Plans for a Butterfly-Attracting Flower Garden

Plan by Susan Patterson

Tools and Materials
- Measuring tape
- Stakes and string
- Spray paint
- Tiller
- Landscape fabric
- Scissors
- Landscape pins
- Garden edging material
- Shovel
- Plants and seed
- Mulch
- Rake
- Hoe
- Water source
- Liquid fertilizer
Steps

1. Select a level, sunny location for your garden butterfly garden. Measure out and mark a 24x24 foot diamond shape on the ground using stakes and string. First, make a cross shape and then connect the stakes to make the sides of the diamond.

2. Use the string as your guide to outline the diamond with spray paint. Remove the stakes after you are done. Use a tiller to till the inside of the diamond shape.

3. Cover the tilled area with landscape fabric. Cut the fabric to fit then pin it down. This will prevent weeds from growing up in the bed.

4. Install an edging material around the bed. You can use plastic, brick, stone, concrete, or wood. The edging needs to be at least 4 inches high. This will help keep weeds out and mulch in.

5. Plant according to the diagram. To plant, cut a large enough hole in the landscape fabric, dig a hole and then plant. Planting instructions:
   a. Plant a butterfly bush in the center of the bed. Choose a young plant that has had a head start on growing.
   b. Plant four 4-foot wide clusters of joe pye weed from seed evenly spaced around the bush.
   c. Plant 4 foot clusters of swamp milkweed from seed in between the joe pye weed.
   d. Plant each corner with a 6-foot wide cluster of zinnias from seed.
   e. Plant parsley plants on either sides of the zinnias.
   f. Plant a cluster of sedum plants in between the parsley.

6. Spread mulch all over the garden. Make the mulch layer at least 3 inches thick. Be careful not to cover small plants. Spread the mulch using a rake.

7. If you notice any weeds in the garden, use a hoe to remove them. Keep the garden watered and fertilized with a liquid fertilizer every few months. Replant annuals every spring, and trim the butterfly bush in the fall to prevent it from growing too large.