

PLANTING



AK
7

SED AN3
5 gal - 19

MUH RIG
5 gal - 14

LEU HYB
5 gal - 8

ACE JA2
15 gal - 5

SAL BAR
5 gal - 18

SED AN3
5 gal - 54

QUE AGR
15 gal - 1

AEO
15 gal - 1

planting **F/X**
GETTING STARTED GUIDE

Welcome to the Land F/X family!

We're excited for you to get started with Planting F/X (formerly known as Land F/X), our AutoCAD planting plugin. You now have access to a powerful arsenal of time-saving features and extensive customization capabilities. Tailored to the needs of landscape architects, Planting F/X makes CAD-based landscape design fast, easy, and fun.

We've created this guide to introduce you to all the tools and techniques you'll need to:

- Build your palette from our database of more than 26,000 plants.
- Fly through planting design using our intuitive plant placement tools and massive library of "smart" plant symbol blocks.
- Label plants and place schedules automatically. Never count plants again!
- Check your plan for errors with one click.
- Create a dynamic presentation complete with colorization, photo callouts, plant shadows and outlines, and more.
- Import your site design from CAD into a 3D SketchUp model, and back again.

We invite you to follow along in this guide as you dive into the software. Have fun, and start designing with Planting F/X!

Contents

Contents

Completed

Page

Welcome to the Land F/X Family!

The Land F/X Ribbons *(Use this spread as a reference for locating all tools shown in this guide.)*

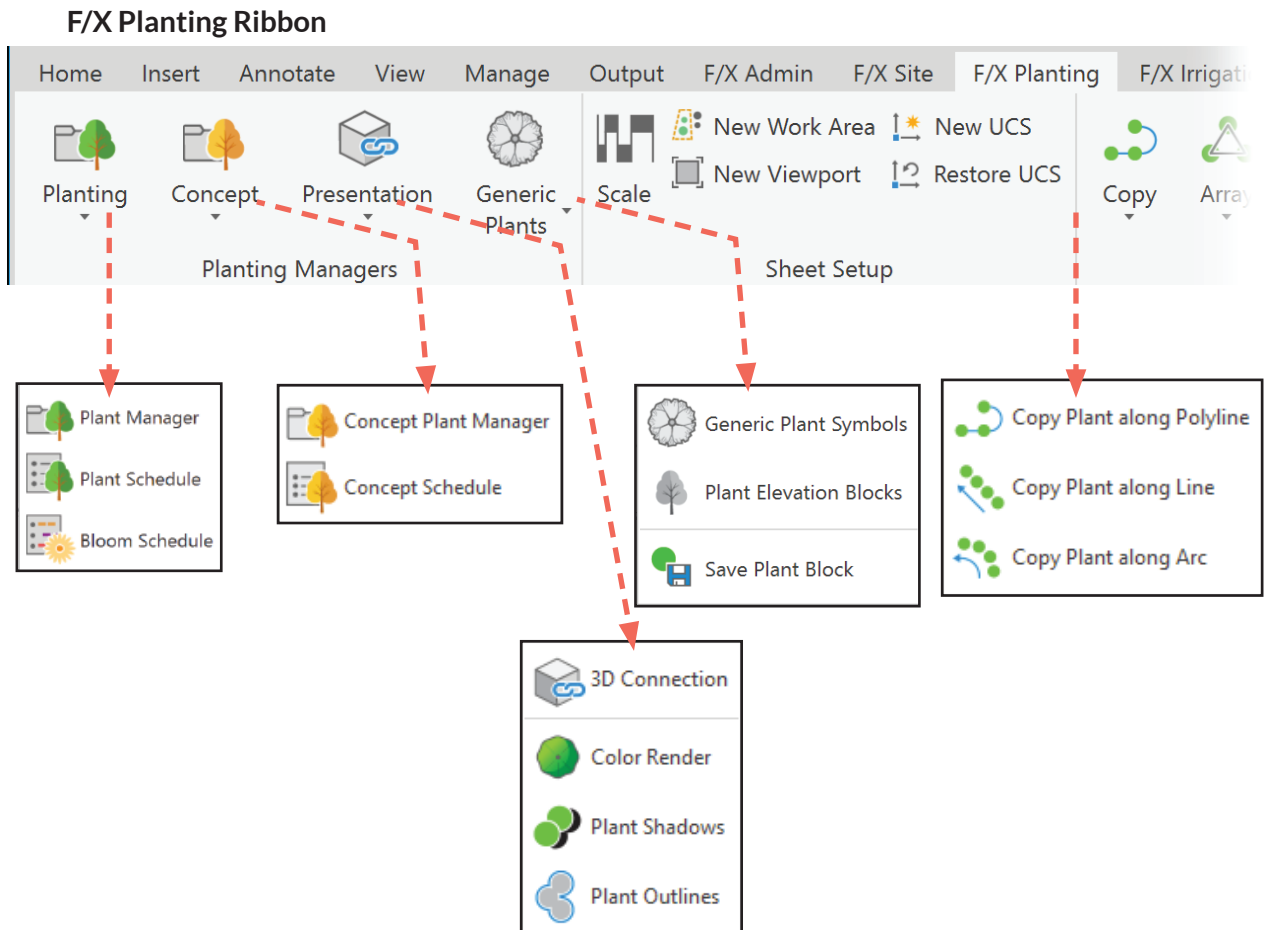
DWG vs. Land F/X Project Data	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Start Your First Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Set the Scale	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Planting Preferences	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Plant Sizes Preferences & Preference Sets	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Text Styles for Plant Labels & Schedules	<input type="checkbox"/>	6
Choose Your Plant Palette	<input type="checkbox"/>	7
Place & Edit Your Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	8
Specialized Tools for Placing Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	9
Label Your Plants & Check for Errors	<input type="checkbox"/>	11
Instant Plant Schedules & Photo Callouts	<input type="checkbox"/>	12
Colorize Your Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	13
Bring Your Designs Into 3D	<input type="checkbox"/>	14

