

Plant Layout

Objective: to demonstrate the correct way to layout plants from a planting plan.

Training Materials: planting plan, architect scale, shovel, tape measure, plants.

Personal Protective Equipment: work boots, gloves, sun protection.

Lesson: *Installing the plants is usually one of the final steps in landscape construction. A planting plan is prepared by the designers to show the correct placement of plants in the landscape.*

An attached plant list will specify the type, location, size, spacing and number of plants to be installed in each instance. To be able to layout the plants you must be able to take accurate readings from the plan and interpret them using a scale (see Plan Reading).

There are different ways to depict plants on a plan, some are shown as circles, while other designers use more complex symbols to represent trees, shrubs and other plants. The size of the plants on the plan are not the size they will be when planted, but rather show how full the planting bed will be when the plants grow near to maturity.

A cross or large dot is drawn at the centre of the plant to show the exact spot where the plant should go. Ground covers are not shown individually, but are represented as a block of different texture on the

plan. The spacing at which groundcovers are planted is indicated on the plant list. The measurements given are taken from the centre of each plant.

Example: If the planting plan specifies *Hedera helix* at 30 cm apart, the ivy is planted so that the centres are 30 cm apart. Groundcovers, annuals and massed perennials are placed in rows, with the second row offsetting the first.

While the planting plan should be followed as closely as possible, there are some instances when the contractor must use some judgment when following them. It is up to the installer to make sure the side of the plant that faces out is the best one. In addition, sometimes minor adjustments need to be made, for instance if the plant is located over an underground utility or too near a sprinkler head it should be moved slightly, and in a way to that no other element in the landscape is disrupted.

The largest plants are installed first, then smaller shrubs and evergreens working from the back to front of the bed.

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- *A planting plan may include planting details that cover specific instructions for soil preparation, planting techniques or mulching.*

