



CREATING YEAR

ROUND INTEREST



Planting for Year-Round Interest: Creating a Garden That's Beautiful in Every Season

Does your garden only look good for a few weeks each year?

Many gardens burst into life during spring and summer, only to become dull and lifeless once the flowers fade. By autumn, borders can begin to look tired, and during winter the garden is often forgotten altogether.

The truth is, a beautiful garden shouldn't only be enjoyed for a few months of the year.

With careful planning, your garden can offer something special in every season. Spring bulbs, colourful summer flowers, vibrant autumn foliage, sculptural grasses and evergreen planting all work together to create an outdoor space that's constantly changing and full of interest.

The secret isn't planting more—it's planting smarter.

By choosing the right combination of trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses, you can create a garden that's attractive all year round while also supporting wildlife and reducing maintenance.

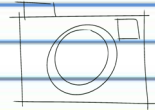
Here's how to design a garden that never feels out of season.



1. Plan for All Four Seasons

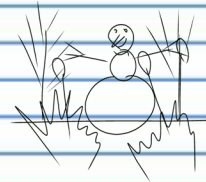
Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Walk around your garden during each season.
- ☐ Photograph areas that look empty.
- ☐ Identify when your garden looks its best.
- ☐ Note which plants provide year-round interest.
- ☐ Plan improvements for the quieter seasons.



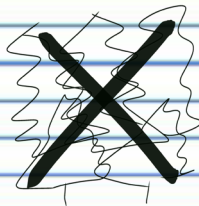
Five Do's

- Think beyond summer flowers.
- Plan planting for every season.
- Include evergreen structure.
- Consider seasonal colour.
- Design with long-term interest in mind.



Five Don'ts

- Don't rely on one flowering season.
- Don't forget winter.
- Don't plant everything at once.
- Don't ignore foliage.
- Don't choose plants based on flowers alone.



2. Build a Strong Evergreen Framework

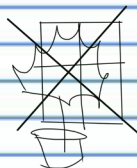
Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Identify gaps in winter structure.
- ☐ Add evergreen shrubs where needed.
- ☐ Introduce year-round screening.
- ☐ Use evergreens to frame key views.
- ☐ Choose different leaf colours and textures.



Five Do's

- Use evergreen shrubs.
- Create permanent structure.
- Mix different foliage colours.
- Add winter screening.
- Keep planting balanced.



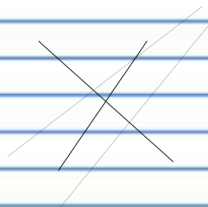
Five Don'ts

- Don't overfill with evergreens.
- Don't choose fast-growing shrubs without planning.
- Don't rely on hedges alone.
- Don't forget mature size.
- Don't ignore maintenance requirements.



3. Celebrate Spring

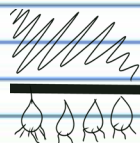
Garden To-Do List



- ☐ Plant spring bulbs in autumn.
- ☐ Add early-flowering shrubs.
- ☐ Fill empty borders with bulbs.
- ☐ Choose pollinator-friendly plants.
- ☐ Plan a succession of spring colour.

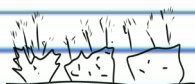
Five Do's

- Layer bulbs naturally.
- Plant in groups.
- Mix flowering times.
- Include scented plants.
- Welcome early pollinators.



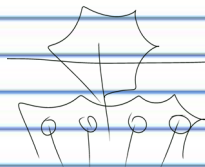
Five Don'ts

- Don't plant bulbs in straight lines.
- Don't remove bulb foliage too early.
- Don't rely on one type of bulb
- Don't forget late spring interest.
- Don't overcrowd planting.



4. Keep Summer Colour Going

Garden To-Do List



- ☐ Garden To-Do List
- ☐ Identify gaps in summer flowering.
- ☐ Add long-flowering perennials.
- ☐ Repeat key plants.
- ☐ Introduce ornamental grasses.
- ☐ Deadhead suitable plants.

Five Do's

- Choose long-flowering species.
- Repeat planting throughout borders.
- Mix heights.
- Include movement.
- Keep colour balanced.



Five Don'ts

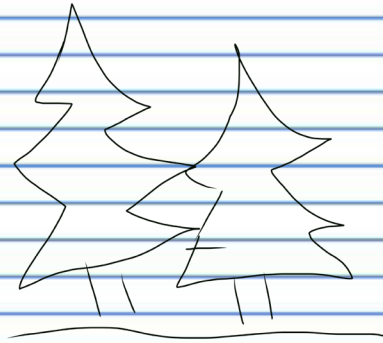
- Don't rely on annuals alone.
- Don't use too many colours.
- Don't overcrowd borders.
- Don't forget foliage.
- Don't neglect watering during establishment



5. Enjoy Autumn Colour

Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Add trees with autumn colour.
- ☐ Include late-flowering plants.
- ☐ Leave attractive seed heads.
- ☐ Plant ornamental grasses.
- ☐ Observe autumn views.



