

Volunteer

Professional

Volunteer + Professional

Paisley Patch

Image Source: TM Weddle, "Ravine - Ajuga - April 25." 25 April 2010 via Flickr CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.





The Paisley Patch is a collection of inexpensive and diverse groundcovers that can be inserted into your lawn to create landscape patterns. It is up to you to be creative in arranging your paisley planting areas.

The plants recommended in the lot design were selected for low height and their ability to spread. Take care that these species do not spread to other lots.

Over time and through your selected design and maintenance choices, the patches can grow together into a low-maintenance lawn or remain as distinct perennial beds.

For more information refer to [DFC-lots.com](https://dfc-lots.com)

What is the lot design likely to cost?

The estimated cost of the Paisley Patch is low to moderate (\$50 – \$2,500) and based on utilizing volunteer labor and potted plants or plugs. The Paisley Patch offers several different design options, and cost will depend on the design selected. The cost assumes that residents or volunteers have access to basic safety gear and garden tools.

How much upkeep will this lot design require?

The maintenance of this lot design is low. Groundcover can be mowed at a high setting into a maintained lawn, left to spread freely on your lot, or controlled in planting beds. Groundcover will need to be watered during the first three weeks of germination and establishment.

Will the installation of this lot design require a professional?

The installation of this lot design should not require professional assistance if you, with the help and support of friends, family or neighbors would like to construct this lot design. Please refer to the Step-By-Step section for guidance. If you do not have the required support or feel unable to tackle this lot design, please seek professional assistance.

How long will it take to install this lot design?

While people tackle projects in different ways and at different speeds, the Field Guide estimates installation time of this lot design to be one full weekend with the help of at least three healthy adults or youth. The Field Guide assumes the lot is ‘construction ready,’ and all equipment and materials required for lot design have been acquired and are ready to use.

Cost	\$50 - 1,000	\$1,001 - 2,500	\$2,501 - 5,500	\$5,500 +
People	Volunteer	Professional	Volunteer + Professional	
Experience	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	
Upkeep	Low	Medium	High	
Stormwater	Good	Better	Best	
Location	Residential Lot in Sun or Shade			

t Paisley Patch

Examples of Paisley Patch Plantings



1 - Bugleweed



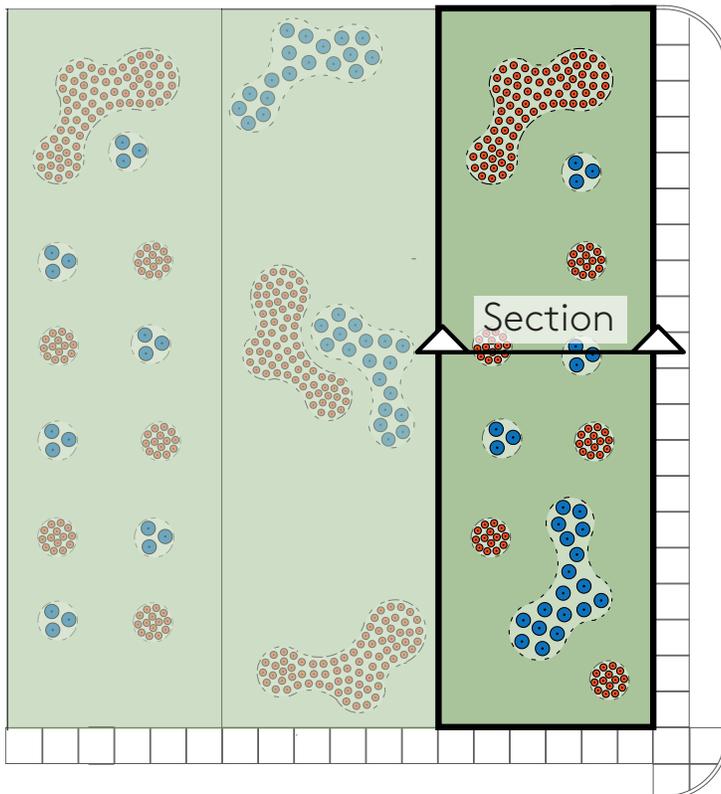
2 - Lily of the Valley

Section



Paisley Groundcover

Where Do I Grow?



The Paisley Patch can be constructed on single or multiple lots and is suitable for corner properties. Each lot can have a unique pattern or the pattern could be repeated over multiple lots.

