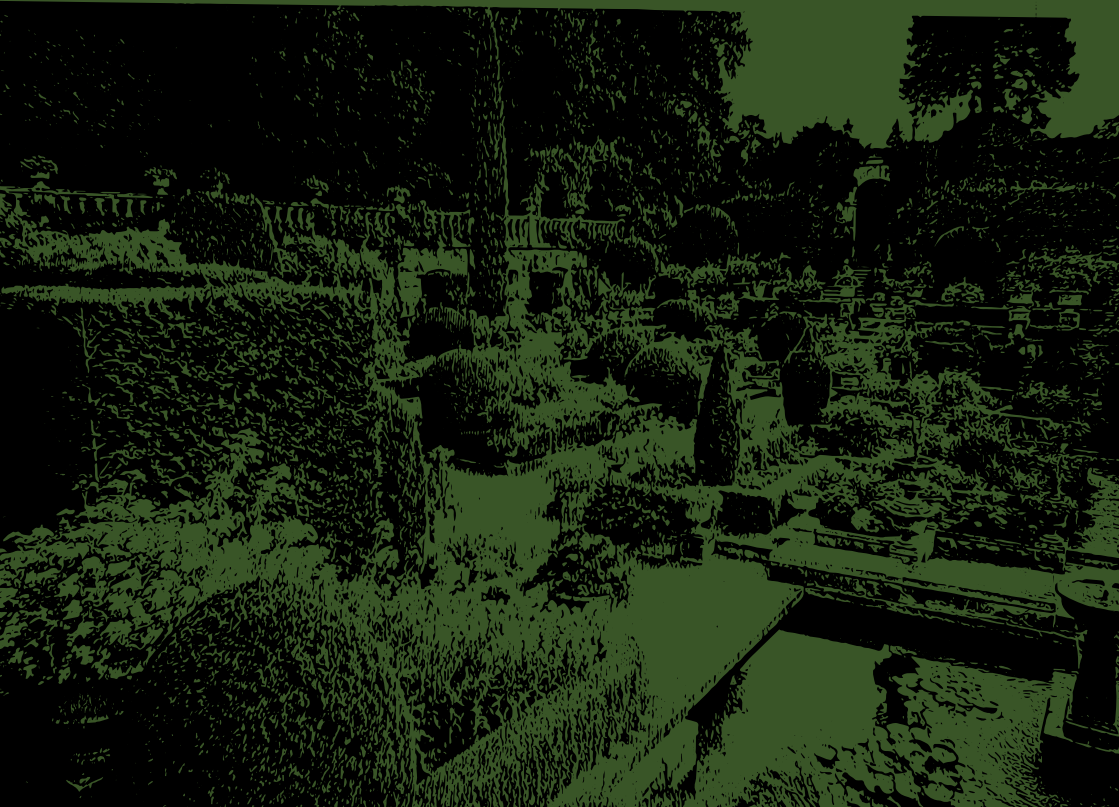




TOO MUCH MAINTENANCE



Too Much Maintenance? Here's How to Create an Easier Garden

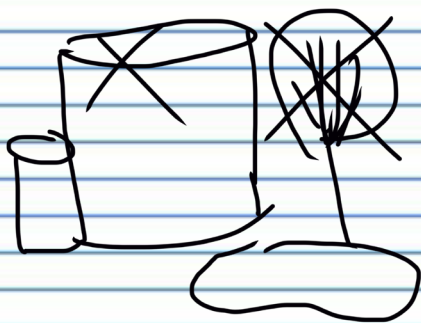
Does your garden feel like hard work?

A garden should be somewhere you can relax, not somewhere that takes up every weekend. If you're constantly mowing the lawn, pulling weeds, cutting back overgrown plants or clearing leaves, it's easy to start feeling like your garden is working against you.

The good news is that it doesn't have to be that way.

Most high-maintenance gardens aren't high maintenance because of the owner—they're high maintenance because they weren't designed with the future in mind. With a few clever changes, you can create a garden that's just as beautiful but far easier to look after.

Whether you're planning a complete garden makeover or simply want to cut down on the jobs, these ideas will help you spend less time maintaining your garden and more time enjoying it.



1. Understand Why Your Garden Needs So Much Maintenance

Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Walk around your garden and identify the areas that require the most work.
- ☐ List the gardening jobs you do every week.
- ☐ Highlight areas that cause frustration.
- ☐ Identify plants that need frequent pruning.
- ☐ Decide which maintenance tasks you'd like to reduce.

☐ Five Do's

- Assess your garden honestly.
- Prioritise the biggest maintenance issues.
- Think about long-term solutions.
- Design around your lifestyle.
- Plan improvements before buying new plants.

☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't blame yourself for a demanding garden.
- Don't tackle every problem at once.
- Don't keep plants that constantly struggle.
- Don't ignore recurring issues.
- Don't assume more maintenance means a better garden.

