

Steps in Designing a Perennial Garden

Excerpted from [Home Depot Garden Club](#)

1. Assess the site. How much sun does it receive? What is the soil like? Is it well-drained? The answers to these questions will directly impact your plant selections.

2. Think about balance, scale and symmetry. Including an arbor or trellis in your garden is an easy way to provide year-round structure. Make sure it is large enough for the space. Bigger is better than too small.



3. Define the garden. If you **edge the garden** with stone, select a color and style that relate to your home. The Home Depot offers a variety of stones for edging and paving.

You can use hoses to create the shape of your garden and then spray paint or use **Irwin Strait-Line chalk** to provide a guide for digging out the bed.

4. Include a few key woody plants (shrubs, conifers or small trees). Your perennial garden will have a framework to support and enhance all the perennials.

5. Use a variety of plants with different size flowers and foliage. While tall plants are fine for the back of the border, don't be afraid to mix it up, with the occasional tall plant closer to the middle or front of the garden.

6. Tie it together. Repetition of the same plant throughout the garden is one way to achieve a unified look.

7. Avoid the problem of using one of many different types. Instead, think about grouping at least several of the same plant together. This will create more of an impact.

8. Don't be afraid to move plants if you think they are in the wrong location.

9. Take photos of your progress. Store them in your ***My Outdoor Journal***.