Appendix

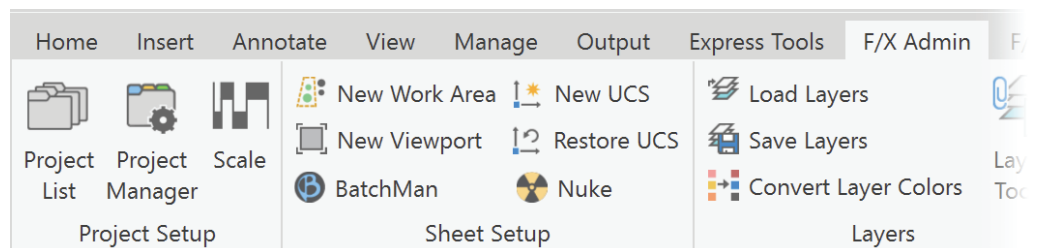
Land F/X Pen Color & Weight Standards	16
Layer Colors & Lineweights	17
Plant Symbol Examples	18
Color Symbol Examples	19

The Land F/X Ribbons

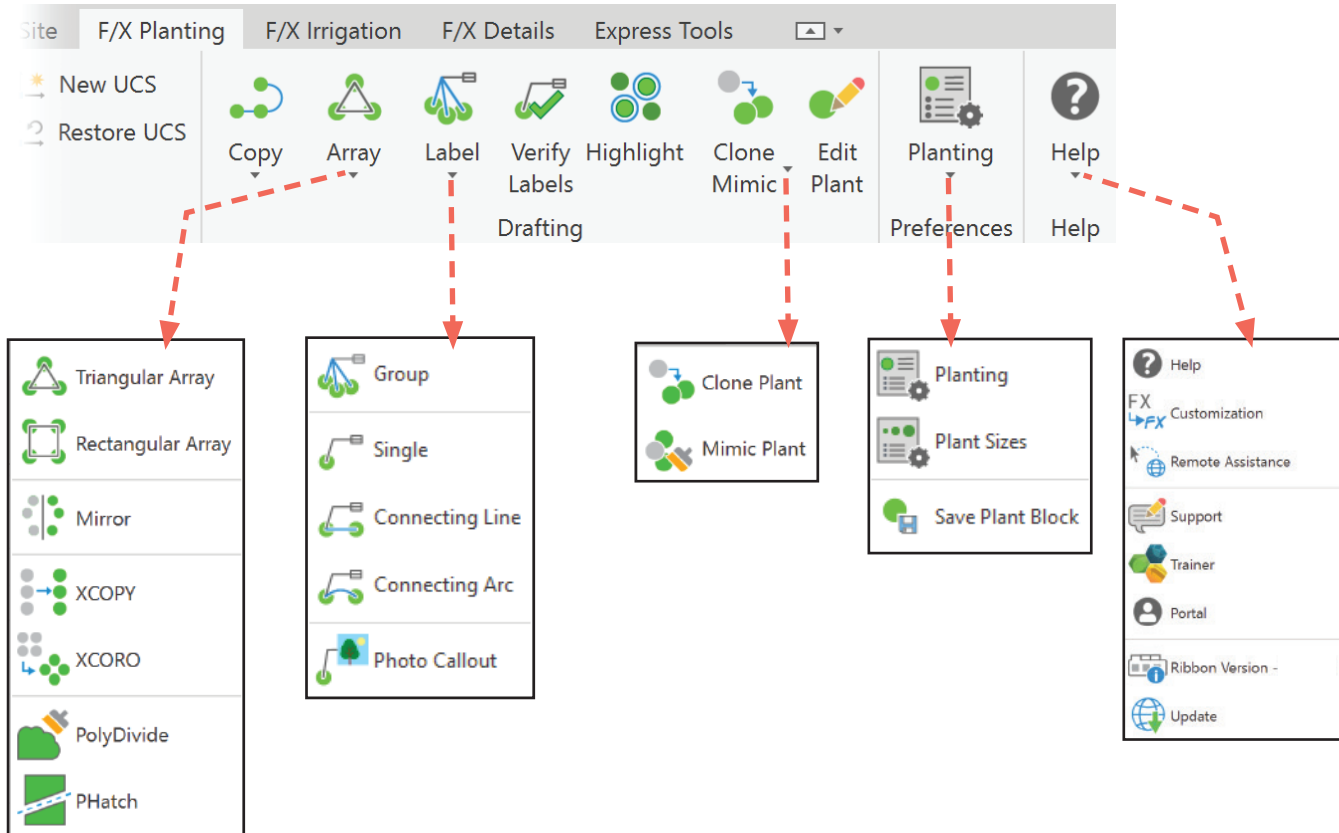
■ Use this spread as a reference for locating the tools described in this guide. Most tools you'll need for planting are located on the F/X Planting ribbon. A few are on the F/X Admin ribbon.



