

Choosing the Right Location for a Flowerbed

Planning and creating a flowerbed isn't just about aesthetics, but also about proper configuration and choosing a location that provides the best growing conditions. In this lesson, we'll cover the final seven steps to creating the perfect location for your flowerbed.

1. Sunlight analysis

One of the most important steps in planning a flower bed is analyzing the sunlight exposure of the area where the bed will be created. Why? Choosing the right plants for the light conditions in your garden determines healthy plant growth, abundant flowering, and longevity.

1. Why is sunlight exposure so important?

Every plant has different light requirements. Some species love full sun, others thrive in partial shade, and still others prefer shady locations. Incorrectly selecting plants for the sunlight level can result in poor growth, lack of flowering, or even plant death.

2. How to conduct a sunlight analysis?

Observe throughout the day. Observe how long the sun illuminates a given area. Divide your garden into zones based on sunlight exposure:

Sunny locations (6-8 hours of full sun per day)

Partial shade (3-6 hours of diffused light or sun)

Shady (less than 3 hours of sun per day).

Taking the seasons into account

Remember that sunlight may vary depending on the season – in winter

The sun is lower in the sky, which affects the amount of light in different parts of the garden


A shadow cast by the surroundings

Pay attention to shadows cast by buildings, fences, and trees.

They can significantly reduce light.

3. Adapting plants to light conditions

Once you have determined the level of sunlight, select the appropriate plant species:



Plants for sunny location

☀️ lavender, rudbeckia, echinacea, paniculate phlox

- Plants for semi-shade location

- ☁️ Hydrangeas, hostas, spirea, large-leaved brunera.

- Plants for shadow location

- Ferns, cranesbills, periwinkle, violets, lily of the valley.

2. Wind protection

The place for the flower bed should also be sheltered from strong winds, which can damage delicate plants and flowers. Consider locations behind walls, fences, or near shrubs that can serve as natural cover.

3. Water availability

Another important aspect is accessibility to water. Plants require regular watering, so make sure the location you choose is easily accessible by garden hose or near other water sources. This will make regular watering easier, especially during the warmer months.

4. Soil quality

Before deciding on a flowerbed location, check the soil quality in potential locations. The soil should be fertile, well-drained, and rich in nutrients. If the soil in your chosen location is poor, consider enriching it with compost or other organic materials.

5. Proximity to other plants.

Consider how the new flower bed will fit into the existing garden landscape. Think about the colors, heights, and types of plants you already have to create a harmonious composition. Also, make sure that new plants will not compete with existing ones for light, water, or nutrients.

6. Garden Style

The location you choose for your flowerbed should also reflect the style of your garden.

Do you prefer a formal layout or a more relaxed, naturalistic style?

The location of your flowerbed should harmonize with the overall design of your garden.

7. Expansion

Finally, think about the future. Plants will grow and spread, so it's important to plan your space so each one has enough room to thrive. Consider what the bed will look like in a few years and whether some plants will need to be moved.

The next step is

Checking the soil type:

Visual touch test

Take a small amount of moist soil and try to rub it between your fingers. If the soil is sticky and easily forms a compact ball. If it's loose and friable, it's sandy soil. If it combines characteristics of both and is moldable but breaks down easily, it's clay soil.

If it has the characteristics of both and can be formed but falls apart easily, it is a clay soil.

1. Soil in water settling test:

- Take a soil sample and pour it into a clear jar filled with water
- close the jar, shake and set aside for a few hours
- Watch how the soil settles:
- The sand layer sinks to the bottom the fastest.
- The clay (the finest particles) will remain on top

Drainage test:

Dig a small hole about 30 cm deep and pour water into it.

Check how quickly water absorbs:

If very quickly the soil is permeable (sandy).

If the water stands for a long time, the soil is poorly permeable (clayey)



Soil pH measurement:

1 Baking soda and vinegar test (homemade):

To test if your soil is acidic:

Add a little distilled water to a glass of soil (to create a muddy consistency).

Add a little distilled water to a glass of soil (to create a muddy consistency).

If bubbles appear, the soil is acidic (low pH).

To check if your soil is alkaline:

Make a muddy soil sample as above and add a few drops of vinegar.

If bubbles appear, the soil is alkaline (high pH).

2. Using a pH measurement kit:

Buy pH testers available at garden centers. Follow the instructions on the package, mixing the soil sample with reagent or distilled water.

3. Using an electronic pH meter:

Moisten the soil sample with distilled water.

Insert the meter probe into the soil and read the pH reading.

4. Soil analysis in the laboratory:

If you want accurate results, you can take a soil sample to your local agricultural chemical station or soil analysis laboratory.

These few steps will definitely make it much easier for you to create and maintain your flowerbed or garden without any effort.

Thank you
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