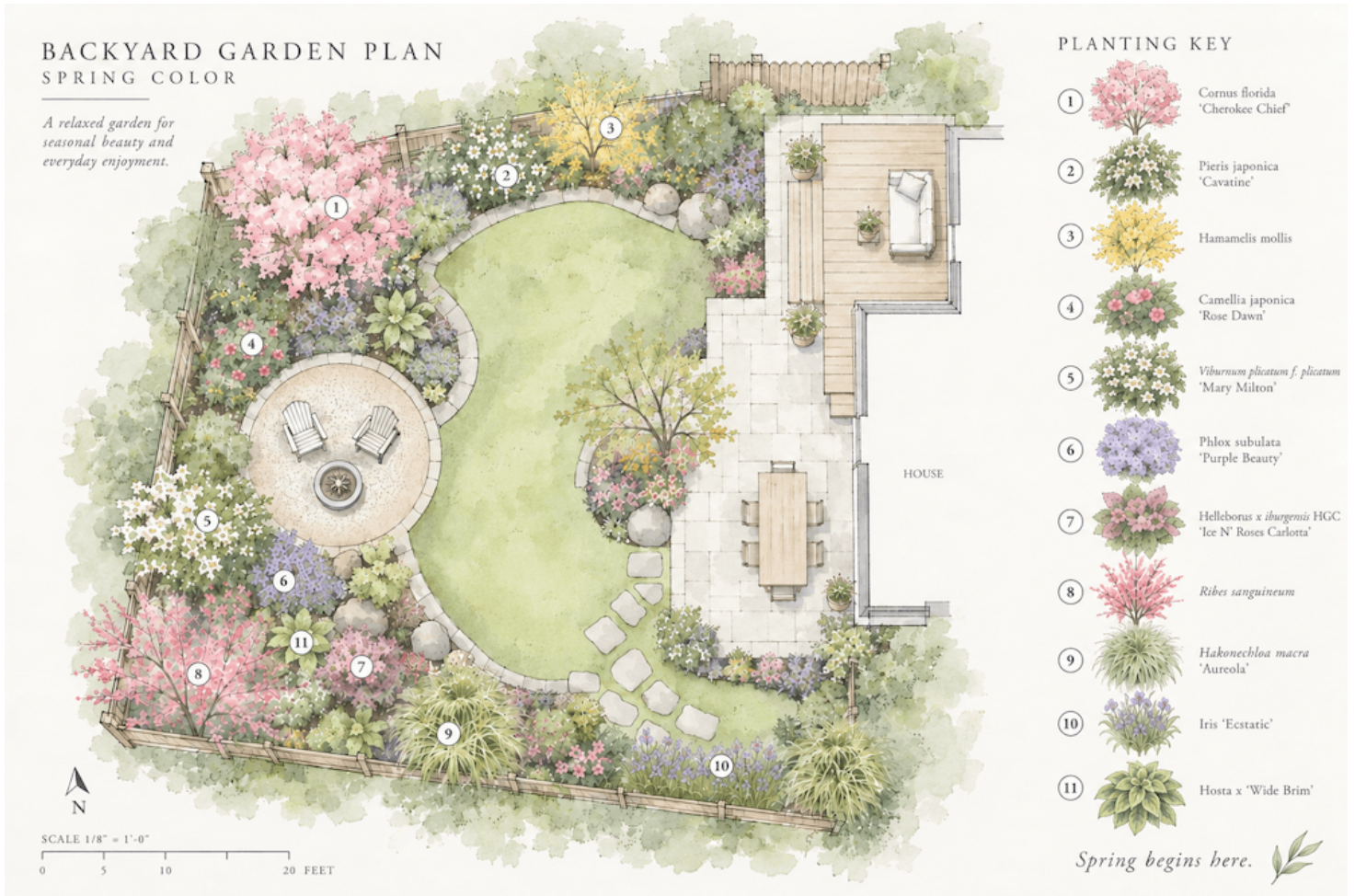


SPRING COLOR BACKYARD

Spring-flowering trees, shrubs, and perennials frame a relaxed backyard made for gathering.



A relaxed backyard garden designed for seasonal color and everyday enjoyment. Flowering trees and shrubs create the spring framework, while hellebores, creeping phlox, Japanese forest grass, iris, and hosta layer the borders with lasting foliage, texture, and bloom around an open lawn, patio, and circular seating area.

