



The Plant-A-Plan: We Plan, You Plant!

Kennedy's Do-It-Yourself Design Service

This is Kennedy's most economical design service. It's free! We just ask that you come to Kennedy's with the information requested in the guidelines below. You will need to provide us with photos, a measured sketch, and a completed questionnaire.

Kennedy's trees and shrubs are backed by our one year guarantee. Join Kennedy's Garden Rewards Club to increase that guarantee to two years, and to earn points toward future purchases!

Please follow the guidelines below so we can help you plan a successful garden.

1. **Decide** what area you want landscaped. Kennedy's can help you with the entire yard over time, but it is best to **prioritize** so that we can focus on a manageable project. It is a good idea to give us an overview of your thoughts for the whole property so we can understand the big picture, but be prepared to tackle your landscape in smaller stages.
2. **Take photographs** of the project area from up close and from a distance. For example, if you are taking a picture of the front of your house, take at least one photo showing the whole house from a distance so we can see everything in one view. Then take some photos closer up so we can see more detail. The photographs should be straight on if possible. Stand 20-30' from the house. This distance may not allow you to fit the whole house in the photo so you will need to take several. It is best to keep the same distance from the house as you move along the front. Please avoid staying in the same spot and turning, this makes the photos looked skewed. The digital camera has revolutionized photography, but please recognize that it is hard to see details on small camera screens. We therefore request that you **print your photographs**. Color photos can be helpful, but are not required. You can print your photos on regular 8.5x11" printer paper.
3. **Sketch** your house or area to be landscaped on a piece of the supplied graph paper. **Please take accurate measurements.** To make it easier you can round them to the nearest 6". The more accurate the measurements, the more accurate the design will be. Because this is a free service and time is limited, we require you to do this sketch accurately from home before we can begin the process. Straight lines such as houses and fences are the easiest to draw, therefore start with them if possible. Please draw with a scale of one box equals one foot. For example if you have a flat front Colonial style house that is 40 feet long, draw a line on the graph paper that is 40 boxes long. Curves are harder to draw. If you have a curved walkway then you can play a game of "connect the dots." Measure every few feet from the front of the house (or another straight object) to the edge of the walk, mark the distances on the graph paper, and then connect the dots. Please draw in any other relevant objects such as steps, walkways, patios, rocks, fences, sheds, tree trunks, etc. For foundation plantings, it is

also a good idea to notch in where your windows are so we know where not to put the tall plants.

4. **Measure sunlight.** The amount of sunlight is the easiest thing to forget when designing a landscape, but it might be the most important factor in the success of your new design. Many plants are picky about how much sunlight they require. Sometimes the effects show right away, and with others it may take years to cause a problem. At Kennedy's we rate the amount of sunlight in four levels:

- Full Sun: Direct sun, with no shadows, for at least 6 hours through the middle of the day.
- Part Shade: Direct sun for about 3-6 hours, or a full day of bright filtered sun.
- Shade: Less than three hours of direct sun.
- Deep Shade: No direct sun or bright light.

The best way to determine your sunlight is to go out in your yard several times on a sunny day and note how long the sun shines on different areas of the yard. There is often varying degrees of sunlight from one area to another. For example, against the north side of a small house, the conditions will be shady most of the day, but five feet away might receive full sun all day.

5. **Know your soil conditions.** Most plants prefer loamy soil that drains well and is rich in living matter. **Clay soils** can be very difficult to grow plants in. Clay is made up of tiny particles of soil that stick together and do not let water pass through very easily. Often the root systems of plants drown from lack of air in poorly drained clay soils. We recommend improving clay soil by adding large amounts of compost and mixing it in with a shovel or garden fork. This will bring the root system of plants up higher and out of the soggy parts of the soil as well as add air, nutrients, and living matter. **Sandy soils** are at the opposite end of the spectrum and also present challenges. Sand particles are much larger and allow the moisture and nutrients to drain away quickly. Plenty of good compost will also counteract the negative effects of sandy soil. The compost will retain water and nutrients as well as add living matter to the soil. Ask us about improving your soil and the timing related to planting.

A few more details about the program:

Your time is valuable and so is ours. Please use the above guidelines and come prepared with photos, a measured sketch, and a completed questionnaire. Due to the seasonality of our business, it is hard to schedule appointments for this service, but please call before you leave your house to make sure that a qualified staff member will be available to help you upon your arrival. Please use your judgment, but it is often best to make other arrangements for children and pets during the planning sessions. We need your full attention and cannot ensure your children's safety if they are not attended at all times. There is the potential for interruptions from other customers, phone calls, etc., but we will do our best to minimize them on our end.

The Plant-A-Plan service is free to customers buying plants at Kennedy's. We trust that you will buy the plants from Kennedy's. Landscape plans and sketches are property of Kennedy's Country Gardens. We are more than happy to give you the plan, planting guidelines, and other helpful instructions when you buy your plants. Our goal is that you end up with a beautifully landscaped yard for years to come. We look forward to working with you!

Please complete this questionnaire and attach it and photos to your sketch:

Sunlight conditions: Full Sun Part Sun Shade Deep Shade

Soil conditions: Sandy Loamy Clay

Is the area windy or is it sheltered? _____

Do these plantings need to perform a particular function such as screen the neighbor, be green in the winter, provide lots of color, etc.?

Do you live year-round on the property? _____ Do you view this area in winter? _____

What colors do you like? Are there any colors you do not like?

Are there any particular plants you would like us to include in the design?

Are there any particular plants you do not want used in the design?

Is there anything else we should know about your property such as - near the ocean, gets road salt, top of a hill, bottom of a hill, ledge, etc?

Do you have an irrigation system & does it water this area? _____

Do you maintain all of your lawn and gardens? By yourself or with help from a landscaper?

Do you like to garden or is it a chore? _____

Is there anything else we should know?



“Inspiring Successful Gardens Since 1960”

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www.KennedysCountryGardens.com