



Organize your yard and garden: picture it

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April 7th, 2011 5:10 am ET



Make the most of the outdoor space you have by planning your garden before you plant and arrange.
Photo: devilsbackyard.com

Whether it's a community plot or your own yard, patio, or balcony, it's fun to imagine all the things you can do with your yard and garden, then make it happen, step-by-step. Like any other space in your home, making your yard and garden work for your unique tastes and needs will take some time. Use these tips to get started:

- **Think about the elements** of a garden or landscape that will make you happy. Whether they come from childhood experiences, a spectacular vacation, or a defining life event, these memories will help you choose a style for your garden. Make a list of these ideas for reference later.
- **Visit public and neighborhood gardens;** look at pictures; observe the outdoor surroundings that make you happiest. From green trees to colorful plants to water features to furnishings, you get to choose every aspect of your garden to make it an ideal haven, source of groceries, or beautiful sight outside your window. Make a list of the features from the places you visit and pictures you see that you may want to integrate into your garden. If possible, take pictures to keep your memories fresh.
- **Make a diagram of the area** you'd like to use as a garden. Your diagram may be as simple or as detailed as you like, from a sketch created freehand to a detailed drawing done with accurate measurements on graph paper. Better Homes & Gardens provides a [free tool](#) to help you create a more precise garden drawing.

With your list of ideas and diagram of your space in hand, you're ready to move to the next step: plan it.

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