



Good Perimeter Planting Practices



Community In Bloom

Community in Bloom (CIB) is a programme that was launched by the National Parks Board (NParks) in 2005. It aims to nurture a gardening culture among Singaporeans by encouraging and facilitating gardening efforts within the community. It is also an opportunity to build community bonds and strengthen social resilience in our City in Nature.

With more community and allotment gardens established in our neighbourhoods, it is important to consider integrative design solutions so that everyone can enjoy gardens. This brochure aims to guide you in creating perimeter planting, which is an excellent way to define garden boundaries with living plants. Perimeter planting looks more inviting than hard structures like fences, and is a natural addition to open garden plans.

We hope this brochure will inspire you to try growing your own perimeter plants to make your garden even more welcoming.

Happy gardening!

What is Perimeter Planting?

Perimeter planting is the use of plants to demarcate the boundary of a garden in lieu of pure hardscape like fences. It can make any garden look more inviting and attractive, while increasing the overall planting area available in a garden. You can also theme your perimeter planting with biodiversity-attracting, fragrant, and edible plants.

Perimeter planting can be used for:

- Defining boundaries
- Screening
- Linear plant arrangements
- And more!



Planning Considerations

1. Design and plan your boundary

- Measure and mark out your gardening perimeter.
- Take note of the amount of sunlight available and assess the soil condition to decide on suitable plants.
- Determine if you are using plants only or a combination of structures and plants to define your parameter.



A plant-only perimeter



A perimeter with some structures (a low fence) and plants

Planning Considerations

2. Determine perimeter height

- Perimeter plantings and structures should ideally be around waist height (1 metre) or lower to encourage passers-by to see the garden.
- Using plants with differing heights to create layers is a good way to make the perimeter planting attractive and interesting.
- Plants with colourful foliage and flowers can also make the perimeter look lively.

3. Ensure that your perimeter planting is accessible for maintenance

- Perimeter planting should not exceed 2 m in width to ensure that all the plants can be accessed from both sides for regular maintenance, which includes pruning, pest management, and watering.
- An easy way to reach your plants is to 'sandwich' the perimeter planting between two paths.



Planning Considerations

4. Design your entry points

- A large, well paved pathway makes your entrance obvious and encourages people to walk in.
- Multiple entrances makes your garden porous and look more inviting.
- Flanking your entrance with some decorations or colourful shrubs also creates interest.
- Adding a sign with the name of your garden is informative and encourages people to get involved with the garden.



Plant Sizes

Groundcovers (< 0.1 m tall)

- The smallest type
- Look good when paired with low edging
- Can also be used to fill gaps between pavers

Shrubs (0.1 – 1 m tall)

- Used as a “transition” between the ground and taller plants
- Varying heights adds depth to an arrangement
- Tallest plants in an arrangement should not exceed 1 m



Shrubs

Groundcover

Plant Sizes

Layering plants

- Plants should be grown in layers from the smallest to the tallest
- Varying the heights (by planting different species of plants, using topiary, using plant supports and planting in curves) makes the border look more organic
- Adding a contrasting colour layer will make the border more interesting
- Incorporating flowers and ornamental foliage makes the perimeter planting seamless with existing flowerbeds



Suggested Planting Palette

Perimeter plants should ideally be:

- Low maintenance
- Easy to prune
- Visually attractive

In addition, they can be:

- Habitat and food for biodiversity, like providing nectar for bees and butterflies and fruit for birds
- A source of edible plants for freely sharing with the community
- A point of interest in your neighborhood, with bright and fragrant flowers drawing attention from passers-by choosing plants that match your garden environment ensures that they will be healthy, and reduces pest problems in the long run. For example, you can grow succulents if your garden has a lot of sunlight and well-drained soil, or consider growing water-loving herbs like Pandan if your garden is shady and water-logged.



Suitable Plants to Grow

On the following pages is a list of suggested plants that are suitable for perimeter planting.

