

Determining the size of the planting area and the number of plants needed

In this step, you will determine the size of your planting area in square feet. This will help you to determine the number of plants to order.

1. Mark the boundaries of the planting areas with stakes.
2. Measure the length and width of your site. If your area is a rectangle use the following formula to determine the area.

$$\text{Area} = \text{Length} \times \text{Width}$$

Once the area is determined, you need to determine the number of plants to order. When planning for trees and shrubs, consider the ultimate spread. Allow that distance between the trunks of the plants. Perennials and groundcovers need to be spaced according to their ultimate size. The following formula can provide a rough guideline for determining number.

$$N = A/D$$

N= Number of plants

A=area in square feet

D=spacing between plants squared

Spacing: Herbaceous plants D=2 feet

Shrubs and small trees D=7 feet

Large trees D=15 feet

The number determined is just a guideline. Alter it according to the look you hope to achieve, your budget and time.

Another formula for determining the number of perennials and groundcovers is to multiply the number of square feet by the number of plants require per square foot using this table. Distance apart is measured from the center of the plant.

Distance Apart	Plants/Square feet
4"	9.1
6"	2.5
8"	2.25
9"	1.77
10"	1.44
12"	1.00
18"	0.45
24"	0.24
36"	0.11