First-Summer English Border Plan

Transform a bare lawn into a fully layered, blooming garden in one season.

Mark out, plant, and maintain a spectacular flowering border that looks established by July. This complete layout takes the guesswork out of staggered layering.



Border Layout & Care

1.5 m
Minimum depth for staggered layering

4 m
Total length of the border

5 cm
Organic compost layer to dig in

1.2 m
Verbena height for front row depth

45 mins
Soaker hose watering twice a week

Fill gaps with cosmos

Perennials take three years to mature. Sow airy white cosmos seeds directly into empty gaps in May for a temporary colourful bridge during the first summer.

First-Summer Schedule

1. **Spring Planting** Position delphinium crowns exactly level with the surrounding soil surface to prevent hollow stems from rotting.
2. **Early April Staking** Push twiggy hazel pea-sticks deep around delphinium crowns while shoots are short to hide brown wood.
3. **May Sowing** Sow cosmos directly into bare gaps; pinch fragile growing tips at 30 cm tall for branching.
4. **Mid-Summer Feeding** Scratch a balanced organic granular fertilizer into the topsoil to fuel continued heavy perennial growth.
5. **July Maintenance** Snip off faded rose and cosmos flowers every Sunday morning to produce a spectacular second flush.

Plant Spacing & Placement

Find your row: **Plant Layer**

Plant Layer	Your pick	Why
Back (Delphiniums)	60 cm apart	Directly against the wall
Middle (Shrub Roses)	80 cm apart	Staggered between back gaps
Front (Verbena)	50 cm apart	Scattered in the front row
Edge (Catmint)	Every 2 metres	Spilling over the lawn

Site Preparation Checks

- ○ Remove the turf layer completely using a sharp edging half-moon iron.
- ○ Loosen exposed subsoil with a heavy garden fork to aerate compacted base.
- ○ Check rose nursery pots for compact varieties forming 1 m rounded bushes.
- ○ Recut the turf edge vertically every spring for a clean, professional trench.

Garden Notes

Enjoy your beautiful new blooms and the vibrant life they bring to your garden!