



“With the landscaping finished, it’s time to design **‘the stars of the show’**...

with a little planning you can ensure your garden borders **look great** all through the year.”



You can find everything you need for your project at Applegate Garden’s, visit www.applegategardens.co.uk.

Tools you may require;

- fork,
- spade,
- trowel,
- watering can,
- slow release fertiliser

Good tips...

Remember, for the best results try to aim to place contrasting forms and textures next to each other.

Try soft feathery grey foliage against large shiny dark green leaves, or use tall upright flower spikes to contrast with round flower-heads.

Of course, bulbs (which come back year after year) and annuals, can be added as extra highlights especially whilst the garden is still new, to add immediate impact.

These will not interfere with the growth of perennial plants (which come back year after year) and shrubs.



Follow these 4 easy steps;

1. Choose 2, 3 or 4 structural plants...

These will usually be large shrubs, climbers, or even dramatic grasses. They will provide a backdrop to the flowery plants, providing coloured foliage to complement the flower colours. There is no reason that they shouldn’t be attractive in their own right, but they must primarily provide all important structure. Examples include Ceanothus, holly, fatsia and choisya.



2. Choose 2,3 or 4 ornamental plants...

Smaller shrubs, architectural perennials, climbers and grasses all fit here. These will be eye-catching when in flower, but will still be attractive the rest of the summer. Examples include cotinus, agapanthus, iris and rose.



3. Choose 2,3 or 4 decorative plants...

These are the highlights of the border giving it their all for a one off show. They have a shorter season of interest, relying on flowers rather than the shape of the plant for interest. Examples include brunnera, clematis, delphinium & campanula.



4. Sketch out some ideas on a piece of paper to arrange your chosen plants into a plan. Always try to use groups of plants in odd quantities - 3’s, 5’s or 7’s create the most natural looking border.

As a rule, try to place taller plants (when fully grown) to the back of your border, the smaller ones towards the front to achieve a well balanced scheme.



For more detailed advice on planting for beginners visit www.applegategardens.co.uk

You must also remember;

Place all your plants onto the soil to arrange them before planting - remember to take into account the final size of the plant (shown on the plant care label) when placing them next to others, each will need a different amount of space.