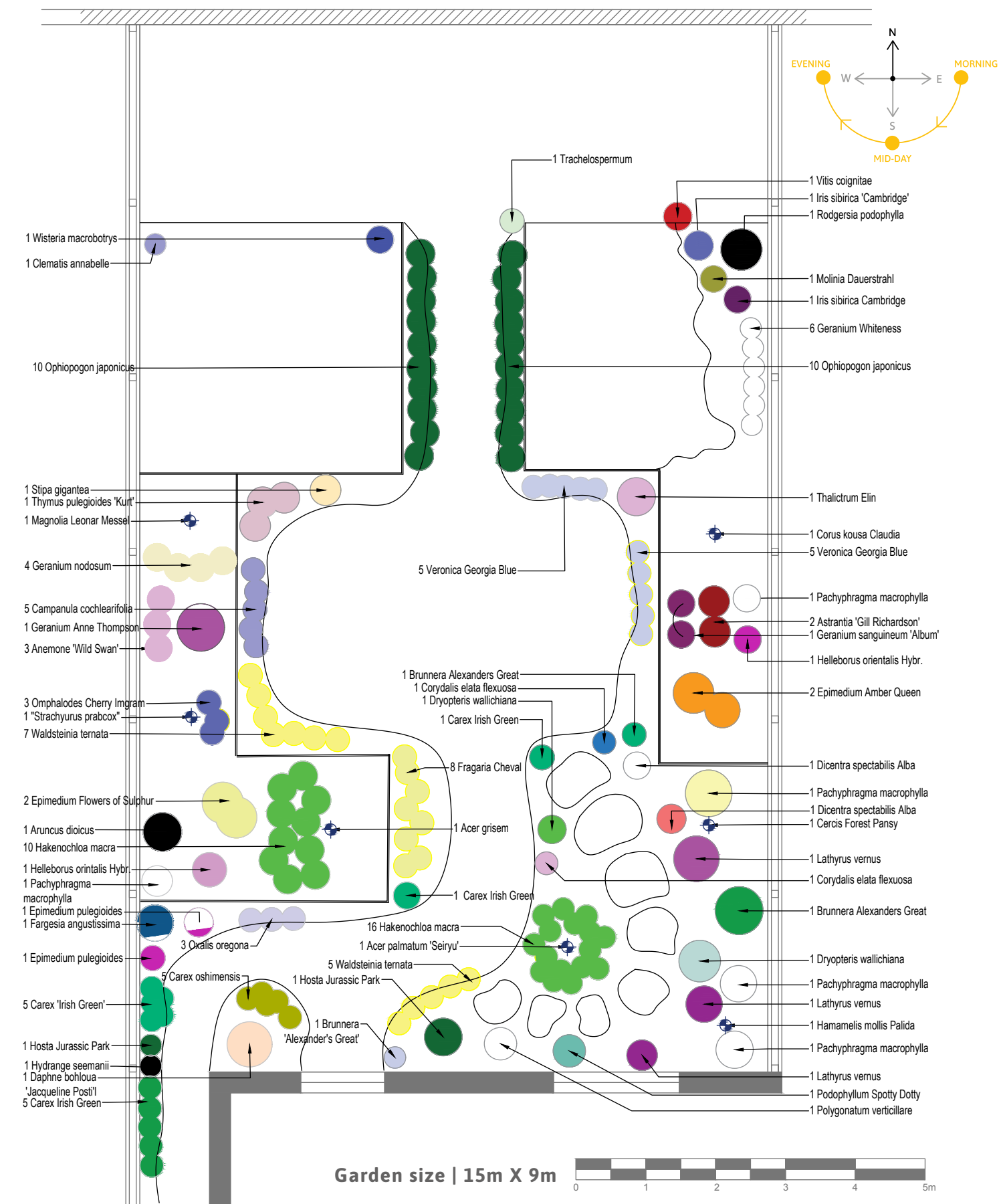
- 1 2m Block Wall Surrounding Garden
- 2 Pergola: Propose multi-function paved area (Storage, Outdoor Seating Area, Greenhouse, Play Area)
- 3 Pond, water retention area required
- 4 Climbers, train climber to grow up Pergola
- 5 Flexible Area, lawn area for children to play (artificial grass could be an option) Veg garden
- 6 Brick or Block retaining wall with limestone capping - 550mm
- 7 Firepit
- 8 Patio Area: Self-Binding Gravel / Water Binding Gravel
- 9 Walkway: Self-Binding Gravel / Water Binding Gravel
- 10 Stepping Stones
- 11 Specimen Shrub/Tree (See Planting Plan for details)