- Groundcover 1
- Groundcover 2
- Grass or Optional Groundcover

Before You Start

'Construction Ready'

This lot design assumes that you have prepared the lot to a 'construction ready' state.

'Construction Ready' refers to a lot that is clean and clear of trash, hazardous objects, unwanted trees, brush and vegetation, fences, and other unwanted structures.

It may be necessary to remove grass in preparation for your lot design. Refer to the Remove Your Grass box located on the right hand side of this page for more information.

Is there an available water source near your lot? Consider how and where you will access water during and after construction to ensure that your plants can establish.

If your lot is not ready for construction, refer to the [Clean + Green](#) lot design.

You can find the lot design at DFC-lots.com.

Call Before You Dig

Locate underground utilities before beginning your lot design. MISS DIG provides a free service to Michigan residents by locating and marking utilities on requested properties. Call (800) 482-7171 or 811 at least three days before you plan to start digging on your lot.

Test Your Soil

Harmful pollutants have made their way into many urban soils. To proceed with awareness, consider having your soil tested before construction. Two great options are available:

Soil testing is free to members of Keep Growing Detroit's Garden Resource Program. Call (313) 757-2635 for more information or visit detroitagriculture.net.

If you are not yet a member, you can work directly with Michigan State University's (MSU) Extension Program. They have a Home Lawn and Garden Soil Test Mailer for \$25. For more information call (888) 678-3464 or visit msusoiltest.com.

If you are concerned about the presence of lead or other contaminants in your soil, call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at (866) 691-5323 or (800) 424-LEAD.

Remove Your Grass

Need to remove grass in areas where you are constructing your lot design?

There are many ways to remove unwanted grass. The first is to remove the grass and its root system by digging up the grass. Another option is to cover your lot with cardboard or a plastic tarp to smother your grass in darkness. It will take several weeks, but after being covered, the dead grass will be easier to remove.

Till Safely

Before you till, inspect your lot for signs of buried concrete or rubble that was not removed during the cleanup stage. Large debris can ruin tiller blades.

When tilling, wear appropriate safety gear, such as covered boots with socks, long pants, safety glasses, dust mask, and ear protection. Make sure you understand the safe operating procedures of your tiller. Refer to the user's manual.

What You Need: Shopping List

Shopping List

The shopping list provides a breakdown of potential materials, tools, and resources required to undertake this lot design.

This shopping list is designed for a single lot (30 by 100 feet).

Tools + Resources

Suggested Tools

- **Marking Paint and Tape Measure**
- **Safety Gear**, Gloves, heavy work boots, tall socks, pants, long sleeve shirts, dust masks, protective eye wear, ear plugs, and hard hats (if using heavy machinery)
- **Garden Tools**, Spades, shovels, rakes, trash bags, and wheelbarrows

Potential Water Sources

- Garden Hose
- Sprinkler
- Rain Barrel in addition to other water source

Field Guide Worksheets

- Clean + Green
- Perennials + Grasses Worksheet
- Bulb Planting Detail

Materials List

Quantities of plants are not provided. Residents are encouraged to create their own design and mix and match plants. Be creative!

Planting Option 1: Sun

- Mojito Mint
- Lemon Balm
- Spearmint
- Six Hills Giant Catmint
- Walker's Low Catmint
- Oregano
- Red Creeping Thyme

Planting Option 2: Shade

- Caitlin's Giant Bugleweed
- Bronze Beauty Bugleweed
- Bressingham Ruby Bergenia
- Jack Frost Bugloss
- Lily of the Valley

Remaining Lot (Optional)

Groundcover

- Low Maintenance Fescue Mix, 10 to 11 pounds of seeds
- Germination Blanket, 3 rolls (8 by 112.5 feet)

Paisley Patch Step-By-Step

Let's Start

Want to create the Paisley Patch but don't want to hire a professional? Here are a few guiding principles to help you construct your lot design.

Check off tasks as you go along.

Lot Design Steps

Volunteer:

- Prepare Your Lot
- Plant Perennials
- Maintain Your Lot Design
- Sow Remaining Lot

Prepare Your Lot

The Paisley Patch can be planted anywhere on your lot. The plants recommended for this lot design have been selected for their color, texture, and ability to spread.