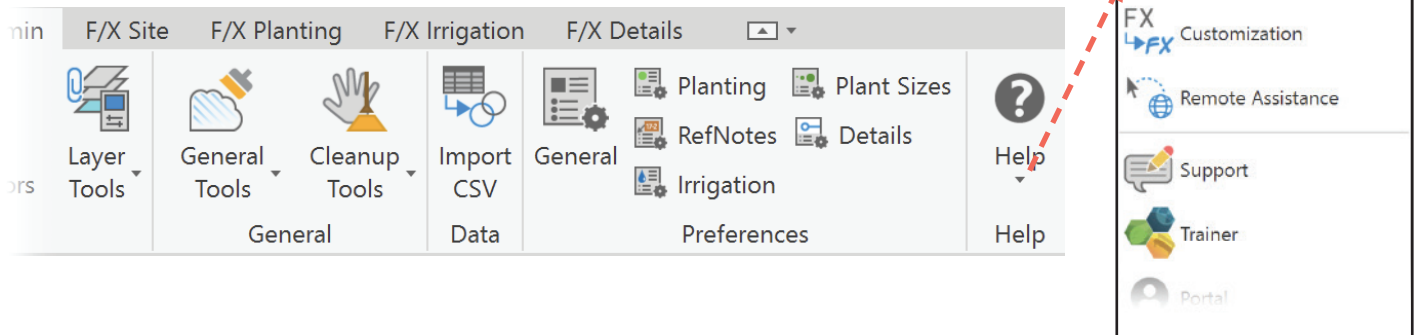
F/X Admin Ribbon



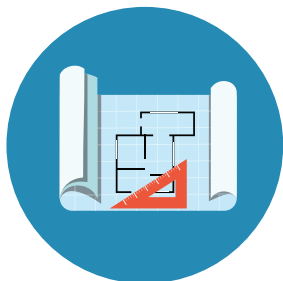
The Land F/X Ribbons



POWER TIPS Need help? Click the **Help** button on any Land F/X ribbon, or visit www.LandFX.com/help.



■ To understand how Planting F/X works with CAD, you'll need to know the difference, and relationship, between a CAD drawing (.dwg file) and a Land F/X project.

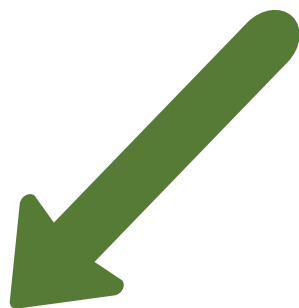


First, you'll open a CAD drawing, or .dwg file. This can be a drawing you create, or one you receive from a colleague or client.



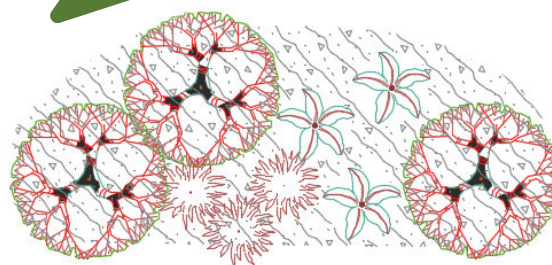
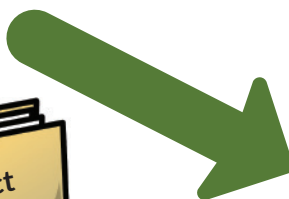
When you're ready to begin planting, you'll start what is known as a Land F/X project.

Think of a Land F/X project as a file folder that will store all the plants you'll use in your drawing – like in the old days, when designers kept a physical folder for each job or client.



Once you have your project open, you'll add new plants to it from the Land F/X database.

The Land F/X database is a list of plants that includes every plant you can imagine. To build your plant palette, you'll pull plants from this list and put them in your project. The Land F/X database is stored on the cloud (online), so you'll need an Internet connection in order to access it.



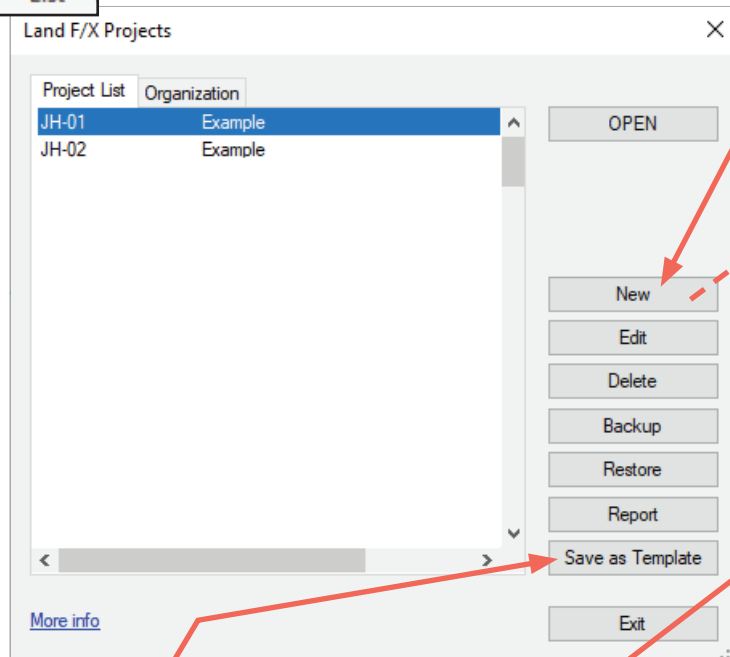
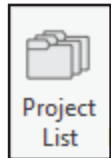
With your palette loaded, you can then begin designing your plan by placing plants in your CAD drawing. You can always go back and add more plants to your project in mid-design.



Be sure to start a new project for each job. That way, changes big and small will only affect that job.

■ First, you'll need to start a project, which will enable a connection between AutoCAD and the Land F/X database. Starting a project allows you to associate a plant name and data with an object in the drawing. You can manage all your projects in the Land F/X Projects dialog box.

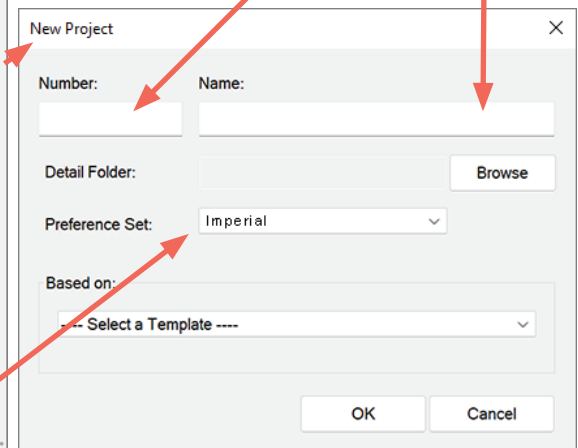
F/X Admin >



Important: Create a new Land F/X project for each new job. Do not reuse projects for new jobs. Instead, use project templates.

