

Bed Layout & Spacing Cheat Sheet

Map out and plant a perfectly scaled, professional landscape.

You can finally map out, edge, and plant a perfectly scaled garden bed. Use this complete system to recreate the exact layering techniques professionals use right at home.

● Key Landscape Measurements

3-4 in

V-shaped trench edge depth

3 in

Aged mushroom compost layer

8 in

Tilling depth for robust roots

3 or 5

Identical plants per perennial drift

2 in

Bark mulch layer thickness

1-2 in

Mulch gap pulled back from stems

1 in

Weekly water for dense growth



● Mapping Your Bed Layout

- 1 Place evergreens first** Anchor the back and deepest curves before adding seasonal flowers.
- 2 Spacing at mature size** Leave an intentional visible mulch gap so outer branches touch when fully grown.
- 3 Plant in drifts** Group perennials in staggered triangles for striking, natural-looking color blocks.
- 4 Spade-cut trench edge** Sever grass roots completely to form a moat below the lawn grade.

Skip the fabric

Avoid landscape fabric under organic mulch; let the bark break down naturally to feed the soil biology while suppressing unwanted growth.

● Plant Spacing Cheat Sheet

Find your row: **Plant Category**

Plant Category	Your pick	Why
Structured Evergreens	36 to 48 in	From root ball center
Accent Grasses	30 to 40 in	From root ball center
Large Perennials	24 to 36 in	From crown center
Dwarf Shrubs	24 to 30 in	From root ball center
Groundcovers	12 to 18 in	From nursery pot edge
Border Annuals	8 to 12 in	From main stem base

● Site Checks & Prep

- Check plant tags for maximum grown width before mapping layout.
- Test drainage: ensure a water-filled pilot hole drains within an hour.
- Evaluate winter interest to ensure beds aren't barren in January.
- Check soil moisture at a 4-inch depth before turning on sprinklers.
- Wait six full months before applying synthetic granular fertilizers.

● Layout Sketches & Notes

Enjoy watching your beautifully layered landscape fill in perfectly over the coming seasons!