Garden size | 15m X 9m

Planting Plan

THE EASY CARE GARDEN



Plant	Pot Size	Qty
Specimen Shrubs		
Magnolia × loebneri 'Leonard Messel'	1.5-2m	1
Acer grisem	1.5-2m	1
Acer palmatum Seiryu	1.5-2m	1
Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy'	1-1.5m	1
Cornus kousa var. chinensis 'Claudia'	1.2-1.5m	1
Daphne bholua 'Jacqueline Postill'	40-50cm	1
Fargesia angustissima	1m	1
Hamamelis mollis 'Pallida'	80-100cm	1
Grasses + Ferns		
Stipa gigantea	1.5L	1
Carex morrowii 'Irish Green'	1.5L	5
Carex oshimensis	1.5L	5
Dryopteris wallichiana	1.5L	2
Hakonechloa macra	P9	26
Molinia caerulea subsp. arundinacea 'Skyracer'	1.5L	1
Molinia caerulea subsp. caerulea 'Dauerstrahl'	1.5L	1
Perennials		
Aruncus dioicus	1.5L	1
Astrantia major 'Gill Richardson'	1.5L	2
Brunnera macrophylla 'Alexander's Great'	1.5L	3
Campanula cochlearifolia	P9	5
Corydalis elata × flexuosa	1.5L	3
Dicentra spectabilis 'Alba'	1.5L	2
Digitalis laevigata	1.5L	5
Epimedium 'Amber Queen'	1.5L	2
Epimedium 'Flowers of Sulphur'	1.5L	2
Fragaria chiloensis 'Chaval'	P9	8
Geranium 'Anne Thomson'	1.5L	1
Geranium macrorrhizum 'White-ness'	1.5L	5
Geranium nodosum	1.5L	4
Geranium sanguineum 'Album'	1.5L	2
Helleborus orientalis × hybridus	1.5L	5
Hosta 'Jurassic Park'	1.5L	1
Iris sibirica 'Cambridge Blue'	1.5L	2
Lathyrus vernus	1.5L	5
Omphalodes cappadocica 'Cherry Ingram'	1.5L	4
Ophiopogon japonicus	P9	20
Oxalis oregana	1.5L	3
Pachyphragma macrophyllum	1.5L	5
Podophyllum versipelle 'Spotty Dotty'	1.5L	1
Polygonatum verticillatum	1.5L	2
Rodgersia podophylla	1.5L	2
Thalictrum 'Elin'	1.5L	1
Thymus pulegioides	1.5L	5
Veronica umbrosa 'Georgia Blue'	1.5L	5
Viola sororia 'Albiflora'	1.5L	5
Waldsteinia ternata	P9	12

Plant	Pot Size	Qty
Climber		
Hydrangea seemannii	2L	1
Water plants		
Nymphaea 'Dwarf Beauty'	2L	1
Carex elata	1.5L	1
Equisetum hyemale var. robustum	1.5L	2
Myriophyllum 'Red Stem'	1.5L	3



3D view of feature planting

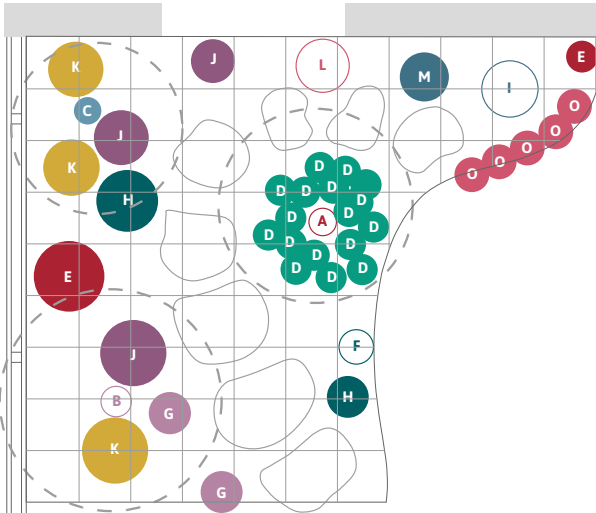


Border Area



Planting Plan

Grid - 0.5m



The plants in this border are shade-tolerant and will perform well in north-facing gardens or any spot that gets partial or dappled shade for most of the day.

