

# Plan Reading

**Objective:** to learn the basics of plan reading and taking accurate measurements from a site plan.

**Training Materials:** Sample landscape plan, metric scale, engineer's scale, architects scale.

## Elements of a Landscape Plan:

**Title block:** contains information about the project, site, client name, designer name, date and any other pertinent information.

**Compass:** often a compass or north arrow appears on the plan to indicate orientation of buildings, plants etc.

**Legend:** This contains a list of symbols used on the plan and what each symbol represents. It helps to identify trees, buildings, property lines and more.

**Drawing Scale:** The plan represents actual distances and sizes on the site and the drawing scale allows you to calculate the actual measurements.

**Specifications:** a list of instructions and requirements that the landscape contractor must follow when implementing a design. Can include guidelines for site preparation, mulching, excavation, soil preparation and planting techniques.

## Drawing scales:

Landscape plans are created to scale – this means there is a direct relationship between the distances on the drawing and the actual distances on the site. Scales are used to measure distances on plans.

There are three different scales commonly used. They look like a triangular shaped common ruler.

**Architect's Scale:** Used to measure architectural units (read in feet, inches and fractions of inches).

**Engineer's Scale:** Used to measure decimal units (read in feet and tenths of a foot).

**Metric Scale:** Used to measure in metric units (read in meters or millimetres).

To determine a distance on a plan, use the specified scale to measure between two points on the plan. Then apply the scale's ratio to the measured distance to calculate the actual distance. For example, if the scale on a drawing is 1:100, then a walkway measuring one centimetre long on the plan is actually 100cm (or one metre) long on the actual site.

• *Landscape plans are created to scale - this means there is a direct relationship between the distances on the drawing and the actual distances on the site. Scales are used to measure distances on plans.*

• *To estimate quantities or layout beds and walkways from a plan you must be able to take accurate measurements from a drawing.*