Five Do's

- Celebrate seasonal colour.
- Use ornamental grasses.
- Add berry-producing shrubs.
- Leave seed heads standing.
- Mix warm autumn tones.

Five Don'ts

- Don't tidy too early.
- Don't remove grasses in autumn.
- Don't ignore foliage colour.
- Don't overlook bark interest.
- Don't cut everything back.



6. Find Beauty in Winter

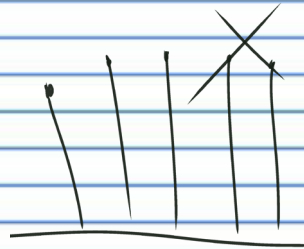
Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Add plants with colourful stems.
- ☐ Include winter-flowering shrubs.
- ☐ Leave ornamental grasses standing.
- ☐ Introduce evergreen planting.
- ☐ Highlight winter features.



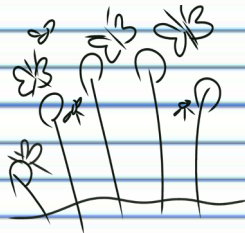
Five Do's

- Appreciate winter structure.
- Use bark colour.
- Add winter scent.
- Keep seed heads.
- Embrace frosty mornings.



Five Don'ts

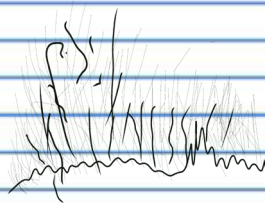
- Don't strip the garden bare.
- Don't remove all dead stems.
- Don't ignore evergreens.
- Don't forget wildlife.
- Don't think winter means no interest.



7. Mix Different Shapes and Textures

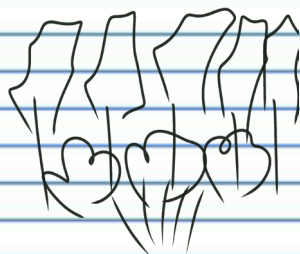
Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Add fine-textured grasses.
- ☐ Include bold architectural plants.
- ☐ Mix rounded and upright forms.
- ☐ Introduce different leaf shapes.
- ☐ Review border balance.



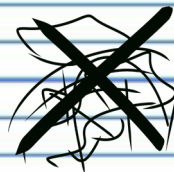
Five Do's

- Layer textures.
- Contrast foliage.
- Mix plant forms.
- Create visual interest.
- Think beyond flowers



Five Don'ts

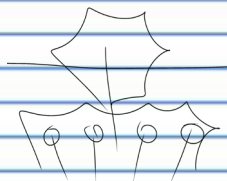
- Don't use identical plant shapes.
- Don't rely on colour alone.
- Don't overcrowd.
- Don't ignore foliage.
- Don't forget winter texture.



8. Plant in Layers

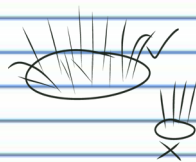
Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Position taller plants first.
- ☐ Fill the middle layer.
- ☐ Add ground-cover planting.
- ☐ Reduce bare soil.
- ☐ Check mature heights.



Five Do's

- Layer naturally.
- Cover exposed soil.
- Create depth.
- Improve biodiversity.
- Think vertically.



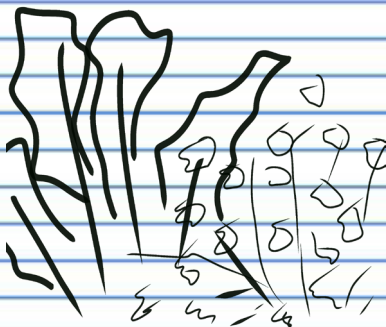
Five Don'ts

- Don't plant everything the same height.
- Don't leave gaps.
- Don't ignore spacing.
- Don't overcrowd young plants.
- Don't forget maintenance access.

9. . Plant for Wildlife

Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Include nectar-rich flowers.
- ☐ Add berry-producing shrubs.
- ☐ Leave seed heads over winter.
- ☐ Plant native species.
- ☐ Create insect habitat.

