



## UNDERSTANDING YOUR LIFESTYLE NEEDS...

Garden design is all about making your garden work for you by matching your needs and preferences – what you want from your garden – to the fixed conditions of your garden environment.

This questionnaire has been developed to uncover and highlight those needs. Your feedback is the first part of a process designed to ensure you get the very best value from development of your outdoor living.

Please complete this questionnaire and return to Plantman;

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### Your family...

Please tell me a little about you & your family.

- a) Your Name (first & last): \_\_\_\_\_  
b) Contact Phone Nos: \_\_\_\_\_  
c) Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
d) Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_  
e) Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_  
f) Ages of Children: 1. \_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_  
g) Pets (circle): Dog / Cat / Other: \_\_\_\_

### Your home...

Please tell me a little about your home.

- a) How long do you plan to live in this house? \_\_\_\_\_  
b) Have you any plans to renovate? Yes No  
c) If yes, when and what rooms? \_\_\_\_\_  
d) Which room(s) do you spend the most time in? \_\_\_\_\_  
e) Which room is your main link with the garden? \_\_\_\_\_  
f) Which rooms have views of the garden? \_\_\_\_\_



## What you want from your outdoor living...

Q1 What role do you want your garden to have in your lifestyle?  
(Circle all that apply and rank your top three choices)

1. An entertainment area for friends and family
2. A space for passive enjoyment e.g. to sit in, relax; an escape from the city
3. An area which invites experience of the outdoors and connection with nature
4. A place of beauty and pleasure
5. A playground for children and adults
6. An area which provides a total sensory experience
7. A practical, low maintenance, no fuss solution
8. A means of adding value to our home
9. The outdoor room of the home; an extension of indoor living
10. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Q2 If you had to allocate 100 points between all of the functions you wanted your garden to fulfil, how would you allocate those points between the roles you circled above in Q1?

Function	Points
1. Entertainment area	
2. Place to sit & enjoy	
3. Reconnect with nature	
4. Beauty & pleasure	
5. Playground	
6. Total sensory experience	
7. Practical, low maintenance, low fuss solution	
8. Add value to home	
9. Outdoor room/extension of indoor living	
10. Other	
Total Points	100

Q3 If a role of your garden is to function as an entertainment area, how would you describe the way you entertain?

1. Formal
2. Informal
3. Both formal and informal

Q4 Typically, how many people need to be accommodated when you entertain?

1. Less than 5 people
2. Groups of 5-10 people
3. Groups of more than 10 people

Q5 Which emotions would you like your outdoor living areas to create in your life?  
(Circle all that apply and rank your top three choices)

1. Beauty
2. Tranquility and peace
3. Health and energy
4. Harmony and balance
5. Pleasure
6. Connection with nature
7. Stress release
8. Escape
9. Rejuvenation
10. Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Personalising your outdoor living...

Q6 What style of garden best reflects your lifestyle? (Circle one)

1. Formal and structured
2. Informal and natural
3. Combination of both formal and informal

Q7 What garden themes have appeal for you? (Circle all that appeal & rank your top three choices)

1. Oriental
2. New Zealand<sup>1</sup>
3. White garden
4. Mediterranean
5. Formal<sup>2</sup>
6. Romantic<sup>3</sup>
7. Healing<sup>4</sup>
8. Scented
9. Portager or Kitchen Garden<sup>5</sup>
10. Subtropical
11. Succulent
12. Water
13. Other \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> New Zealand plants including ferns

<sup>2</sup> Simple uncluttered layout using strong structural lines, paths, hedges, and topiary

<sup>3</sup> Natural style using cottage garden themes

<sup>4</sup> Design based around a herb wheel and plants with healing qualities

<sup>5</sup> Intermixes flowering plants with edible plants



Q8 What shapes would you like to incorporate in your garden design and layout?  
(Circle all that apply)

1. Circle
2. Square
3. Rectangle
4. Triangle
5. Irregular straight lines
6. Irregular curves
7. Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Using your garden...**

Q9 What days of the week would you use your outdoor living the most? (Circle one)

1. Week days
2. Weekends
3. Every day
4. No set pattern

Q10 What season of the year would you use your outdoor living the most? (Circle one)

1. Spring
2. Summer
3. Autumn
4. Winter

Q11 What time of the day would you use the garden the most in the season you selected in the previous question? (Circle one)

<i>Week Days</i>	<i>Weekends</i>
1. Morning	1. Morning
2. Afternoon	2. Afternoon
3. Evening	3. Evening

Q12 Please rate the importance of the following components of your outdoor lifestyle.  
(Tick the appropriate column for each component)

