

Let's Grow
BORD BIA
Bloom

Easy Steps to Dream Gardens

Garden Designs from Bloom Award-Winning Designers



The Shared Spaces Family Garden

DESIGNER: NICOLA HAINES



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 Shared Spaces Family Garden

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This west-facing garden is designed for a family with teenagers and young adults but can be tailored to suit any household.

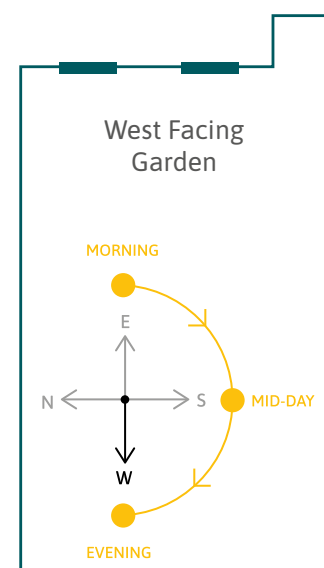
‘If you put the right structure in place a garden should last through a family’s life,’ believes landscape designer, Nicola Haines. Her design for this west-facing garden is a prime example. ‘The structure is very simple, with three distinct spaces that can be reformatted and customised as your lifestyle changes.’

As a mother, Nicola understands the need to give teenagers privacy. The space closest to the house has been designed for parents and features a table and chairs for outside dining. This is edged with a raised bed with grasses and herbaceous perennials to semi-screen other spaces. ‘You want to be seen but not on top of your kids and raised beds are a great way of adding that privacy.’

Vegetable beds in the middle of the garden are followed by a relaxed seating area at the rear, which is an ideal space for teenagers to gather with friends. A pergola gives an additional sense of privacy and also serves as a mount for a hanging chair.

The garden is designed in a series of layers with planting in the foreground, mid-ground and background. ‘Gardens can be so much more than the traditional layout of a long lawn flanked by narrow borders,’ notes Nicola. ‘By bringing some of the planting into the foreground and closer to the house this creates more drama and interest.’

Nicola Haines is a Partner in Tierney Haines Architects in charge of the Landscape Design department. She works on rural and urban gardens, both public and private and has won two Gold Medals at Bord Bia Bloom.



Designer's Tips

THE SHARED SPACES FAMILY GARDEN

Nicola's advice for adding form and structure to your garden.

Layering: Layer the view by planting in the foreground, mid-ground and background. Planting a small tree near the house creates a framed view of the garden. Winter bulbs planted close to the house will also provide interest in the depths of winter.

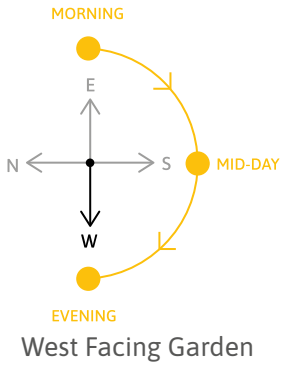
Structure: Form, structure and texture are as important as colour. Alliums have great colour for a few weeks in the Summer but the strong stems and heads give great structure all through the winter and the seeds feed the birds.



