LAB 6 - DESIGNING A FLOWER GARDEN

Notes from video:

A. Where to put it

View from 3 locations

B. Zone you live in. Fargo is zone 3 (some of the more hardy zone 4 plants may be considered in sheltered places.)

C. Light

1. light each day - morning, afternoon, evening
2. light each season
3. Four classifications of areas by light
   a. full sunlight - some heat stress
   b. part sunlight - 5-6 hr. of full sun
   c. part shade - dappled sun
   d. full shade - not good for blooming plants

D. Many types - rock gardens, wall gardens, water gardens etc.

1. Decorative Home Garden
   a. mix of flowers and shrubs
   b. advantages -
      1)
      2)
      3)
2. Herbaceous Border Garden
   Made up of a mixture of annuals, perennials, and spring bulbs
   a. Curved shapes
   b. Plan from background to foreground
   c. Three levels - each 1/3 of bed depth

1) Avoid step look

d. Plant flowers in groups

1) Annual and perennials in groups up to 6 plants
(odd numbers in groups look best)

2) Spring bulbs - 6 to 12 in a group - 20 is max

e. Keep in scale

f. Keep texture and shape varied

g. Color - beginners should start with 3-5 colors

1) Contrast - not touching on the color wheel

2) Harmonious - next to each other on the wheel

h. **Objective** is to have some color blooming in each level at all times

1) Two perennials to each annual
- Perennials usually bloom about 3 weeks
- Annuals bloom most of the summer

2) Choose perennials to bloom in late spring, summer, and fall in each of the three areas of the border.

3) Make 3 lists, one for annuals, one for perennials, and one for bulbs. (See Lab 6 Worksheet) Start by listing your favorites in each category, making sure they will grow here.

4) Background plants should be tall; a rule of thumb: as tall as 2/3 the width of the bed.

5) Middle plants should be 12 - 36" tall.

6) Foreground plants should be 12" or under

E. Preparing the flower bed.

1. add organic matter

2. till or dig

    a. mix in organic matter

    b. improve drainage

    c. make more oxygen available for the roots

F. Water systems

1. emitter drip irrigation

2. porous hose type

3. drip irrigation
    a. saves 30 - 40% on water

    b. no evaporation or runoff

    c. reduces water on leaves and therefore reduces disease

    d. reduces compaction

G. Mulch

1. weeds compete for nutrients and water

2. one way to control is with 2-4" of mulch
    a. reduces weeds, evaporation, and compaction
    b. mulch should: allow air through, resist wind, hold moisture, and look good

3. types:

4. winter mulch 4- 6" deep helps protect plants from frost heave

H. Compost

1. active or passive

I. Maintenance

LAB 6 - WORKSHEET Name_____

Assignment. Design a flower garden using the principles you saw in the video. This may be for an existing yard or you may make up an area with a flower garden about 8 x 25 ft. Please turn in the these lists as well as the design, which should be drawn to scale. Be original but adhere to the basic precepts given in the video.

Plant name (Scientific preferable)	Bloom period	Color	Height	Spread

List 1 - Perennials

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12

List 2 - Annuals

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

List 3 - Bulbs and Corms

1
2
3
4
5
6
7