PLANT LIST

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1 CORNUS FLORIDA 'CHEROKEE CHIEF'
Cherokee Chief Flowering Dogwood | 5 VIBURNUM PLICATUM F. PLICATUM 'MARY MILTON'
Mary Milton Japanese Snowball Tree | 9 HAKONECHLOA MACRA 'AUREOLA'
Aureola Japanese Forest Grass |
| 2 PIERIS JAPONICA 'CAVATINE'
Cavatine Pieris | 6 PHLOX SUBULATA 'PURPLE BEAUTY'
Purple Beauty Creeping Phlox | 10 IRIS 'ECSTATIC'
Ecstatic Iris |
| 3 HAMAMELIS MOLLIS
Chinese Witch Hazel | 7 HELLEBORUS X IBURGENSIS HGC 'ICE N' ROSES CARLOTTA'
Ice N' Roses Carlotta Lenten Rose | 11 HOSTA X 'WIDE BRIM'
Wide Brim Hosta |
| 4 CAMELLIA JAPONICA 'ROSE DAWN'
Rose Dawn Camellia | 8 RIBES SANGUINEUM
Red Flowering Currant | |

PLANTING & CARE GUIDE

Getting Started

Before You Plant: A little preparation before planting will help your new garden become healthy, attractive, and easier to maintain for years to come.

Choose the Right Location: Before planting, confirm that your selected site matches the light requirements listed for your garden plan. Most designs are created for specific growing conditions, such as full sun, part shade, or full shade. Also verify that your USDA Hardiness Zone is suitable for the plants included in the design.

Prepare the Soil: Healthy soil provides the foundation for healthy plants. Loosen the planting area to a depth of at least 6 to 8 inches and incorporate compost or other organic matter if your soil is heavy clay, excessively sandy, or lacking organic material. Good drainage is essential for the majority of ornamental plants.

If you're uncertain about your soil's fertility or pH, consider having it tested through your local extension office or garden center. Amend the soil only if recommended by the test results.

Preparing the Planting Area

If planting into an existing lawn, outline the bed using a garden hose before removing the grass. Once the sod has been removed, loosen the soil thoroughly and blend in organic matter throughout the planting area.

After preparing the bed, water the soil well and allow it to rest for several days. This gives dormant weed seeds an opportunity to sprout, making them much easier to remove before planting begins.

Planting Your Garden

Arrange all plants on the prepared bed while they are still in their nursery containers. This allows you to visualize the finished design and make any adjustments before digging.

For the best results, install plants from largest to smallest:

- Trees
- Shrubs
- Perennials
- Groundcovers or annuals (if included)

Trees: Dig a hole approximately twice as wide as the root ball but no deeper than its height. Position the tree so the top of the root ball sits at or just above the surrounding soil. Backfill gradually, gently firming the soil as you go, then water deeply.

Shrubs: Plant shrubs in a hole roughly twice the width of the container. Keep the top of the root ball level with or slightly

above the surrounding soil. Fill the hole, firm the soil lightly, and water thoroughly.

Perennials & Groundcovers: Plant each at the same depth it was growing in its container. Firm the soil gently around the roots and water well immediately after planting.

Finishing the Garden

Mulch: Apply a 2 to 3 inch layer of mulch after planting, keeping it a few inches away from stems and trunks. Mulch helps conserve moisture, suppress weeds, regulate soil temperature, and reduce erosion. Organic mulches gradually improve soil as they decompose and should be replenished as needed.

Edging: Installing edging around planting beds helps maintain crisp borders and reduces grass or weeds from spreading into the garden. Stone, metal, brick, or quality landscape edging are all effective options.

Ongoing Care

Watering: Consistent watering is most important during the first growing season. During the first two weeks, water deeply every few days, adjusting for rainfall and temperature. After plants become established, provide one inch of water per week during dry periods. Water less frequently but more deeply to encourage root development.

Weeding: Remove weeds regularly during the first year before they become established. As your plants mature and fill in, weed growth will naturally decline.

Pruning: Most shrubs benefit from light pruning during late winter or early spring before new growth begins.

Spring-flowering shrubs should be pruned shortly after they finish blooming to preserve next year's flower buds. Remove dead, damaged, or crossing branches whenever needed.

Enjoy Your Garden

Your new landscape will continue to improve as the plants mature. With regular watering during establishment, seasonal mulching, occasional pruning, and routine weeding, your garden will develop into a beautiful, balanced planting that provides years of enjoyment.