When spreading on your lot, ensure groundcovers do not spread to adjacent properties. The Field Guide recommends planting plants within existing grass or groundcover. Dig out the grass and vegetation in the areas you wish to plant.

If your lot is mainly bare soil or you wish to remove grass, refer to Remove Your Grass on page 5. You may choose to select a different lot design or need purchase plants in seed form.

Plant Perennials

This lot design provides two planting options for your lot depending on whether your lot is in sun or shade. After choosing a planting option, place plants in the desired location, then remove plastic pots, loosen roots, and plant. Remove grass or vegetation a few feet around the area of planted perennials to remove competing plants, giving the new ones a chance to establish.

If you would like plants to spread throughout the lot, provide space between planting patches throughout the lot so they can grow towards each other over time.

For more guidance on planting perennials refer to the [Perennials + Grasses Planting Detail](#).

Paisley Groundcover Step-By-Step

○ Maintain Your Lot Design

The Paisley Patch requires minimal maintenance. It can be mowed into a maintained lawn, left to spread across your lot, or controlled in a planting bed.

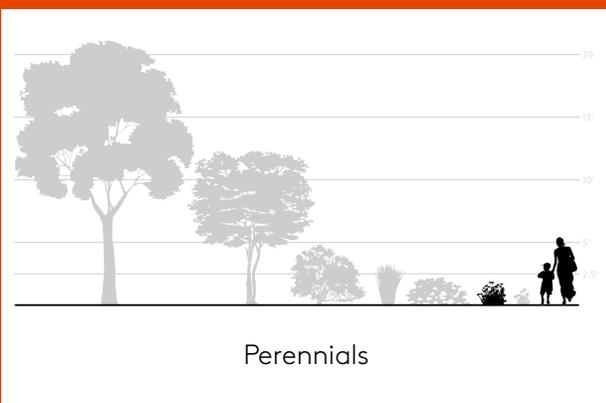
Water and weed around plants as they become established. Once established, watering plants will only be required during exceptionally dry periods.

Mow lawn at a high setting (six inch height) to allow groundcover to continue to grow, providing interest and color to your lot.



Visit the Resources page on the Field Guide's web site (DFC-lots.com) to discover other vendors and places to purchase plants.

Average Height of Plants



○ Sow Remaining Lot

If you are seeking a lower maintenance alternative to a traditional lawn, the Field Guide recommends a fescue seed mix. **The amount of low maintenance fescue mix seed required for remaining lot will depend on the number of plants selected and planted. If you are following one of the recommended Paisley Patch designs, you will need approximately 10 to 11 pounds for the remaining lot and three 8 by 112.5 foot rolls of single net germination blankets.**

This family of floppy grasses is drought-resistant and requires one cutting (in August or September) per year. Fescue can be established in full sun to shade and should be seeded in spring (mid-March to mid-May) or fall (August to September).

Soil should be prepared for seeding by scarifying, raking, or tilling the soil four to six inches deep to loosen any compaction, allowing for easier seed germination and better water infiltration. Apply seed mix to a damp lot.

Sow seed across the remaining lot by using a seed spreader or by hand. A seed rate of five pounds per 1,000 square feet is recommended. Gently water seedlings daily until they are four to six inches in height. Placing a thin layer of straw or a germination blanket over seeded areas will help ensure that your seed establishes by keeping seeds from blowing away and protecting them from birds. Germination blankets or straw can be purchased at most nurseries and garden stores.

When established, grass will not require supplemental watering except during unusually dry periods. Eco-Turf Low Maintenance Fescue Mix is one recommended seed mix and can be purchased through the Michigan Wildflower Farm.

Other Field Guide lot designs can be used as groundcovers. Check out the web site for additional options and ideas.

Next Level: If you would like to bring additional color to your grass, you can plant bluebells, crocuses and/or daffodils to create a decorative show in spring. Bulbs should be planted in the fall.

For more guidance on bulb planting refer to the [Bulb Planting Detail](#).