Click **New** to start a new project.

Give your project a **Number** and a **Name**.



Any time a project has to follow a different set of standards, you'll need a different set of preferences, known as a Preference Set. (See Page 5.)

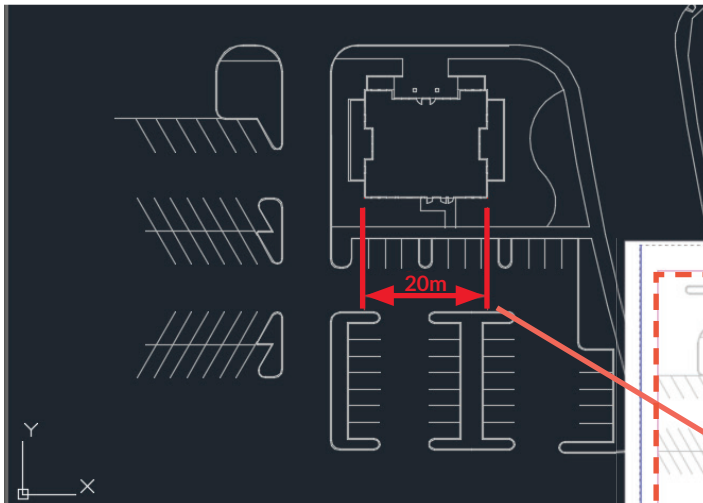


Save a completed project as a template. You can then base future projects on it, copying in all plants at once.

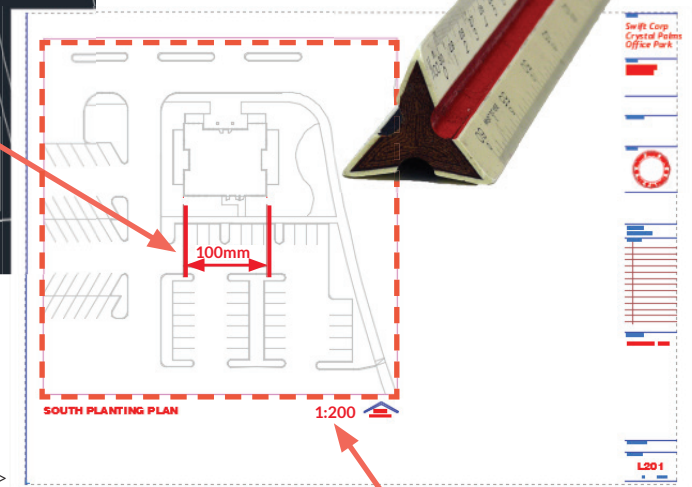
The **Project Number** has to be a unique number in relation to all other projects in the office. It can include up to 12 characters, and may be any combination of letters, numbers, or symbols (other than an apostrophe).

The **Project Name** is simply your office name for the project, and does not necessarily need to be unique from one project to another. (For example, you can have several "Smith Residence" projects.)

■ **Scale is critical in your initial sheet setup. It determines how information and symbols display, how they will appear in the final product, and, in the end, how they will plot.**



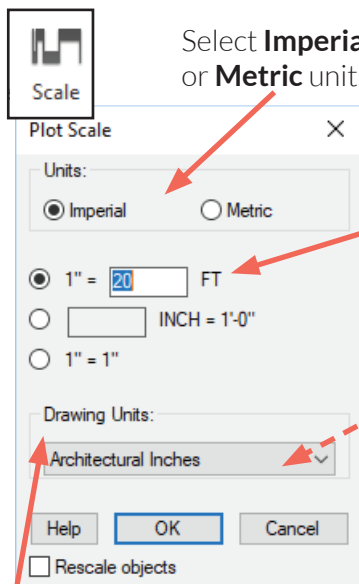
Design at the actual size of your site in Model Space (1:1), then view your design through a viewport that fits your desired paper size.



Set your scale and units once, and forget it. All Land F/X information and symbols will automatically be scaled correctly.

Manage >

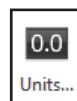
F/X Admin >



Select **Imperial** or **Metric** units.

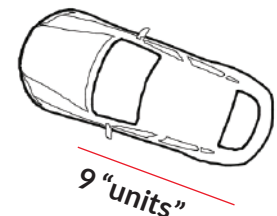
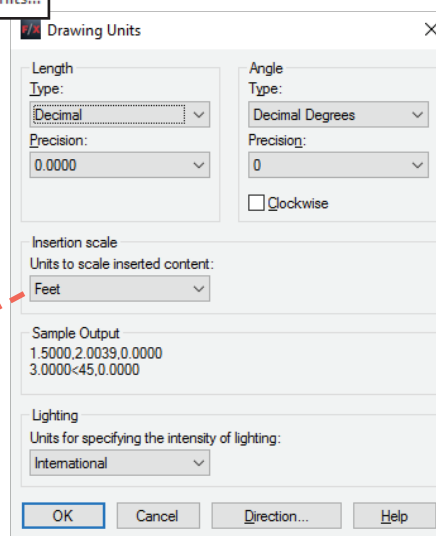
Set your scale.

Select your **Drawing Units**.



ACAD **Manage** ribbon

Viewport scale



Verify your units by drawing a 9-unit line and checking it against an object with a known size – like a vehicle.

In the example above, we can assume that the units are in feet based on the lengths of the line and the car.

Need more guidance on scale and units?
Just click **Help**.

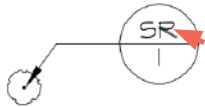
■ In the Planting Preferences screen, you can customize your plant codes, symbols, and labels. Land F/X won't just match your office standards; it will enforce them like never before.

F/X Planting >



Select one of our plant label styles. Choose between block and MLeader styles.

