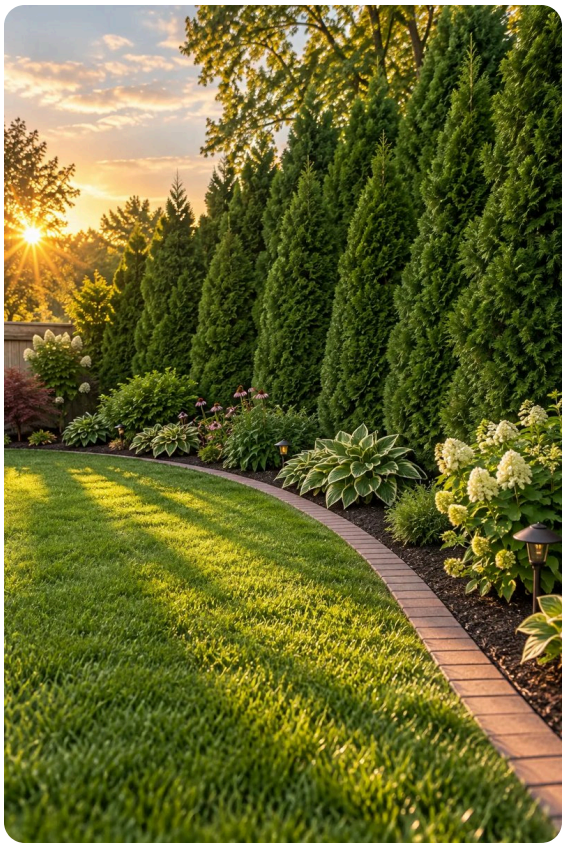
Zone & Layer Blueprint

Map, edge, and plant a professionally layered garden bed.

Master the exact spacing, edging, and planting layers professionals use to build lush, low-maintenance garden beds. Work from the outer border inward to the tallest back layer.



Blueprint Dimensions

4 in (10 cm)
Trench depth for the hardscape base

2 in (5 cm)
Coarse builder's sand leveling layer

3 in (7.5 cm)
Depth for shredded hardwood mulch

Every 3 ft (90 cm)
Galvanized landscape staples for drip tape

Mature width
Spacing based on mature plant width

1 per year
Late winter pruning for evergreens

Flush brick mower edge

Set heavy clay pavers exactly level with the lawn's soil grade so heavy mower blades pass safely over the top surface, eliminating the need for separate string trimming.

Match the Layer

Find your row: **Garden bed zone**

Garden bed zone	Your pick	Why
Lawn transition line	Heavy clay pavers	Naturally resists shifting and cracking
Exposed bare soil	Drip tape under mulch	Stops mildew on humid summer nights
Empty midground gaps	Triangle plant spacing	Creates a naturally full foliage mass
Back privacy screen	Staggered evergreens	Builds incredible visual depth quickly

Building the Foundation

1. **Dig and level** Excavate the perimeter trench, pour in the leveling material, and mist lightly with a garden hose.
2. **Compact the base** Pound the wet surface with a steel hand tamper until it feels as hard as concrete.
3. **Lock the edge** Install masonry end-to-end directly along the freshly cut grass line to hold back the groundcover.
4. **Automate the watering** Hook tubing to a standard outdoor spigot using a pressure regulator and a battery-operated timer.

Check Before Planting

- [ ] Verify mower wheel clearance along the entire brick edge.
- [ ] Test your drip line water pressure before burying the tape.
- [ ] Check plant packaging for mature widths to calculate accurate zig-zag spacing.
- [ ] Confirm the mulch volume is consistent everywhere to block weed seeds.
- [ ] Ensure the end of the irrigation line is tightly capped.

Project Notes

Enjoy your beautifully structured, self-sustaining landscape ecosystem for seasons to come!