Planting Option 1: Full Sun to Part Sun



Mojito Mint¹
Mentha x villosa 'Mojito'
 24" Height x 24" Width
 Attractive to Butterflies
Available in pots or plugs



Lemon Balm²
Melissa officinalis
 36" Height x 60" Width
 Attractive to Butterflies
Available in pots or plugs



Spearmint³
Mentha spicata
 24" Height x 36" Width
 Attractive to Bees and Butterflies
Available in pots or plugs



Six Hills Giant Catmint⁴
Nepeta x faassenii
'Six Hills Giant'
 36" Height x 48" Width
 Attractive to Butterflies
 Attractive to Cats
Available in pots



Walker's Low Catmint⁵
Nepeta x faassenii
'Walker's Low'
 12" Height x 12" Width
 Attractive to Butterflies
 Attractive to Cats
Available in pots or plugs

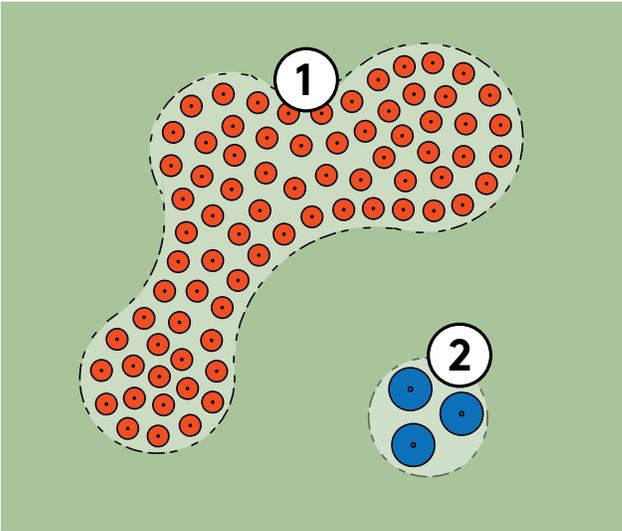


Oregano⁶
Origanum vulgare
 18" Height x 24" Width
 Attractive to Butterflies
Available in pots or plugs



Red Creeping Thyme⁷
Thymus praecox
'coccineus'
 2" Height x 3" Width
Available in pots or plugs

Quantities of plants are not provided. Residents are encouraged to create their own design and mix and match plants. Be creative!



Key

- 1
Mojito Mint, Lemon Balm, Spearmint, Oregano & Red Creeping Thyme (Space approximately 1.5 feet apart and mix evenly.)
- 2
Six Hills Giant Catmint & Walker's Low Catmint (Spaced approximately two feet apart and mix evenly.)

Plant Sizes

- 🪴
Pots: Plants can be purchased in one to five gallon pots. Size of pots can change based on availability.
- 🌱
Plugs: Plants can be purchased in plug form as a less expensive alternative to pots. Plant one plug per square foot.
- 🌱
Seeds: All plants can be purchased in seed form; however, this is not suggested unless your lot is bald.

Image Source: 1) Edsel Little, "Oberlin Summer - Mint." 29 May 2011 via Flickr CC BY-SA 2.0; 2) Strata Chalup, "Lemon-balm-close-texture.jpg." 25 May 2007 via Flickr CC BY-NC-SA 2.0; 3) Borislav Dimitrov, "Spearmint." 26 May 2012 via Flickr CC BY-NC-SA 2.0; 4) Elliott Brown, "Kingston Lacy Gardens - Kingston Lacy Estate - Six Hills Giant." 27 June 2013 via Flickr CC BY 2.0; 5) Jim, the Photographer, "Catmint (Nepeta racemosa)." 19 May 2010 via Flickr CC BY 2.0; 6) Rae Allen, "DSC01402 Oregano." 03 November 2004 via Flickr CC BY-NC-SA 2.0; 7) Marillyle Soveran, "Creeping thyme." 27 June 2015 via Flickr CC BY-NC 2.0.

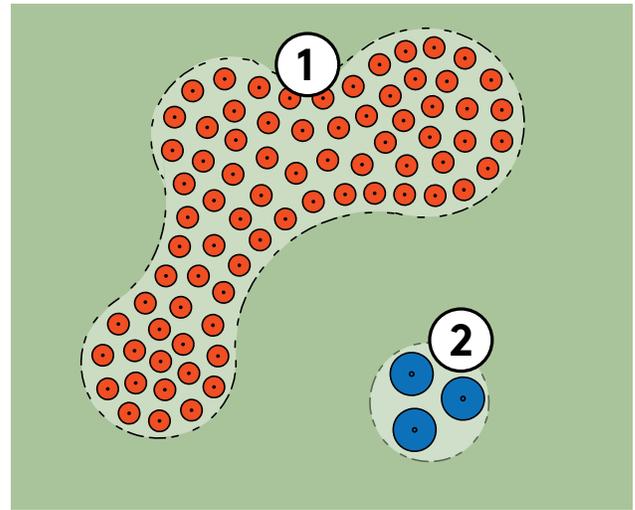
Planting Option 2: Shade & Partial Shade