Plant Code



PLANT SCHEDULE

PALM TREES	BOTANICAL NAME / COMMON NAME
WF	WASHINGTONIA FILIFERA / PALM TREES 16 FT CLEAR BROWN TRUNK HEIGHT
SHRUBS	BOTANICAL NAME / COMMON NAME
RJ	RHAPHIOLEPIS INDICA / JACK FRUIT SHRUB TYPE
SR	STRELITZIA REGINAE / BIRD OF PARADISE
GROUND COVERS	BOTANICAL NAME / COMMON NAME
	GAZANIA X "BURGUNDY" / GAZANIA

Preferences

General RefNotes Planting Plant Sizes Irrigation Details

Plant Code:

☐ GEN SPE ☒ GS

☒ Capitalize Code for Trees

☒ Capitalize Code for Shrubs

Planting Options:

☒ Ground Covers exclude shrubs

Plant Database:

landfx.com

Plant Groups

Schedule Defaults

Plant Label:

GEN_SPE
(QTY)_FIELD1

Landing Distance:

☐ Manual ☒ Fixed: 0.25 in.

Open Label Files

Arrow Style:

☒ Apply to Trees/Shrubs

☒ Apply to Ground Covers/Shrub Areas

Concept Label

Labels placed within a Viewport:

☒ Remain in Modelspace

☐ Move to Paperspace

Make our plant label styles your own by opening and editing our plant label source files.

Set your preferences for your Concept Plant labels.

Plant Schedule

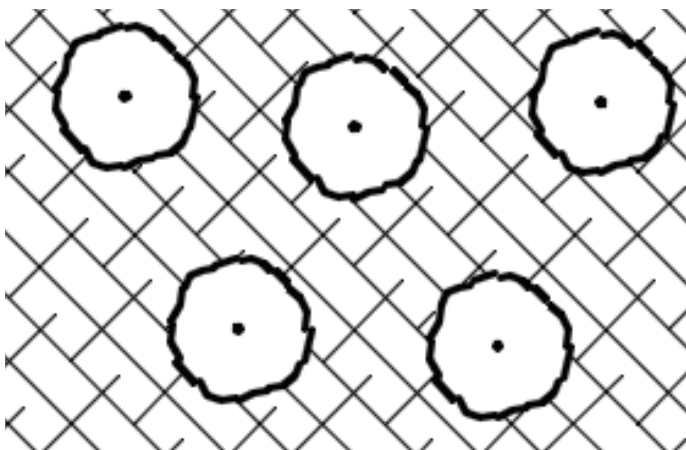
Destination:

- ☐ Drawing
- ☒ Table
- ☐ Spreadsheet

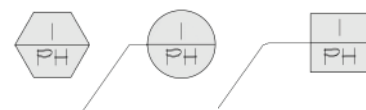
Schedule Defaults

Create your own default Plant Schedule settings – such as placing your schedules in **Table** view (pictured above).

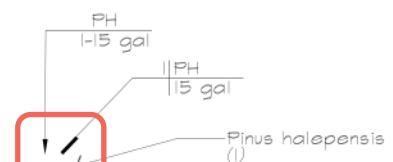
Ground Covers Exclude Shrubs



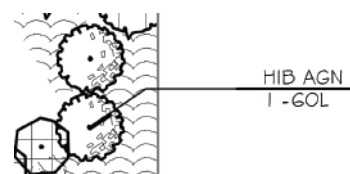
Plant Labels



Extension Lines



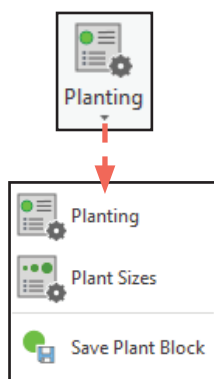
Arrow Styles



Move Labels to Paper Space

■ The Plant Sizes Preferences screen gives you full control over the information that appears in your Plant Schedules. Once you've configured your Preferences settings, save them into a Preference Set.

F/X Planting >



Use this menu to select a Preference Set to apply to the current drawing.

Select one of the four plant types. Then configure the Plant Sizes Preferences for that plant type.

Set the number of columns that will appear in your Plant Schedules for the selected plant type.

Control the contents of your Plant Schedule with up to six customizable User Fields.

Set a default unit **Cost** for each plant size.

Preference Sets

Click the **Manage** button on any of the six Preferences screens to open the Manage Preference Sets dialog box.

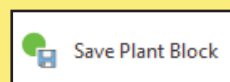
There, you can click **New** to save your current settings as a Preference Set. Create as many Preference Sets as you need – one for each client, project type, region ... the choice is yours!

For example, when starting a project for a particular client, open the Preference Set you've created for that client.

Presto! Your standards for that client will be applied automatically as you draft. Don't forget to back up your Preference Sets by clicking **Backup** or **Backup All**.

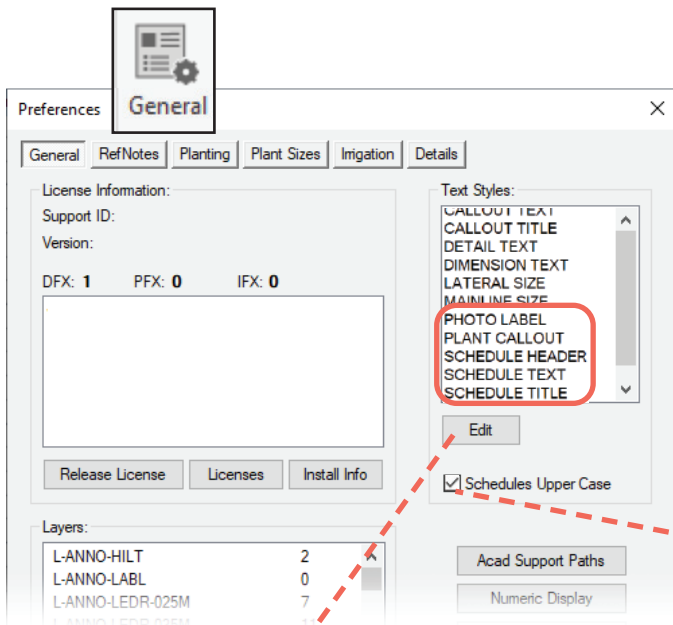


Add your own plant symbols to the Land F/X library using our **Save Plant Block** tool.

