



Planning a Mass Planting

One of the hardest gardening jobs is planning. How will I get the best look for my money and effort? Heirloom Gardens offers one hint for a beautiful garden every time: Mass Planting.

Have you ever seen an old-fashioned garden with "one of everything"? These "Cottage Gardens" are quaint and perfect for providing you with flowers for cutting and drying, but on the whole are somewhat unkept in a natural sort of way. Modern lifestyles require that our landscapes be noticed. Mass planting of any landscape plant will give a feeling of continuity and space in crowded urban neighborhoods and provide the visual impact that we all want.

To plan for a mass planting, first you must know how much space you are about to plant, measured in square feet. Multiply the length of your garden by its width (all measured in feet). This figure will be the area of your garden in square feet.

Example

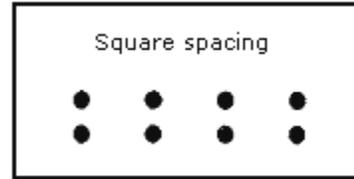
length = 15 feet
width = 5 feet
total = 75 square feet

Next, you will need to ask one of the Texas Certified Nursery Professionals at Heirloom Gardens how much space to allow between your chosen plants. Then, using the following charts, find the factor that will calculate your total number of plants for you garden when multiplied by your garden's square footage.

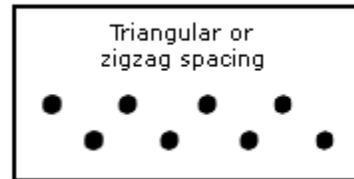
NOTE: For our examples we have used 100 square feet as a guide. This would be an area of 10 ft x 10 ft or something similar. (Smaller, narrow beds would require more plants per square foot.)

PLANT AND BULB SPACING

Number of plants or bulbs per 100 square feet if planted on:



2" Centers	=	3600 (36 sq ft)
3" Centers	=	1600 (16 sq ft)
4" Centers	=	900 (9 sq ft)
6" Centers	=	400 (4 sq ft)
8" Centers	=	225 (2.25 sq ft)
12" Centers	=	100 (1 sq ft)
15" Centers	=	64 (.64 sq ft)
18" Centers	=	45 (.444 sq ft)
24" Centers	=	25 (.25 sq ft)
36" Centers	=	12 (.111 sq ft)
48" Centers	=	7 (.0625 sq ft)



The advantage that triangular spacing has over square spacing is that any given area appears fuller as the plants are growing because the spaces between the plants are filled in by each succeeding row.

Number of plants or bulbs per 100 square feet if planted on:

2" Centers	=	4150 (41.5 per sq ft)
3" Centers	=	1782 (17.8 per sq ft)
4" Centers	=	1000 (10 per sq ft)
6" Centers	=	461 (4.61 per sq ft)
8" Centers	=	263 (2.6 per sq ft)
10" Centers	=	166 (1.66 per sq ft)
12" Centers	=	115 (1.15 per sq ft)
15" Centers	=	74 (.738 per sq ft)
18" Centers	=	51 (.512 per sq ft)
24" Centers	=	27 (.27 per sq ft)
36" Centers	=	19 (.189 per sq ft)
48" Centers	=	8 (.0725 per sq ft)

Let's say you have chosen Giant Liriope for a mass planted groundcover bed totaling 75 square feet. Giant Liriope (a one gallon size) needs to be planted about 18" apart in triangular spacing for best coverage. The number of plants required per square foot planted at 18" triangular intervals is .512. Now, look below and see what this totals.

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Example

plants per square	.512
<u>square feet in garden</u>	<u>75</u>
total plants needed	39

ROUND BEDS

Round beds require a little bit more effort to figure out, so we will provide you with calculated square feet for certain circular sizes. Decide on the method of planting you want to use (zig-zag or rectangular), the spacing required for your plants, and multiply to get the estimated number of plants required.

<u>Diameter</u>	<u>Sq. Ft.</u>
2 feet	3.75
3 feet	7.0
4 feet	12.5
5 feet	19.5
6 feet	28.25
7 feet	38.5
8 feet	50.25
9 feet	63.5
10 feet	78.5
12 feet	113.0
14 feet	154.0
16 feet	201.0
18 feet	254.4
20 feet	314.1
22 feet	380.0
24 feet	452.3
26 feet	530.8
28 feet	615.7

30 feet	706.7
32 feet	804.1
34 feet	907.7
36 feet	1017.7

The following example shows what a round bed 12 feet in diameter of Giant Liriope would require for complete coverage at 18 inch zigzag spacing.

Example

plants per square foot	.512
<u>square feet in bed</u>	<u>113</u>
total plants needed	58

NOTE: You can use larger spacings, but remember that the longer your plants take to cover ground, the longer you will have to keep weeds from taking over your planting.