Objective of the design

- Focal point
- Background
- Border
- Cover-up
Plotting the bed

- Draw a sketch of the site to scale
- Include existing structures, hardscape, vegetation
Border

- Formal with straight edges
- Softened by mounds of plants
- Taller plants in back, shorter ones closest to walkway
- Informal design, round, curves
- Tallest point in middle or towards back
- Different shades of green used for color
Determine site conditions

- Hardiness zone
  - USDA or Sunset
- Soil
  - Texture, pH, drainage
- Microclimate
  - Rain, sun, wind, frost
Plant selection

- Color and contrasts
  - Color scheme, theme, match
- Warm colors
  - Yellow, orange, red
- Cool colors
  - Blue, green, purple
- White and gray foliage can be used as contrast or neutral
Design principles

- Use color in mass to unify design
- Use bold height, form, texture, color as focal point and surround by less conspicuous flower and foliage color
- Mass identical plants in groups of different shapes
Plant selection

- Know time and period of bloom
- Know final plant height
  - Use plants with a height of one-half width of bed to keep plants in scale with bed
Picture beds

- Extremely time consuming layout and bed preparation
- Very labor intensive maintenance
- Use only when resources are available