By bringing your planting close to the house you can soften your views through the garden, which is particularly helpful in long winter months when we are largely confined indoors, notes Oliver Schurmann. The plants in this border – chosen for their lush foliage and texture – provide striking autumn colour and winter interest.

The *Acer palmatum* ‘Seiryu’, a green Japanese Maple, plays a starring role here and is joined by the vibrant *Cercis canadensis* ‘Forest Pansy’, a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with purple heart-shaped leaves that turn bronze in autumn.

A circular path of stepping stones allows children to run through the flowers and shrubs which include *Hamamelis mollis* ‘Pallida’, a Witch Hazel that bears beautiful yellow flowers in winter; the large-leafed Jurassic Hosta; and *Brunnera macrophylla* ‘Alexander’s Great’, which produces bright blue flowers in spring and features large grey-green leaves with deep green colour veins.

You will find the full list of plants in the **planting plan**.

Border Plant List	
A	<i>Acer palmatum</i> ‘Seiryu’
B	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> ‘Forest Pansy’
C	<i>Hamamelis mollis</i> ‘Pallida’
D	<i>Hakonechloa macra</i>
E	<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i> ‘Alexander’s Great’
F	<i>Corydalis elata</i> × <i>flexuosa</i>
G	<i>Dicentra spectabilis</i> ‘Alba’
H	<i>Dryopteris wallichiana</i>
I	<i>Hosta</i> ‘Jurassic Park’
J	<i>Lathyrus vernus</i>
K	<i>Pachyphragma macrophyllum</i>
L	<i>Podophyllum versipelle</i> ‘Spotty Dotty’
M	<i>Polygonatum verticillatum</i>
N	<i>Viola sororia</i> ‘Albiflora’
O	<i>Waldsteinia ternata</i>

Easy Steps to Dream Gardens

To view the other 6 Dream Garden Designs visit
bordbiabloom.com/dreamgardens



The Coastal Garden
by James Purdy



The Entertainers' Garden
by Linda McKeown



The Nature Enthusiast's Garden
by Jane McCorkell



The Shared Spaces Family Garden
by Nicola Haines



The Family Friendly Garden
by Maeve O'Neill



The Plant Lovers Garden
by Patricia Tyrrell

Common Questions

What is a planting plan?

A planting plan is a comprehensive guide which shows you what plants to plant in your garden and where to plant them in order to achieve a successful planting scheme. All seven planting plans featured in this series are easy-to-follow and can be adapted to suit your garden size and aspect.

Can I still use the plans if I don't have a 15m x 9m garden?

Yes, for each design we have focused on a specific border which can be implemented in your own garden, regardless of size. The plans include a grid in each downloadable pack which can be repeated to suit the size of your border. Staff in your local garden centre will be able to offer further advice if required.

I only have a balcony or a window box. Can I still take part?

Yes, many of the plants featured in this series are suitable for container gardening (e.g. window boxes, hanging baskets and planters). Here are some useful tips to help you get started.

Where can I buy the plants?

The designers have chosen plants that are grown in Ireland and are readily available in garden retailers around the country. All the plants are available to purchase throughout the year, while bulbs can be purchased in the autumn.

How much do the designs cost to implement in my own garden?

The cost depends on a variety of factors, including the condition of and access to your garden and whether you want to invest in hard landscaping features. The focus borders in this series are a great way to liven up your garden on a budget. Many of the perennial and annual plants featured are very affordable and can help you add colour and interest without a significant outlay.

Is the aspect of my garden important when choosing a garden design?

Aspect is the direction a garden faces – north, south east or west - and determines how much sun or shade a space receives. Each of the garden designs has been designed for a specific aspect, so before choosing a design, find out the aspect of your own garden here – [link here](#)

The direction your garden faces will determine how much sun it will get throughout the day. For example, an east-facing garden will get good morning sun.. A south-facing garden will get sun for most of the day in summer, while

gardens that face west will get sun from late morning/ early afternoon through to the evening. North-facing gardens tend to be shady and a little cooler. However, they may have sun to the rear of the garden which may be the best location for a seating area.