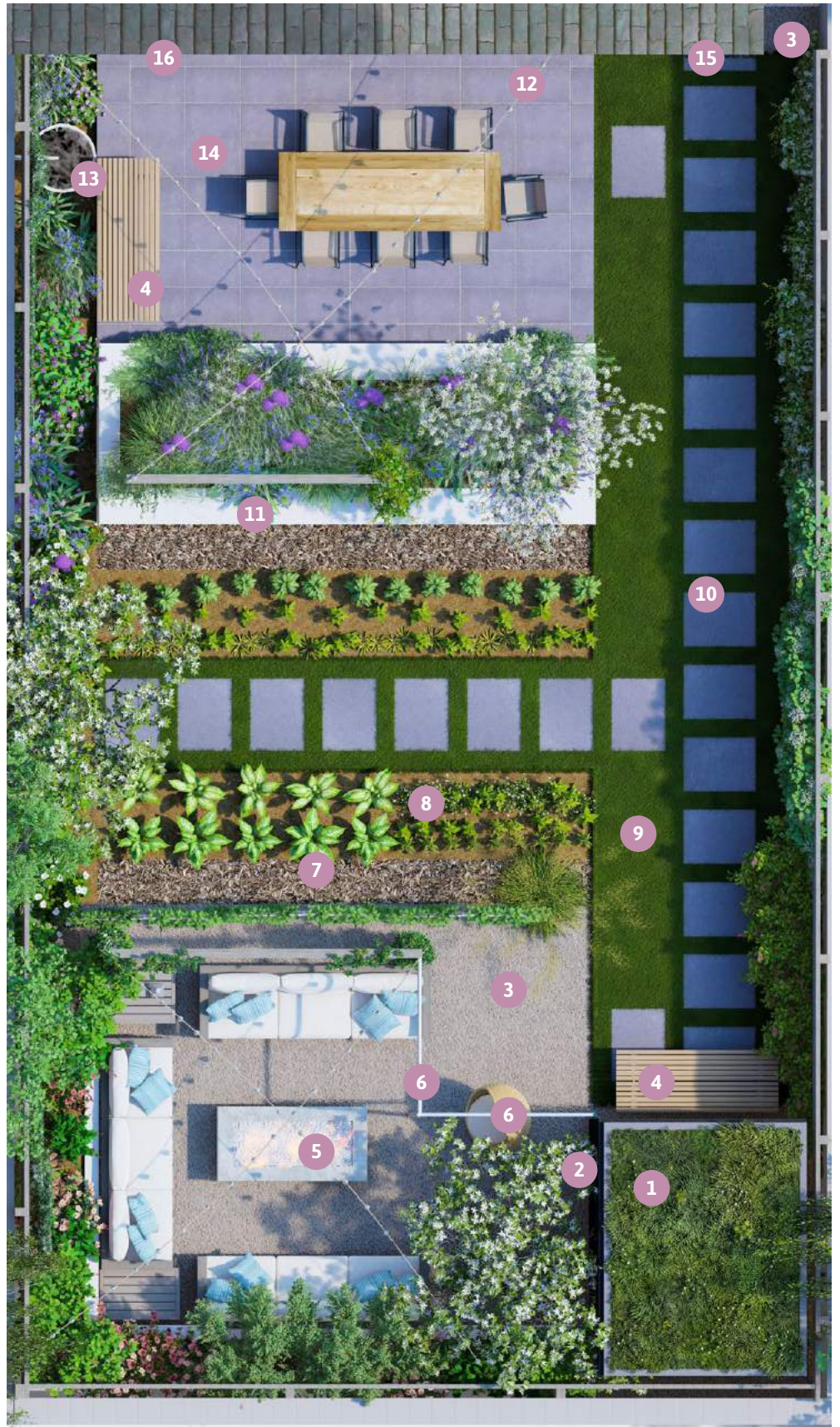
Planting: Mass-planting groups of the same plant is more effective and less fussy. It also makes maintenance easier than having lots of individual plants with different maintenance needs.