Component	No Way	Nice to Have	Absolutely
<i>Garden Foundations</i>			
1. Paths and steps			
2. Patios – paving & tiles			
3. Seating			
4. Deck			
5. Garden walls – stone/wooden			
6. Pergola			
7. Gazebo			
8. Water feature			
9. Rock & stone			
10. Retaining walls			
<i>Garden accessories</i>			
11. Outdoor furniture			
12. Pots			
13. Bird feeders			
14. Sculpture			
<i>Plants</i>			
15. Fast growing			
16. Screening/privacy			
17. Edible			
18. Flowering			
19. Dramatic foliage			
20. Scented			
21. Lawn or lawn substitutes <sup>6</sup>			
22. Colour			
<i>Climate</i>			
23. Sun			
24. Shade			
25. Wind protection			

<sup>6</sup> e.g. chamomile, dichondra, creeping thyme

Component	No Way	Nice to Have	Absolutely
<i>Easy care</i>			
26. Utility or service area			
27. Automatic Irrigation			
28. Low maintenance			
<i>Children</i>			
29. Play area			
30. Sandpit			
31. Child proof			
<i>Mood</i>			
32. Lighting			
33. Water			
34. Music <sup>7</sup>			
35. Other _____			

**Your Existing Garden...**

Q13 Are there any existing natural or man-made features you wish to retain or use as a focus?

*(e.g. specimen trees, ground contours, buildings, paths, vehicular access)*

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Q14 Are there any views you particularly wish to retain or alternatively screen out?

*(e.g. neighbouring properties, fences, street, buildings, sea views)*

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Q15 Do climatic conditions (e.g. wind, noise, shade or sun) compromise enjoyment of your outdoor living? *(please describe fully)*

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<sup>7</sup> Speakers incorporated into the outdoor living area



## Your Plants...

Q16 What are your favourite colours? (*Circle all that apply and rank your top three choices*)

Flowers	Foliage
1. Blue	1. Dark Green
2. Red	2. Mid Green
3. Pink	3. Light Green
4. Purple	4. Variegated
5. Yellow	5. Blue
6. Orange	6. Yellow
7. White	7. Grey
8. Green	8. Copper
9. Black	9. Red

Q17 Do you have any colours you particularly dislike?

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Q18 Does anyone in your family have allergies to any plants?

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Q19 What type of leaves do you like? (*Circle all that apply*)

1. Large and dramatic
2. Sword-like
3. Strongly architectural
4. Glossy
5. Hairy
6. Small
7. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Q20 What type of plants do you like? (*Circle all that apply*)

1. Deciduous trees
2. Evergreen trees
3. Hedges
4. Shrubs
5. Groundcovers
6. Grasses
7. Annuals<sup>8</sup>
8. Perennials<sup>9</sup>
9. Climbers
10. Herbs
11. Vegetables
12. Succulents
13. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Q21 Do you have any favourite plants you would like to include?

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Q22 Do you have any plants you particularly dislike?

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### Looking After Your Garden...

Q23 How many hours a week do you plan to spend actively gardening? (*Circle one*)

1. None
2. 1-5 hours
3. 5-10 hours
4. More than 10 hours

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<sup>8</sup> Used for short term colour

<sup>9</sup> Used in a cottage garden for colour and picking flowers



Q24 If you would like to be actively involved in the management of your garden, what sort of gardening activities would you prefer to get involved in? *(Tick all that apply)*

1. Weeding
2. Pruning
3. Picking flowers
4. Spraying
5. Fertilising
6. Planting
7. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Q25 Are there any activities you specifically don't want to do?

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Q26 How would you describe your philosophy about using chemical sprays in the garden to control weeds, pests and diseases? *(Circle one)*

1. I have no objections to the use of herbicides and pesticides as and when they are required to keep my gardens looking at their best.
2. I would prefer the gardens to be managed using organic principles but am open to pesticides and herbicides being used sparingly to keep my garden looking at its best.
3. I want only organic pest, disease and weed control measures to be used on my gardens.

### Your Knowledge...

Q27 How would you describe your knowledge of plants and gardening? *(Circle one)*

1. Poor
2. Average
3. Good
4. Excellent

Q28 Would you like to learn more about your plants and how they can add value to your lifestyle?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't Know

**In Summary...**

Q29 In your own words please describe the overall result you would like to achieve with your outdoor living.

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Q30 Are there any other comments you wish to make?

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Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire – hopefully it has helped to clarify your thoughts, likes and dislikes. It will certainly help us at Plantman to understand you and your requirements more thoroughly.

Please return this questionnaire to Plantman;

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