

# The Phoenix Perennials In-Nursery Design Service

## Welcome to our Design Service!

Our goal is to help you to develop a garden that reflects your personal tastes and your goals while helping you to avoid the many pitfalls associated with design and plant selection. At the end of the process you will have garden beds that you love filled with plants that you love. This service is a collaborative process between you and one of our trained design professionals. The more thought you can put into your project and the more specific information you can give your designer, the better will be the finished project.

This service is for the “do-it-yourself” gardener. It is not the same as a detailed plan drawn up for you by a designer that visits your garden, a process that would cost hundreds or even thousands of dollars. We meet at the nursery. Your designer does not visit your garden in person but through the images, diagrams, and descriptions that you provide does his or her best to envisage a design for your space. You are responsible for providing a correct and thorough description of your space and conditions.

Design of hardscaping, such as pergolas, patios, pathways, is not a part of this service. Our focus is the selection and artful combination of plants for an existing space. Our design service is therefore best thought of as a “bed planning service.” This is a collaborative process in which we work with you to design your garden. If you have a large space you’re working with we recommend tackling one bed (or a group of smaller beds) at a time while keeping in mind the larger space. This will require more than one meeting with your designer but will make the design and planting of a larger space much more manageable for both you and your designer. We also recommend limiting your session with your designer to one to two hours so that you don’t get too tired. If you would like, at the end of each session we can sketch out a rough plant by number diagram so you can better implement your new design.

This service costs \$45 per hour, much less than the average cost of a design consultation. The minimum is one hour. After the first hour, periods less than an hour will be charged in half hour increments of \$22.50 each. When we have done these kinds of consultations in the past we have found that the average time required is usually one to three hours to do a bed, though some larger projects have required four or more hours.

## The Process

1. Ask about our design service. We will provide you with a questionnaire with questions about your goals for your space, your taste in design and plants, and details of the size, soil and light conditions in your garden. We would also like you to provide us with some pictures of your space at this time. Part of the questionnaire requires you to list plants that you like. We recommend that you spend a half hour to an hour at the nursery perusing our vast selection of perennials and listing the ones that you find interesting. This will help to focus the efforts of your designer, result in a garden that better embodies your goals, and save you money.

2. Hand in your questionnaire in person or by fax or email. If you emailing please put “Design Service” in the subject line. At this time you can book a time to come to the nursery for your design consultation. Before you return, your designer will look over the information you've provided and begin thinking about your space.

3. Return to the nursery for your design consultation at the pre-arranged time. Your designer will work with you to select the best perennials for your site and goals and then show you how to incorporate them into a beautiful design. If you like, we will send you home with a plant-by-number diagram!

4. Take your plants home and get planting. We would love it if you could send us your before and after pictures!

If you have any questions, please contact us.

**Phoenix Perennials and Specialty Plants Ltd.**  
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# The Phoenix Perennials In-Nursery Design Service Questionnaire

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **I. Your Vital Statistics**

Name	
Mailing Address	
Phone Number	Fax Number
Cell Number	Email

## **II. Your Space**

### Light Conditions

Which way does your garden face (North, South, East, West)?

During what hours of the day does your garden receive direct sunlight?

Are there features such as buildings or trees which provide additional shade?

If your garden has shade, what quality of shade do you have: deep shade, dappled shade, bright shade?

Are there other characteristics of your garden we should know about? For instance, do you receive outflow winds or high winds off the water in winter?

### Soil Conditions

Please describe the soil in your garden. Is it high in clay or sand? Is it nice loamy garden soil? Is it dry, average, moist or wet?

Do you have standing water in the winter?

Pictures of Your Space: Please attach as many illustrative pictures of your space as possible. These should include pictures of the garden as a whole and pictures of the specific areas you would like to work with. If there are nice neighbouring or "borrowed" views from your garden of features not on your property, please include images of these views.

Diagram of Your Space: Please draw us a plan view (i.e. as seen from above) of your space including measurements and the locations of garden features and existing shrubs and trees. Attach this diagram to the questionnaire. Mark on the diagram north, south, east and west. If you do not know

where these directions are, find someone who does. This is a very important piece of information. Also mark on this diagram the location of windows or doors of your house from which you will have views of the garden from inside.

### **III. Your Style and Goals**

How do you feel in your garden right now?

How do you want to feel in your garden when we're done (Energized, Excited, Relaxed, Secluded, Intrigued, Inspired, Happy,...)?

What would you like your garden to look like when we're done (Bold, Colourful, Calm, Exuberant, Exciting,...)?

Are there certain styles of garden that you like (English Borders, Cottage Gardens, Exotic/Hardy Subtropical, Formal, Contemporary, Mediterranean, West Coast,...)?

For what purposes would you like to use your space?

Will you be sharing this space with children, dogs, birds, or wild animals such as deer?

Do you view this garden from important windows in the house? If so, tell us about them and mark these views on your plan view diagram.

In what seasons would you like the most interest in this garden? Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter?

Do you have a colour scheme in mind?

Do you have a preference of colours for a flower?

Do you have a preference of colours in foliage?

Do you like variegated foliage?

All gardens require maintenance, even "low-maintenance" gardens. How much maintenance are you willing to put into your garden? Low, Medium, High?

Are you planning to stay in your house for a long time, i.e. do you want in instant garden, for instance, to help sell the place or are you interested in investing in creating a beautiful space for the long term?

Is there anything else you think we should know about you and how you want your space to be?

Are there existing plants in your garden that you would like to include in this design? If so, please list them and mark them on your plan view diagram.

What plants that you already know would you like to include in your garden?

Please visit the nursery and peruse our various sections. What additional plants do you find visually appealing that you haven't grown before? Attach an additional sheet if you need mor space.

Thank you for filling out this questionnaire. Please fax, mail or drop off the questionnaire so we can book you an appointment and get to work!

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