Garden Plan

THE SHARED SPACES FAMILY GARDEN



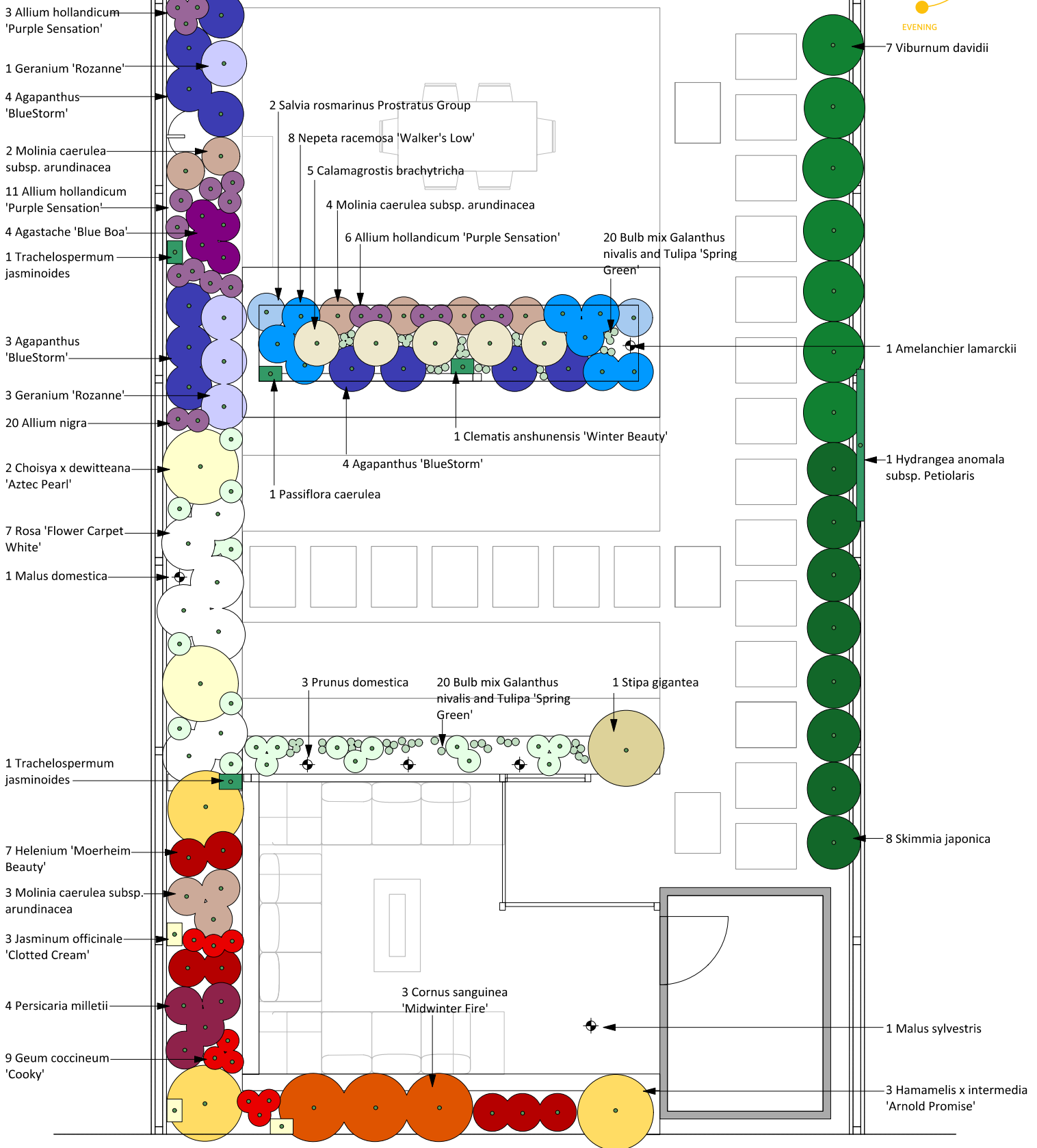
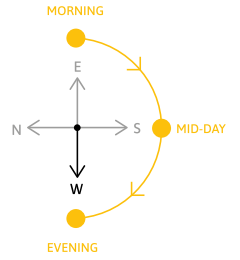
- 1 Shed 10ft x 6ft
- 2 Compost Bin
- 3 Gravel
- 4 Bench
- 5 Firepit
- 6 Pull up frame / Swing chair
- 7 Bark Path
- 8 Vegetable Beds
- 9 Lawn
- 10 Stepping stone pavers
- 11 Raised bed seating / Potting shelf
- 12 String Lights
- 13 Fountain
- 14 Natural stone pavers
- 15 Foldable washing line
- 16 Living room access to garden



