



### *DIY Garden Plan*

**Access what you have compared to what you want. When you look into your yard is it to barren and open, do you want it to appear more closed in? Or perhaps it's to closed in and you want the yard to appear more open.**

**How do you use your yard, is there enough patio area, parking space, room for the children to play? Is there a view in the distance that you would like to hide, perhaps a neighbours storage shed? Perhaps your existing gardens aren't as appealing to your eye as you would like them to be, too trimmed and formal, no colour, wild and unruly looking.**

**An easy way to do-it-yourself landscape design is to take photos of your home and yard from different angles. Have the photos developed into 5x7's or larger. Get some transparent plastic sheets or tracing paper and lay over the photos. Now you can start to put your ideas onto paper. Start sketching in bed areas, lawns, walks, etc. Then add some plantings using cloudlike blobs and coloured pencils. Is this the look you want? Keep trying different ideas until your satisfied.**

**Once you have your ideas sketched out go outside and begin marking out the different areas of the landscape using hoses, stakes or spray marking paint. Move around the marked areas to see if the space is comfortable, are the garden beds large enough, they may need to be made larger to be in proportion to the size of the house. Make changes and move your markers. Once your satisfied with the basic layout it's time to think about plants and hard materials.**

**If your not sure what plants you would like to use and you're not in a hurry to finish the gardens you could plant the bed area with annuals for the first season. Annuals are available in a wide range of colours and size. Sunflowers, Castor beans and Cleome can be used to represent the tall plants of your design, while Alyssum, Portulacca or Begonias can represent the low edging or groundcover plants.**

**Plant the bed in the colours you designed and the varied heights. Perhaps after the season you decide the colour or height wasn't right, make adjustments or notes on your layout plan. Spend the winter season looking through books and magazines for permanent plants you like that will suit your design ideas. In the spring begin shopping.**

**Purchase your largest plants first such as tall evergreens or ornamental trees. Once they are planted you may have a different outlook on your design idea; you may feel that more tall plants are needed. Make changes to your plan and proceed. Once all the large plants are in the ground begin purchasing the smaller shrubs or evergreens and then select perennials to fill in the spaces.**

**When selecting your plants and installing them in your garden be sure you are aware of the ultimate size of the plant. Plant them appropriately for their size so they have room to grow. You don't want to**



have to be severely pruning or removing the plant in 3 to 5 years because it is too large for the space. If you buy small plants which will eventually grow large and you have a lot of open space in the garden while waiting for this plant to grow, fill in the space with some smaller temporary plants which can be removed as the space becomes restricted.