What other factors I should consider when choosing which garden design to plant in my own garden?

Good garden design starts with research and planning. Once you have found out your garden's aspect, the first step is to survey your existing garden. Your local garden centre is the best place to get expert advice on the following considerations:

- **Your location** – is your garden in an exposed coastal or upland location or a less exposed, sheltered location?
- **Your soil** – understanding the soil in your garden will inform what plants will work best for your plot. Soil textures vary from heavy clay to sand, while the ph. of your soil can vary from acid to alkaline. Once you understand the soil in your garden you can determine what you might need to do to improve it. The condition can be enhanced by adding soil conditioners such as farmyard manure or compost.
- **Changing levels** – is your garden flat or does it slope towards/away from the house? Is water runoff an issue? Do you need steps or terracing? This will help you plan any hard landscaping features. You should seek professional advice if you have drainage issues or notable level changes.
- **Adjoining properties** – what impact, if any, do adjoining properties have on your garden? Do neighbouring buildings or trees cast shade on your space? Do you need to add planting or structures to provide privacy in your garden?
- **Usage** – do you have small children or pets that are likely to try eating your plants? Look for plants with low/no toxicity. Your local garden centre will be able to offer further advice on this.
- **Measurements** – finally, measure your garden and plot it out on paper. Using graph paper will make it easier to plot your dimensions. Alternatively, you can print out the grid sheet we have provided at the back of this downloadable garden packs.

Once you have surveyed your garden and assessed your needs you can select the Dream Garden Plan that works best for you.

Common Questions

When should I start planting?

Pot/container-grown trees and shrubs can be planted year-round when the ground and weather conditions are favourable. It's important to remember to water trees regularly during the drier months until the tree is established, which is typically after two years.

Bareroot hedges are planted during the dormant season, which runs from November until early March. Plant these when the ground and weather conditions are favourable. As with trees, remember to water a new hedge during spells of dry weather.

Spring and summer bulbs such as Daffodils (Narcissus), Crocus, Tulips and Alliums are planted the previous autumn.

What is hard landscaping?

Hard landscaping is a term to describe the hard elements in your garden such as stone, concrete, and gravel. It generally refers to paths, patios and other built structures such as pergolas and water features.

If you are skilled at DIY you may be able to undertake some elements of the design yourself and there are plenty of resources available in online blogs and YouTube to

help you do this. However, if you are considering adding complex hard landscaping features to your garden then you may be better served hiring a professional. Hard landscaping is a long-term investment and should last throughout the lifespan of your garden so it is important to get it right from the outset.

What basic skills do I need?

Check out www.bordbia.ie to get advice and tips that can help you hone your gardening skills.