Caitlin's Giant Bugleweed¹
Ajuga reptans 'Caitlin's Giant'
 12" Height x 24" Width
 Attractive to Butterflies
Available in pots or plugs



Bronze Beauty Bugleweed²
Ajuga reptans 'Bronze Beauty'
 8" Height x 18" Width
 Attractive to Butterflies
Available in pots or plugs



Bressingham Ruby Bergenia³
Bergenia 'Bressingham Ruby'
 14" Height x 12" Width
 Blooms May - June
Available in pots or plugs



Jack Frost Bugloss⁴
Brunnera macrophylla 'Jack Frost'
 18" Height x 18" Width
 Blooms May - June
Available in pots or plugs

Key

- 1** **Caitlin's Giant Bugleweed and Bronze Beauty Bugleweed**
 (Perennials should be spaced approximately 1.5 feet apart and mixed.)
- 2** **Bressingham Ruby Bergenia, Jack Frost Bugloss, and Lily of the Valley** (Perennials should be spaced approximately two feet apart.)



Lily of the Valley⁵
Convallaria majalis
 8" Height x 24" Width
Available in pots or bulbs

Quantities of plants are not provided. Residents are encouraged to create their own design and mix and match plants. Be creative!

Plant Sizes

-  **Pots:** Plants can be purchased in one to five gallon pots. Size of pots can change based on availability.
-  **Plugs:** Plants can be purchased in plug form as a less expensive alternative to pots. Plant one plug per square foot.
-  **Seeds:** All plants can be purchased in seed form, however this is not suggested unless your lot is bald.

Image Source: 1) Rachelgreenbelt, "Ajuga reptans, singleplant, yard in greenbelt, jdy173." 22 June 2014 via Flickr CC BY-NC-SA 2.0; 2) Christine Majul, "Bronze beauty in summer." 08 May 2008 via Flickr CC BY 2.0; 3) Daniel, "Bergenia Flowers." 02 March 2009 via Flickr CC BY-NC-SA 2.0; 4) A. Barra, "Brunnera macrophylla 'Jack Frost.'" May 2008 via Wikimedia CC BY-NC-SA 4.0; 5) Stefan Soderstrom, "Lily-of-the-valley's." 17 May 2007 via Flickr CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.

Did You Know?

Professionals Can Help!

The Field Guide to Working With Lots provides a Construction Package for each lot design. The Construction Package includes information and details required for a professional to construct this design. On the Field Guide web site, use the [Construction Package](#) link located near the top of this lot design page to download and print. Your selected professional will then be able to provide a cost estimate and schedule based on the condition of your lot and the design you select.

Want to Hire Locally?

DFC-lots.com has a growing list of Detroit-based professionals and suppliers of landscape materials and services.

Still unsure of where to start?

Call (313) 294-LOTS or email fieldguide@detroitfuturecity.com for assistance.

Helpful Facts

- Mojito Mint, Lemon Balm, Catnip, and Spearmint are herbs. They can be made into tea.
- Cats love catnip. Dried catnip can be made into cat treats.
- Lily of the Valley is fragrant. In large clusters, this plant can make your lot smell wonderful!
- Lily of the Valley is poisonous. Do not eat or mix with edible plants.

Planting Tips

- Call ahead to make sure the nursery or garden store has the plants you need for your lot design.
- For visual impact, plants should be clustered together.
- The best time to plant is in the spring or fall.
- Do not plant in extreme heat.
- Water after planting and as needed. Do not let soil dry out.
- Mow lawn at high setting (six inch height) to allow groundcover to provide interest and color in your lawn.

Paisley Patch Notes

A large grid area for taking notes, framed by a thick blue border. The grid consists of small squares, typical of graph paper, and is intended for recording observations or data related to the Paisley Patch.



**DETROIT
FUTURE
CITY**

**working
with lots**
A FIELD GUIDE

**Visit DFC-lots.com
#DFClots**

Image Source: Strata Chalup, "Lemon-balm-close-texture.jpg." 25 May 2007 via Flickr CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.