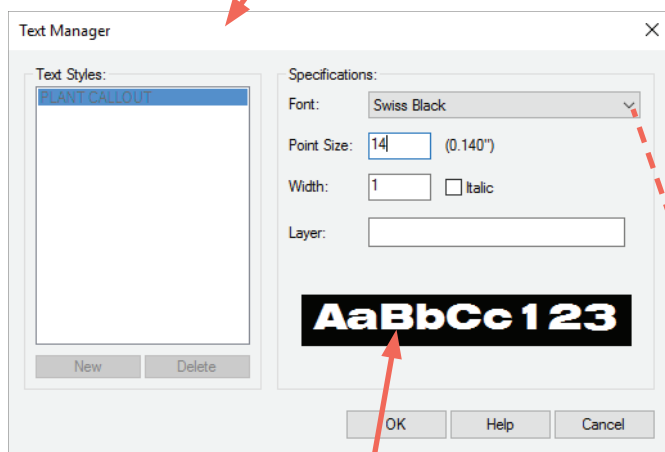
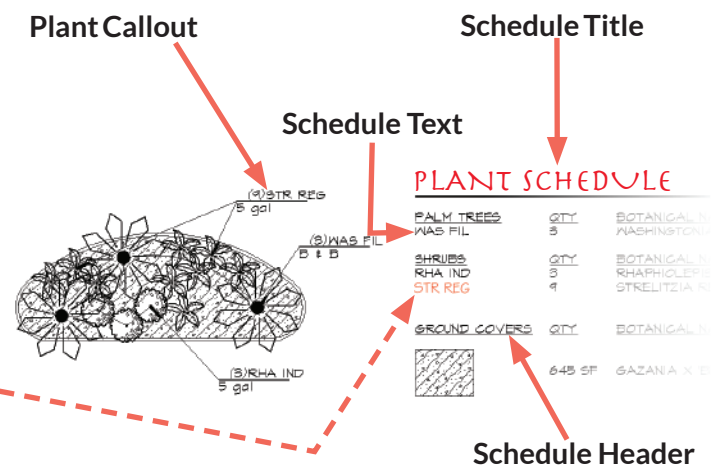


■ Your Planting F/X installation comes with several built-in Text Styles. Each of these fully customizable Text Styles controls one or more specific applications of text you'll place in your drawing. By customizing the appropriate Text Styles, you can tailor your plant labels and schedules to your needs.

F/X Admin >



- 1 Select one of the following three Text Styles in the General Preferences:



Preview of the selected font

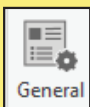
- 2 In the Text Manager, choose a **Font**, **Point Size**, and **Width** (in relation to height) for the selected Text Style.

If you want, make the style **Italic**.

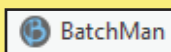
When editing a Text Style, you can choose any TrueType or SHX font. Click the **Help** button for more details.



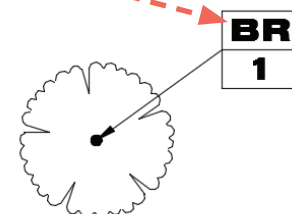
Customize all your layers using the General Preferences and our **BatchMan** tool, both available from the **F/X Admin** ribbon. For more details on layer and line customization, please see pages 16 and 17.



Customize your planting layers.




Customize your block layers.



Swiss Black font, 14 point

■ **Organize your project plant palette from the Plant Manager. Here, you can add or edit plants in your palette, as well as delete plants. You can also view plant photos, assign details, place the plants into a drawing, and create Plant Schedules.**

F/X Planting >

 **Plant Manager**

1 Select a plant category, such as **Trees**.

2 Click **New** to add a new plant from the selected category to your palette.

Example

Partial name:

Genus:	Species:
Acanthophoenix	Barbel Palm
Acrocomia	Palm
Archontophoenix	Gru-Gru Palm
Areca	King Palm
Arecastrum	Areca Palm
Attalea	Queen Palm
Bactris	Attalea Palm
Beaucamea	Spiny-club Palm
Brahea	Bottle-palm
Butia	Rock Palm
Caryota	Pindo Palm
Chamaerops	Fishtail Palm
Chrysalidocarpus	Fan Palm
Coccothrinax	Cane Palm
Cocos	Silver Palm
Cycas	Coconut Palm
Dictyosperma	Sago Palm
Dypsis	Princess Palm
	Areca Palm

Species: alexandrae, cunninghamiana, purpurea

Filter Plants:

☐ Filter by Data:

Access a live (and ever-growing) database of more than 26,000 plants. Search by botanical or common name. Then select a genus, species, and variety of plant to add to your project palette.