Garden size | 15m X 9m

Planting Plan

THE SHARED SPACES FAMILY GARDEN



Garden size | 15m X 9m



Plant	Pot Size	Qty
Trees		
Amelanchier lamarckii (Multistem)	20L	1
Malus sylvestris	10L	1
Fruit trees		
Malus domestica	10L	1
Prunus domestica 'Victoria'	10L	3
Shrubs		
Choisya x dewitteana 'Aztec Pearl'	5L	2
Cornus sanguinea 'Midwinter Fire'	5L	3
Hamamelis x intermedia 'Arnold Promise'	5L	3
Rosa 'Flower Carpet White'	5L	7
Salvia rosmarinus (Prostratus Group)	2L	2
Skimmia japonica	5L	8
Viburnum davidii	2L	7
Grasses and Ferns		
Calamagrostis brachytricha	2L	5
Stipa gigantea	5L	1
Molinia caerulea subsp. Arundinacea	2L	9
Perennials		
Geum coccineum 'Cooky'	2L	9
Helenium 'Moerheim Beauty'	2L	7
Persicaria milletii	2L	4
Geranium 'Rozanne'	2L	4
Nepeta racemosa 'Walker's Low'	2L	8
Agapanthus 'Blue Storm'	2L	11
Agastache 'Blue Boa'	2L	4
Climber		
Trachelospermum jasminoides	7.5L	2
Passiflora caerulea	7.5L	1
Jasminum officinale 'Clotted Cream'	7.5L	3
Hydrangea anomala subsp. Petiolaris	7.5L	1
Clematis anshunensis 'Winter Beauty'	7.5L	1
Bulbs		
Galanthus nivalis	Pack	25
Tulipa 'Spring Green'	Pack	25
Allium nigrum	Bulb/ plant	20
Allium hollandicum 'Purple Sensation'	Bulb/ plant	20



3D view of feature planting

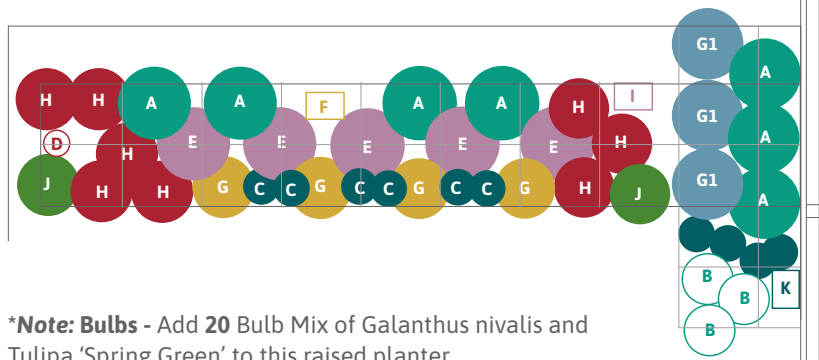


Border Area



Planting Plan

Grid - 0.5m



***Note: Bulbs** - Add 20 Bulb Mix of *Galanthus nivalis* and *Tulipa 'Spring Green'* to this raised planter.

This border is displayed in a raised bed but it can also be created in-ground and will flourish in sunny conditions.

'I love to feature a small tree in the foreground through which the garden can be viewed,' says Nicola.

Here she has chosen an *Amelanchier lamarckii* (June berry) tree which blossoms in spring and provides a focal point alongside an array of perennials, including *Nepeta racemosa* 'Walker's Low', *Agapanthus 'Blue Storm'*, *Salvia rosmarinus* (Prostrata Group), and the standout *Allium hollandicum 'Purple Sensation'*. 'These are really blousy Alliums which are almost like sculptures,' says Nicola. 'They are easy to plant and maintain. Plant a bag of bulbs in autumn and they will bloom in May and June. If you leave the seed heads on until the following spring they will contribute to the structure of the garden in the winter months and will be a great source of food for birds. My advice is always to look for plants that die well.'

Note: Alliums – like Daffodils, Tulips, Cyclamen and Snowdrops – are poisonous to dogs and cats so Nicola recommends substituting them for *Verbena bonariensis* if your pet is likely to eat your plants.

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

Border Plant List

A	<i>Agapanthus 'Blue Storm'</i>
B	<i>Agastache 'Blue Boa'</i>
C	<i>Allium hollandicum 'Purple Sensation'</i>
D	<i>Amelanchier lamarckii</i> (Multistem)
E	<i>Calamagrostis brachytricha</i>
F	<i>Clematis anshunensis 'Winter Beauty'</i>
G1	<i>Geranium 'Rozanne'</i>
G	<i>Molinia caerulea</i> subsp. <i>Arundinacea</i>
H	<i>Nepeta racemosa 'Walker's Low'</i>
I	<i>Passiflora caerulea</i>
J	<i>Salvia rosmarinus</i> (Prostrata Group)
K	<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</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 Easy Care Garden
by Oliver Schurmann



The Nature Enthusiast's Garden
by Jane McCorkell



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?