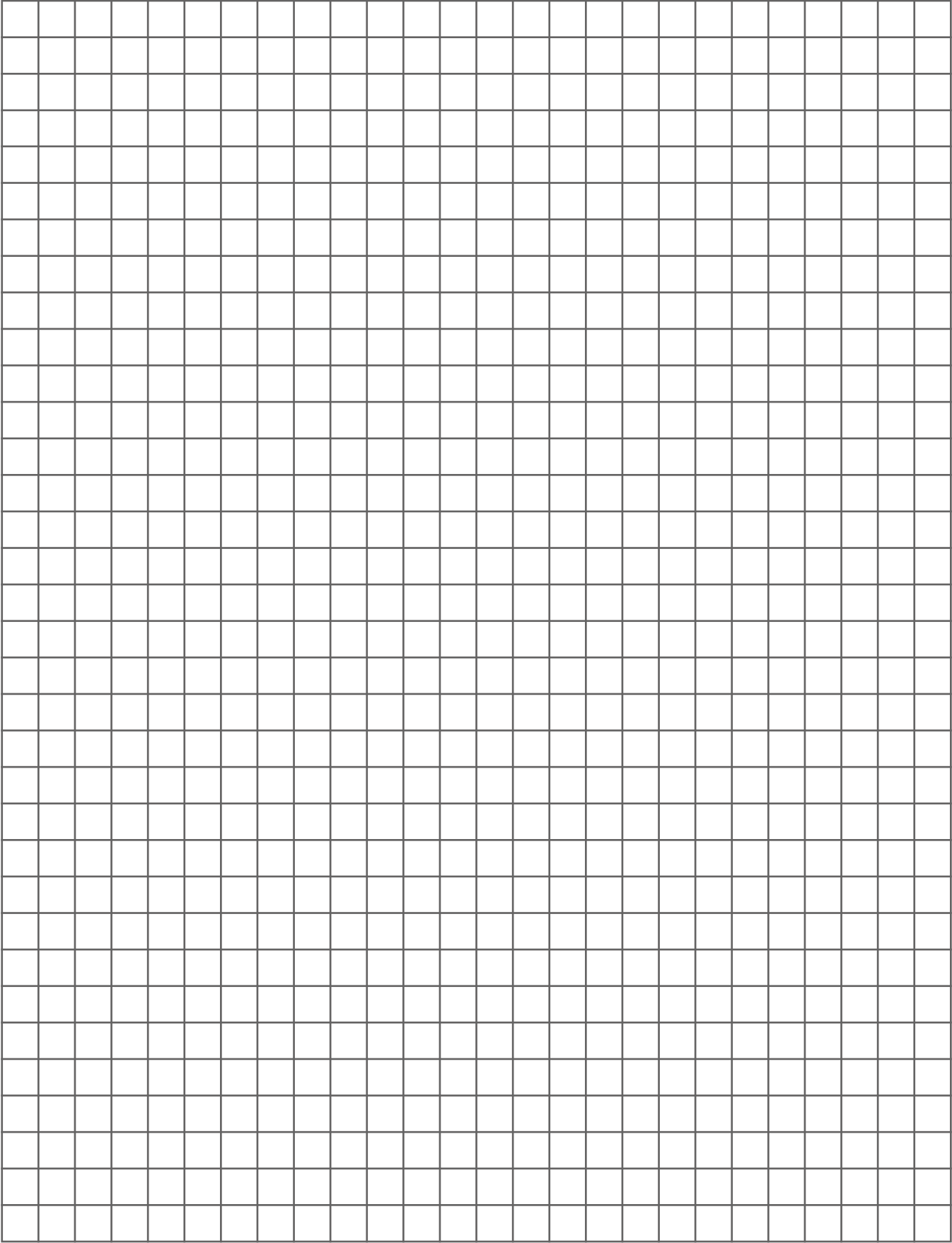
What equipment and products do I need?

These 8 gardening essential tools and products will help you get started:

- Measuring tape
- Spade
- Fork
- Hand trowel
- Hand fork
- Rake
- Secateurs
- Compost

Glossary

- **Evergreen:** An evergreen plant keeps its leaves all year.
- **Deciduous:** A deciduous plant sheds its foliage in winter and produces new leaves in spring.
- **Trees:** Trees are typically large, evergreen or deciduous plants that have a single trunk, although they can be trained into a multi-stem (see below). If your garden is small opt for a species that suits your space, such as an Acer or Amelanchier lamarckii. Your local garden centre will be able to help you choose the best option for your space.
- **Shrubs:** Shrubs are evergreen or deciduous woody plants with several main stems near the ground. Smaller than a tree, they help add form and structure to your garden.
- **Perennials:** Perennials are plants that die back to the ground in the winter and re-emerge the following year.
- **Biennials:** Biennials are plant that live for two years. They typically produce foliage in the first year and flowers the following year. Like perennials, they die back to the ground in the winter and re-emerge the following year.
- **Annuals:** Annuals are plants that live for a year or less. These are great options if you wish to add colour to your garden on a tight budget.
- **Climbers:** Climbers are deciduous and evergreen climbing plants that can be trained to climb up trellises, fences or walls.
- **Bulbs:** Bulbs, such as Daffodils or Tulips, provide seasonal colour. They are planted in the autumn and flower throughout the spring.
- **Topiary:** Topiary is the art or practice of clipping shrubs or trees into ornamental shapes.
- **Multi-stem:** A multi-stem tree is a tree that has two or more stems. These have been trained to grow together by planting two or more single-stemmed trees in one hole or pot.
- **Coppice:** To coppice means to cut a tree or shrub back to ground level periodically to stimulate growth.
- **Espalier:** An espalier is a fruit tree or ornamental shrub whose branches are trained to grow flat against a wall, supported on a lattice.
- **Pleached:** A pleached tree or shrub features branches that are entwined or interlaced to form a hedge or provide cover for an outdoor walkway.





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