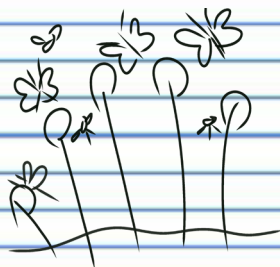


Five Do's

- Support pollinators.
- Feed birds.
- Encourage biodiversity.
- Plant native species.
- Leave natural habitats.

Five Don'ts

- Don't remove all seed heads.
- Don't overuse pesticides.
- Don't ignore wildlife value.
- Don't choose sterile varieties only.
- Don't tidy too much.

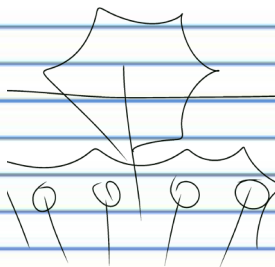


10. Repeat Plants for Impact

Garden To-Do List

Identify favourite plants.

- ☐ Repeat them through borders.
- ☐ Plant in groups.
- ☐ Simplify planting combinations.
- ☐ Review visual rhythm.

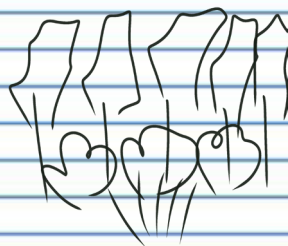


Five Do's

- Plant in odd numbers.
- Repeat colours.
- Create rhythm.
- Use larger groups.
- Keep planting cohesive.

Five Don'ts

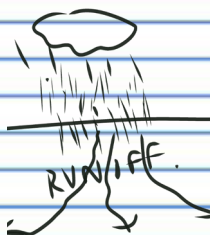
- Don't buy one of everything.
- Don't create visual clutter.
- Don't mix too many themes.
- Don't overcrowd borders.
- Don't forget balance.



11. . Choose the Right Plant for the Right Place

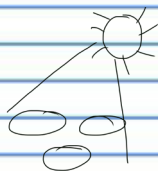
Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Test your soil.
- ☐ Identify sunny and shady areas.
- ☐ Check drainage.
- ☐ Research mature plant sizes.
- ☐ Match plants to conditions.



Five Do's

- Work with nature.
- Choose suitable plants.
- Understand your site.
- Improve the soil.
- Plan ahead.



Five Don'ts

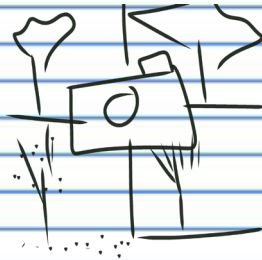
- Don't fight the conditions.
- Don't ignore drainage.
- Don't plant without researching.
- Don't overcrowd.
- Don't expect every plant to thrive everywhere



12. Enjoy a Garden That Changes Throughout the Year

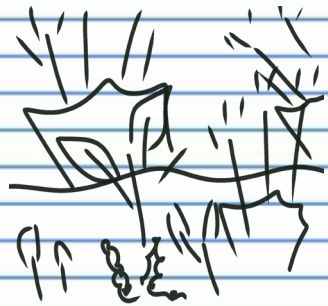
Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Photograph your garden every season.
- ☐ Note your favourite views.
- ☐ Identify seasonal gaps.
- ☐ Add one new plant each season.
- ☐ Keep improving gradually.



Five Do's

- Appreciate seasonal change.
- Allow the garden to evolve.
- Keep planting balanced.
- Celebrate every season.
- Enjoy the journey.



Five Don'ts

- Don't expect instant results.
- Don't design every year.
- Don't remove successful planting.
- Don't chase short-lived trends.
- Don't forget to simply enjoy your garden.



Your Garden Action Plan

Photograph your garden in each season.

- ☐ Identify seasonal gaps.
- ☐ List plants worth keeping.
- ☐ Test your soil.
- ☐ Decide on your planting style.



Design

- ☐ Add evergreen structure.
- ☐ Plan succession planting.
- ☐ Include wildlife-friendly species.
- ☐ Balance colour and texture.
- ☐ Repeat key plants throughout the garden



Implementation

- ☐ Improve the soil before planting.
- ☐ Plant in layers.
- ☐ Mulch borders.
- ☐ Water new plants during establishment.
- ☐ Review your planting each season and make small improvements over time.



A garden with year-round interest isn't created overnight—it's built layer by layer and season by season. By planning beyond summer flowers and combining structure, colour, texture and seasonal highlights, you'll create a landscape that always offers something new to discover. At Tria Prima Design, we believe gardens should inspire throughout the entire year, creating beautiful outdoor spaces that evolve naturally with the changing seasons.