



How Many Plants Do You Need?

Is this a dilemma for you? Are you always coming back because you didn't get enough plants? Or giving away plants because you bought too many? It is possible to determine how many plants you need for a flower bed!

What You Need to Know:

- a) Square footage of area to be planted
- b) How far apart plants need to be spaced (usually on plant tag)
- c) The Square Foot Factor (see chart below)

<u>Plant Spacing</u>	<u>Square Foot Factor</u>
4"	7.56
6"	3.08
8"	1.92
9"	1.57
10"	1.28
12"	.90
15"	.64
18"	.42
24"	.23
30"	.16

EXAMPLE: Impatiens should be spaced at 9" apart. The measured area of your impatiens bed is 5' x 20' or 100 sq. ft.
 Square feet x SF = number of needed plants
 100 x 1.57 = 157 needed plants

The Formula:

Square Footage of Bed x SF = needed # of plants
 (where SF is the square foot factor)

Helpful Hints:

- If you have an odd-shaped bed, try to measure in terms of a rectangle or square. If you think this increases or decreases the area of the bed, add or subtract an estimated amount from your total area before using the formula. It should remain fairly accurate. You can also use basic geometric formulas for determining the area of other shapes and then add the sum of the areas together if the shape of the bed consists of more than one shape:
 Area of a circle: $A=pr^2$ (where p is pi, or 3.14, and r is the radius of the circle.)
 Area of a triangle: $A= \text{base} \times \text{height} \text{ divided by } 2$.

- Most flats have 32 or 48 plants. Simply divide the number of plants needed by 32 or 48 depending on flat size to determine how many flats you will need.