2. Cut Down on Lawn

☐ Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Measure your lawn area.
- ☐ Identify sections that could become planting or seating.
- ☐ Sketch a simpler lawn shape.
- ☐ Research low-maintenance alternatives.
- ☐ Decide which areas really need grass.

☐ Five Do's

- Keep lawn shapes simple.
- Replace unused grass with practical spaces.
- Use ground-cover planting where appropriate.
- Consider wildflower areas.
- Design lawns for easy mowing.

☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't create awkward mowing edges.
- Don't keep lawn simply out of habit.
- Don't make narrow grass strips.
- Don't ignore how you actually use the space.
- Don't overcomplicate the layout.



3. Choose Plants That Look After Themselves

Garden To-Do List

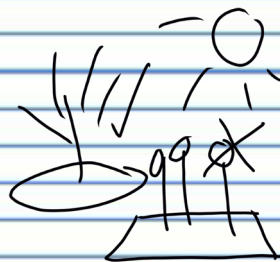
- ☐ Identify high-maintenance plants.
- ☐ Research drought-tolerant species.
- ☐ Replace struggling plants gradually.
- ☐ Group similar plants together.
- ☐ Choose plants suited to your soil.

Five Do's

- Plant the right plant in the right place.
- Choose slow-growing varieties.
- Repeat plants in groups.
- Select disease-resistant species.
- Think about mature size.

Five Don'ts

- Don't buy plants on appearance alone.
- Don't overcrowd borders.
- Don't ignore growing conditions.
- Don't choose plants that need constant pruning.
- Don't mix too many different species.
- Don't ignore soil health.



4. Spend Less Time Weeding

Garden To-Do List

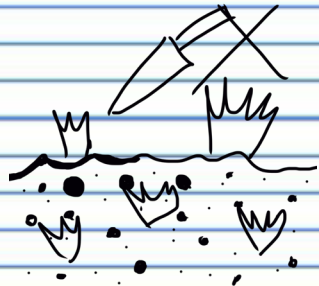
- ☐ Identify naturally wet borders.
- ☐ Research moisture-loving plants.
- ☐ Group plants with similar needs.
- ☐ Replace struggling plants.
- ☐ Add seasonal interest with suitable species.

☐ Five Do's

- Mulch every year.
- Keep borders densely planted.
- Improve the soil.
- Remove weeds early.
- Encourage healthy plant growth.

☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't leave bare soil exposed.
- Don't rely only on weed killers.
- Don't ignore invasive weeds.
- Don't disturb the soil unnecessarily.
- Don't allow weeds to seed.



5. Stop Borders Taking Over

Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Check mature plant sizes.
- ☐ Remove overcrowded plants.
- ☐ Divide oversized perennials.
- ☐ Simplify planting combinations.
- ☐ Create clearer planting groups.

Five Do's

- Choose manageable plants.
- Allow room for growth.
- Mix different heights.
- Plan seasonal interest.

- Maintain simple planting schemes.

Five Don'ts

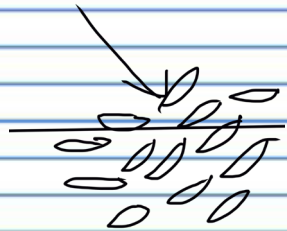
- Don't pave every available space.
- Don't ignore drainage beneath patios.
- Don't allow runoff towards buildings.
- Don't use impermeable materials unnecessarily.
- Don't forget maintenance.



6. Make Autumn Easier

Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Identify where leaves collect.
- ☐ Check tree locations.
- ☐ Install gutter guards if required.
- ☐ Make paths easy to sweep.
- ☐ Plan future tree planting carefully.



☐ Five Do's

- Position trees thoughtfully.
- Keep drainage clear.
- Use gravel beneath deciduous trees.
- Choose suitable species.

- Prepare before autumn arrives.

☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't plant large trees over patios.
- Don't ignore blocked gutters.
- Don't allow leaves to become slippery.
- Don't remove every fallen leaf from wildlife areas.
- Don't overlook long-term maintenance

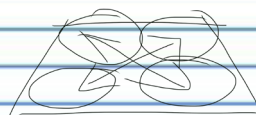
7. Create Clean Edges

Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Assess whether natural improvements are enough.
- ☐ Identify suitable drainage routes.
- ☐ Research drainage options.
- ☐ Consider professional advice.
- ☐ Ensure water drains safely.

☐ Five Do's

- Define spaces clearly.
- Keep mowing simple.
- Use quality materials.
- Maintain crisp edges.
- Match edging to your design.



☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't leave undefined borders.
- Don't use unsuitable materials.
- Don't allow grass to spread.
- Don't ignore damaged edging.
- Don't create awkward shapes.

8. Improve Your Soil

- ☐ Garden To-Do List
 - ☐ Add compost to borders.
 - ☐ Mulch around plants.
 - ☐ Test your soil.
 - ☐ Reduce compaction.
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- ☐ Feed the soil naturally.



Five Do's

- Improve soil every year.
- Add organic matter.
- Encourage healthy roots.
- Retain moisture naturally.
- Build healthy soil over time.

☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't neglect soil health.
 - Don't over-dig unnecessarily.
 - Don't leave soil bare.
 - Don't ignore drainage.
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- Don't rely entirely on fertilisers.

9. Choose Materials That Last

☐ Garden To-Do List

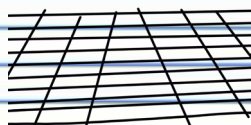
- ☐ Inspect paving and decking.
- ☐ Replace damaged materials.
- ☐ Research durable alternatives.
- ☐ Plan future upgrades.
- ☐ Choose quality over short-term savings.

☐ Five Do's

- Invest in long-lasting materials.
- Choose low-maintenance finishes.
- Consider life-cycle costs.
- Match materials to your garden style.
- Prioritise durability.

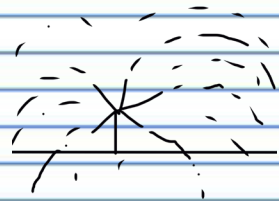
☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't buy purely on price.
- Don't ignore maintenance requirements.
- Don't mix too many materials.
- Don't overlook quality installation.
- Don't forget long-term value.



10. Let Technology Do Some of the Work

- ☐ Garden To-Do List
- ☐ Increase planting areas.
- ☐ Add deep-rooted species.
- ☐ Review drainage capacity.
- ☐ Consider future climate conditions.
- ☐ Improve water storage.



☐ Five Do's

- Use technology wisely.
- Save water.
- Reduce repetitive work.
- Improve efficiency.
- Plan for future maintenance.

☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't automate poor design.
- Don't waste water.
- Don't ignore maintenance of equipment.
- Don't buy unnecessary gadgets.

- Don't rely entirely on technology.

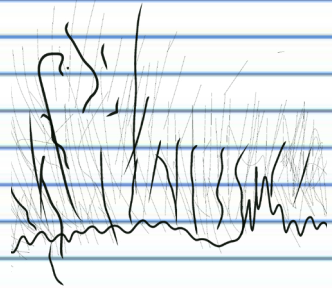
11. Think About Every Season

Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Identify seasonal gaps.
- ☐ Add evergreen structure.
- ☐ Choose long-flowering plants.
- ☐ Include ornamental grasses.
- ☐ Plan for year-round colour.

☐ Five Do's

- Plant for every season.
- Use evergreen structure.
- Add winter interest.
- Mix textures.
- Think long term.



☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't focus only on summer.
- Don't rely on bedding plants alone.
- Don't ignore foliage.
- Don't forget winter structure.
- Don't continually replace planting.

12. Good Design Makes All the Difference

☐ Garden To-Do List

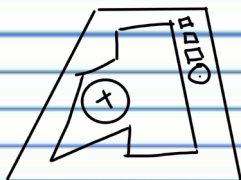
- ☐ Review your entire garden layout.
- ☐ Identify unnecessary maintenance.
- ☐ Simplify complicated areas.
- ☐ Plan future improvements.
- ☐ Create a realistic maintenance routine.

☐ Five Do's

- Design around your lifestyle.
- Keep layouts practical.
- Plan before making changes.
- Invest in thoughtful design.
- Create a garden you'll enjoy.

☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't copy other gardens without adapting them.
- Don't overcomplicate the design.
- Don't ignore how the garden will mature.
- Don't create unnecessary work.
- Don't forget that good design saves time.



Your Garden Action Plan

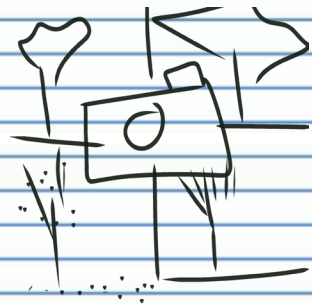
Before making any changes, work through this checklist.

Planning

- ☐ Walk around your garden and identify the biggest maintenance problems.
- ☐ Photograph areas you'd like to improve.
- ☐ Decide which jobs you'd most like to reduce.
- ☐ Measure lawns and borders.
- ☐ Set a realistic improvement budget.

Design

- ☐ Simplify the garden layout.
- ☐ Reduce unnecessary lawn.
- ☐ Choose lower-maintenance planting.
- ☐ Improve edging and pathways.
- ☐ Select durable materials.



Implementation

Implementation

- ☐ Improve soil with compost and mulch.
- ☐ Replace high-maintenance plants gradually.
- ☐ Install automatic watering if appropriate.
- ☐ Keep borders full and healthy.
- ☐ Review your garden each season and make small improvements over time.

A low-maintenance garden doesn't mean compromising on beauty—it means designing smarter. By simplifying the layout, choosing the right plants, improving your soil and using durable materials, you can create an outdoor space that's both practical and inspiring. At Tria Prima Design, we believe gardens should fit around your lifestyle, giving you more time to relax and enjoy your outdoor space rather than spending every weekend maintaining it.