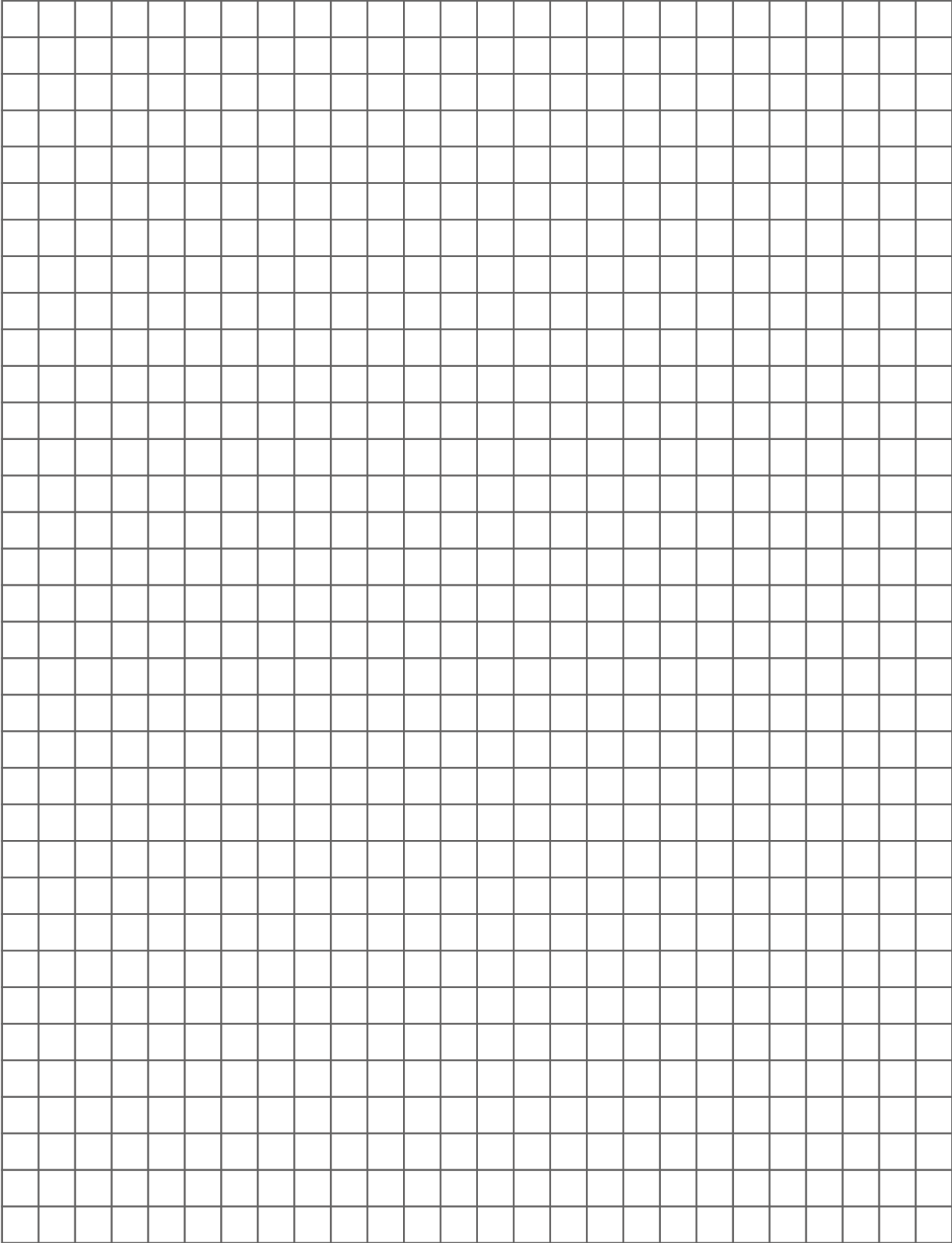
These 8 gardening essential tools and products will help you get started:

- 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.

Grid Sheet





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