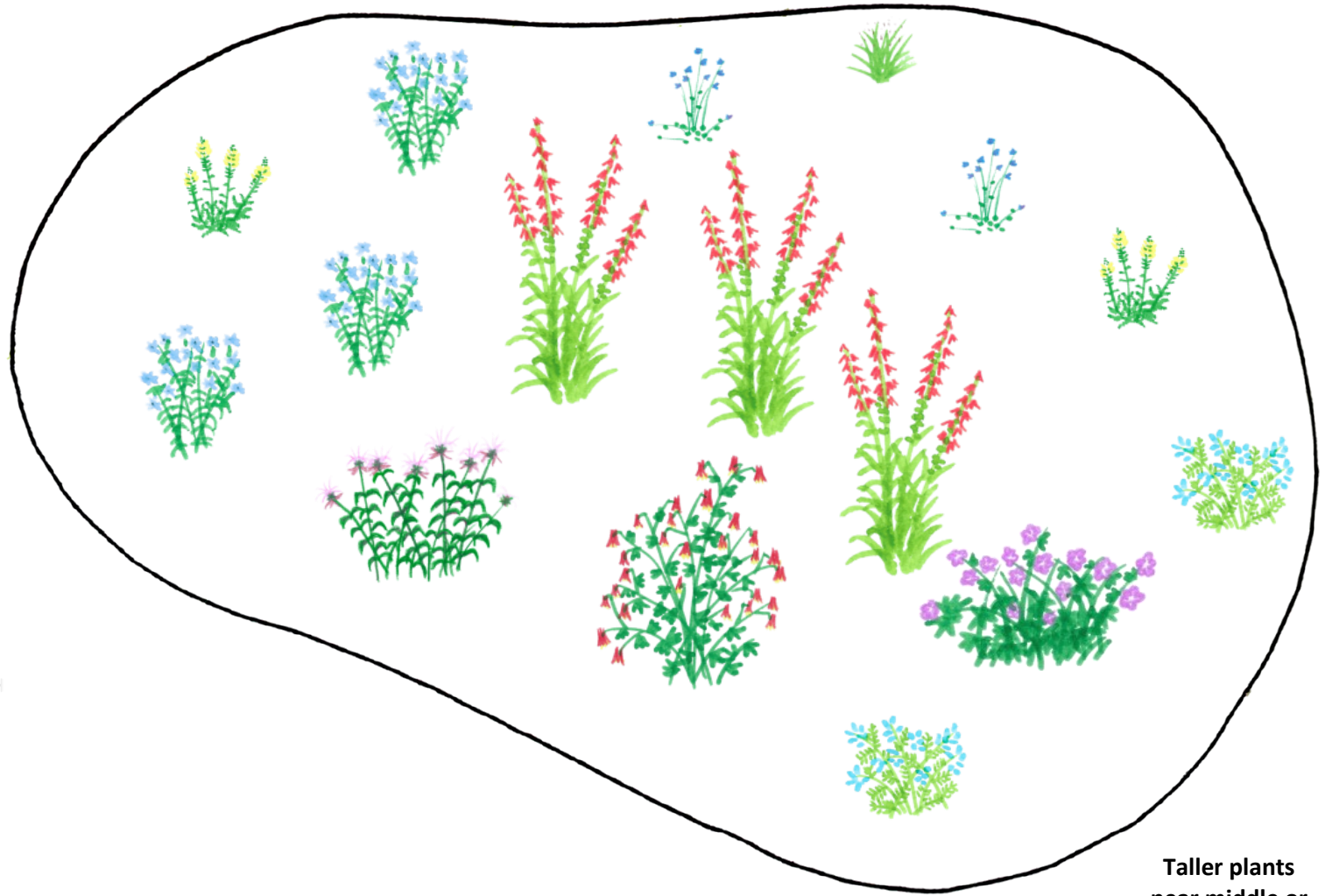


Shade Garden Plant Pack - Design

Design Tips:

- You can make an entirely new garden with these plants or you can add them to your existing gardens
- Don't worry about copying the design exactly!
- **Focus on heights—short plants towards borders, tall plants towards the middle/back**
- Roughly 12 - 15" spacing for all plants and no straight lines is easiest
- Dig all holes first to establish spacing, then lay out plants



Shorter plants
near borders or
front of garden



Plant by Height:

Taller plants
near middle or
back of garden



Planting and Maintenance Instructions

This is a summary. View detailed step-by-step pictures and instructions at: www.blazingstargardens.com/how-to-make-a-pollinator-garden

Planting Instructions:

1. **Find a well-drained spot** with shady conditions—less than 4-6 hours of direct sunlight a day.
2. **Remove existing grass/weeds. This is very important.** You can remove the lawn (shovel or rent a sod cutter). **Or** you can smother it with thick paper rolls or cardboard along with 3" of mulch on top for **at least 2 months** before planting (do this in **February or March** to prepare for a May planting). **Or** you can apply a grass remover and wait two weeks before mulching and planting. Tilling will not kill grass or weeds. Mulching at time of planting will not kill grass.
3. **Add edging** (optional, but recommended). 5" deep plastic edging is best for keeping out weeds and lawn grass that creep underground. Blocks look nicer but grass will creep through the cracks. If using blocks, put a plastic barrier on the front grass edge of the block and underneath at least 1ft into the garden.
4. **Add 3" of wood mulch** (optional, but highly recommended). Do it before or after planting. Buy bags or get bulk mulch delivered. If you stay on top of weeding (weed often and when weeds are small; big weed roots tear up the mulch layer when pulled), you won't have to add mulch again.
5. **Dig holes to establish spacing.** We recommend spacing all plants 12-15" apart.

**** Don't rip the plants up and out of the pots! Instead, cup the top of the plant soil in your hand, flip the pot over, and lightly squeeze the root ball out. ****

6. **Plant your plants.** Lay out plants, and then plant them level with the ground. Then—and this is important—push some soil on top of the potting soil to seal in moisture, and put the mulch right against the plant.
7. **Water *immediately* afterwards.** Really soak them with a wand or nozzle to muddy the soil tightly around the plant. Don't use a sprinkler for this step.
8. **Water every 2-3 days for 6 weeks** (unless it rains 1" or more). Always watch for wilting. Don't water every day, and don't water if they don't need it—watering too often can rot and kill plants. When you water, use a wand and make sure to repeatedly soak each plant 2 or 3 times—dry potting soil takes a long time to soak up water. After a month of watering, you might only need to water a few more times if you have mulch and good rainfalls.

Maintenance Instructions:

1. **Weed at least once a month.** It's much easier to tell the difference between a weed and your new plants when the weeds have just sprouted--because the weeds will be tiny random sprouts, and the native plants will be in bigger clumps and evenly spaced. We like to walk our new gardens every few days, doing a little at a time, starting to recognize the native plants and the common weeds, and watching the garden grow. Once the weeds get to be the same size as the native plants it is much more difficult to tell the difference. When weeds get big their roots start ruining the mulch layer when they get pulled.
2. **Trim the plants in the spring or fall, or don't**--it's your decision. We like to trim and leave the trimmings on the garden, sometimes in fall, sometimes in spring, and sometimes—if they garden looks ok in fall—we don't trim at all. But again, it's up to you. You don't have to do the same maintenance every year!