

18-Inch Driveway Strip Plan

Map your zones, set the grade, and plant a lush concrete border.

Transform that narrow concrete edge into a beautiful, resilient garden. This plan helps you set the correct soil grade and space the exact heights needed for car doors and curbs.

● The Trench Grade Measurements

1 in below slab

Mulch surface prevents heavy runoff washouts

3 in below slab

Soil line with well-draining compost blend

9 in below slab

Root base anchored in native topsoil

12 in below slab

Drainage base of loosened subsoil

8-12 in

Empty space between new staggered plantings

2 in deep

Depth to check soil moisture weekly

*Let the slab water it
Creating a slight depression turns the entire driveway surface into a passive irrigation system, funneling free rainwater directly into the root zone of your new plants.*



● The Staggered Spacing Grid

- 1 Measure mature spread** Check required spacing from the center of the root ball, rather than the nursery pot edge.
- 2 Offset the pattern** Plant in a zigzag layout based strictly on mature width to weave a seamless canopy.
- 3 Loosen the sidewalls** Break up the narrow trench walls so expanding roots do not get trapped in a channel.
- 4 Install steel edging** Place a crisp metal barrier on the grass side to stop invasive turf runners from creeping.

● Choose Plants By Zone

Find your row: **Your driveway strip zone**

Your driveway strip zone	Your pick	Why
Door-swing zone	Below the door sill	Under 8 in; clears passenger doors
Middle moisture zone	Deep-rooted lush perennials	Absorbs heavy driveway storm runoff
Curb and mailbox zone	Knee-high at the curb	18-24 in; anchors the post beautifully
Harsh concrete edge	Salt-tolerant edge row	Silvery foliage reflects intense radiant heat

● Site Checks Before Planting

- Track hours of direct afternoon sunlight hitting the hot concrete pavement.
- Run a hose for five minutes; ensure water drains within an hour.
- Verify curb foliage stays under 30 inches for safe driver visibility.
- Ensure you can shovel clean snow here, pushing salty slush away.

● Driveway Garden Notes

Enjoy your beautiful new driveway garden, perfectly planned for a lush, welcoming entrance!