3 Add the plant to your palette.

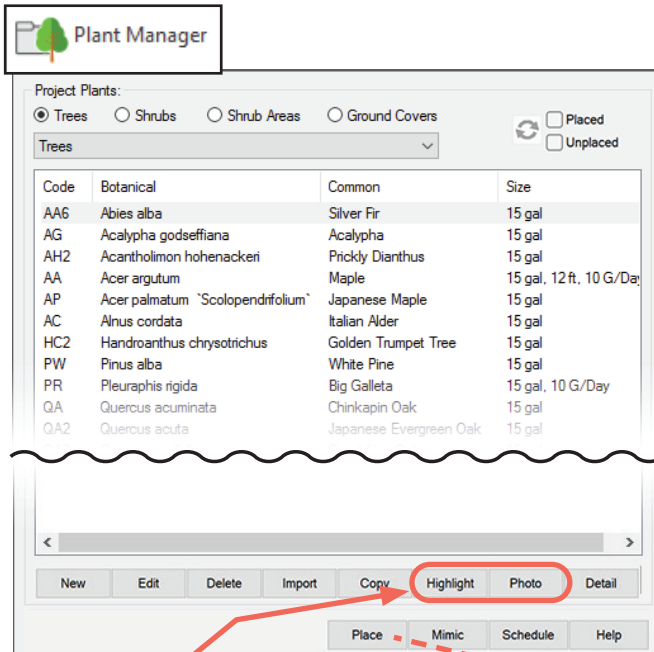


Import plants from previous projects, and save finished projects as design templates to be even more efficient.

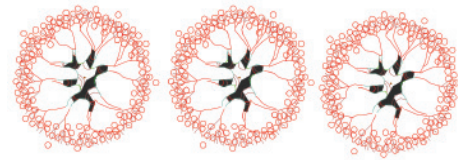
■ Assign a symbol to each plant, and determine its specification. Place plants in your drawing directly from the Plant Manager.

F/X Planting >

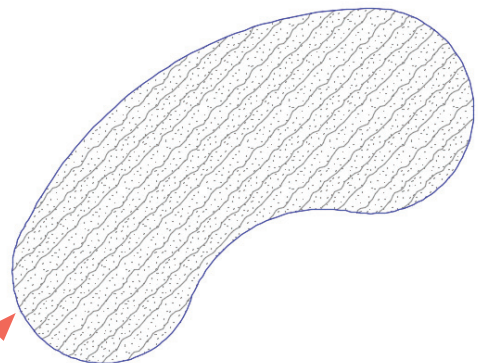
Place Plants



Highlight instances of a plant you've placed in your drawing, and view a **Photo** of a plant before placing it.

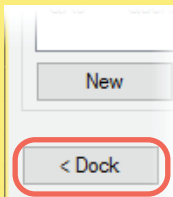


Place trees and shrubs as individual plants.



Place groundcovers and Shrub Areas as hatches within a closed polyline, or draw and hatch a polyline boundary on the fly.

POWER TIPS Place plants more quickly by docking the Plant Manager at the edge of your CAD interface ...



... or by double-clicking a plant in the Plant Manager.

Edit Plants

F/X Planting >



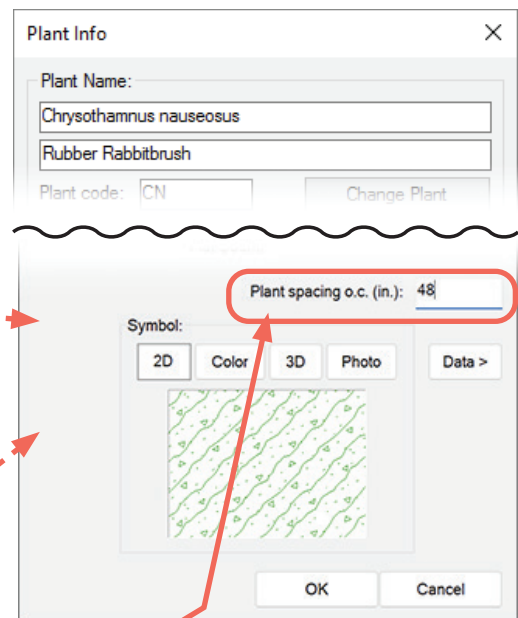
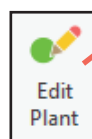
QA Quercus acuminata
QA2 Quercus acuta
QA3 Quercus agrifolia

New Edit

< Dock

or

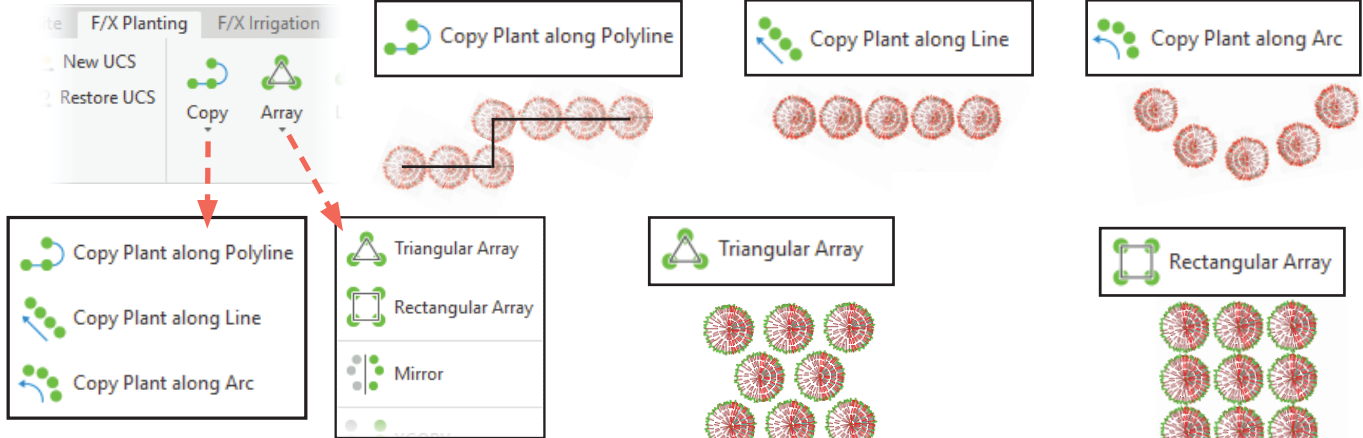
F/X Planting >



Groundcover and Shrub Area quantities are calculated automatically based on the **Plant Spacing** you set when adding or editing plants.