Symbol	Meaning
	Full sun
	Semi shade
	Full shade
	Lots of water
	Moderate water
	Little water
	Butterfly-attracting
	Bird-attracting
	Bee-attracting
	Herb or spice
	Fruit or vegetable
	Fragrant

Suitable Plants to Grow

Groundcovers (< 0.1 m tall)

These small plants can be used to fill gaps between pavers, or elevated in pots to create cascades.



Creeping Basketplant

Callisia repens



Creeping Charlie

Pilea nummulariifolia



Episcia 'Acajou'

Episcia cupreata



Mexican Sedum

Sedum mexicanum



Mock Strawberry

Potentilla indica



Mother-of-millions

Kalanchoe daigremontiana



Suitable Plants to Grow



Pink Lady

Heterotis rotundifolia



Portulaca cultivars

Portulaca spp.



Red Ivy

Strobilanthes alternata



Sand Ginger

Kaempferia galanga



Sweet Potato

Ipomoea batatas



Toothache Plant

Acmella oleracea



Yellow Peanut Plant

Arachis pintoi



Suitable Plants to Grow

Small shrubs (< 0.5m tall)

These plants are ideal for lining pathways or softening the edge of concrete structures.



Aglaonema cultivars

Aglaonema spp.



Angel Wings

Caladium spp.



Boat Lily

Tradescantia spathacea



Coleus cultivars

Coleus spp.



False Heather

Cuphea hyssopifolia



Golden Bird's Nest

Dracaena trifasciata



Suitable Plants to Grow



Golden Dewdrop

Duranta erecta



Indian Borage

Coleus amboinicus



Leopard Flower

Iris domestica



Mexican Tarragon

Tagetes lucida



Mistletoe Fig

Ficus deltoidea



Natal Plum

Carissa macrocarpa



Pandanus

Pandanus amaryllifolius



Suitable Plants to Grow



Periwinkle

Catharanthus roseus



Rain Lily

Zephyranthes rosea



Sierra Leone Lily

Chlorophytum spp.



Sissoo Spinach

Alternanthera sissoo



Turmeric

Curcuma longa



Variegated Screw Pine

Pandanus tectorius



Wild Pepper

Piper sarmentosum



Suitable Plants to Grow

Medium and large shrubs (0.5 – 1 m tall)

These shrubs should be regularly pruned to be 1 m tall or shorter to encourage bushy growth.



Bamboo Orchid

Arundina graminifolia



Barometer Bush

Leucophyllum frutescens



Black Face General

Strobilanthes scabra



Blood Flower

Asclepias curassavica



Butterfly Ginger

Hedychium coronarium



Cekur Manis

Breynia androgyna



Suitable Plants to Grow



Curry Leaf Tree

Murraya koenigii



Gardenia varieties

Gardenia spp.



Mexican Petunia

Ruellia simplex



Persian Shield

Strobilanthes dyerianus



Pinwheel Flower

Tabernaemontana divaricate



Red Tree-Vine

Leea rubra



Sendudok

Melastoma malabathricum



Suitable Plants to Grow



Tapioca

Manihot esculenta



Torch Ginger

Etlingera elatior



Ulam Raja

Cosmos caudatus



Water Jasmine

Wrightia religiosa



Yesterday Today and Tomorrow

Brunfelsia pauciflora



Suitable Plants to Grow

Annual lowers

Annual flowers bloom for one season and then die, so these need to be replanted regularly.



African Marigold

Tagetes erecta



Garden Balsam

Impatiens balsamina



Globe Amaranth

Gomphrena globosa



Summer Snapdragon

Angelonia angustifolia



Sunflower

Helianthus annuus



Happy Gardening!

For more information on the plants in this brochure and other plant varieties, visit NParks Flora and Fauna Web at www.nparks.gov.sg/florafauanaweb



To find out more on community gardening, visit our website at www.nparks.gov.sg/cib



For more gardening resources and tips, visit go.gov.sg/gardening-resources



To learn more about our City in Nature, scan the QR code or visit www.nparks.gov.sg/CityInNature



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