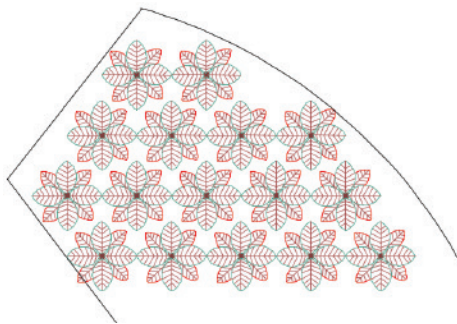
■ Our plant placement tools help you fly through planting design. Copy plants into lines, patterns, and arrays; place multiple plants at a time; space plants automatically – it's all fast and easy.

Copy and Array



Paint Mode

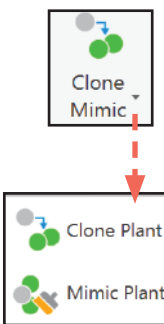
"Paint" with plants using our **Paint Mode** tool.



- While placing, type **T** (for paint**T**) to toggle **Paint** on and off.
- Type **X** (for **x**hair angle) to snap to an angle for your painting pattern.

Clone Plant and Mimic Plant

F/X Planting >



Use our **Clone Plant** tool to copy and paste a plant's symbol and data.

Assign a plant's symbol and data to an existing plant in your drawing using our **Mimic Plant** tool.

F/X Planting >

Exclude Shrubs

(Available in the Planting Preferences.)



Planting Options:
☒ Ground Covers exclude shrubs



Our **Plant Shotgun** tool (see next page) also makes the following planting tools available as keyboard commands:

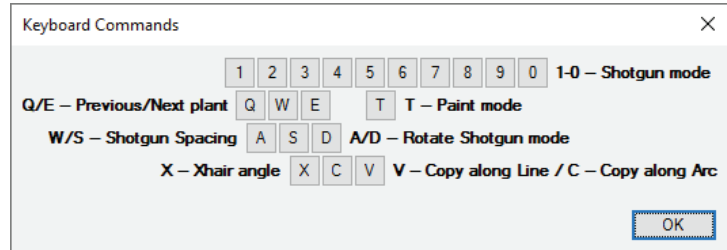
- **Paint Mode:** Press the **T** key.
- **Copy along Line:** Press the **V** key.
- **Copy along Arc:** Press the **C** key.

■ **Plant Shotgun** packs a plethora of keyboard commands into one powerful tool. Control the quantities, spacing, pattern, and angle of your plants – right as you place them.

F/X Planting >

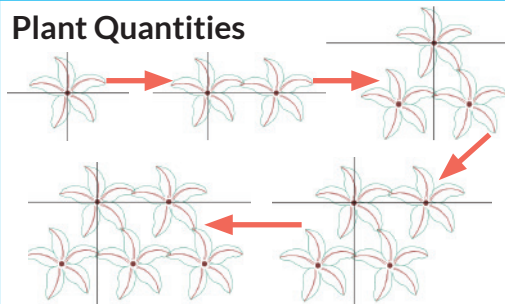


Place a plant using the Plant Manager (see Page 8). The **Plant Shotgun** keyboard commands will be available automatically.



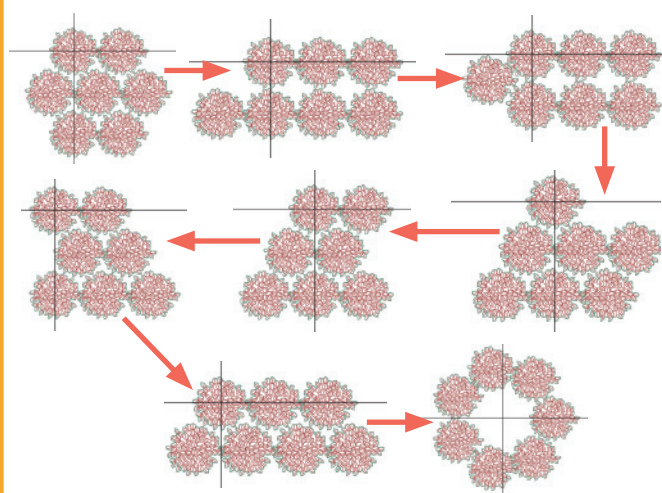
Type **K** to see a guide to the keyboard commands.

Plant Quantities



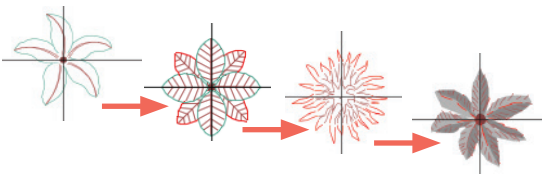
Press a number key to select a number of plants to place (up to 10).

Plant Patterns



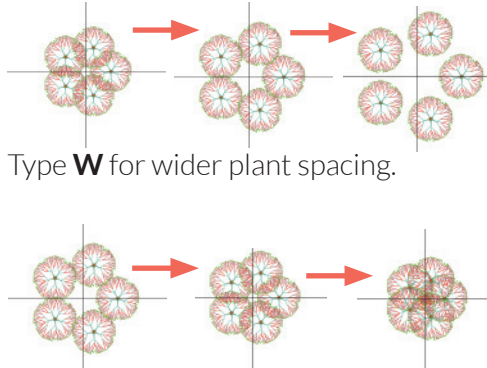
Press the same number key multiple times to toggle to different patterns for that number of plants.

Previous/Next Plant



Use the **Q** and **E** keys to toggle to the previous or next plant listed in your palette.

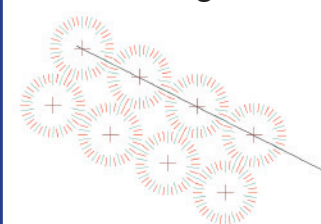
Space Plants



Type **W** for wider plant spacing.

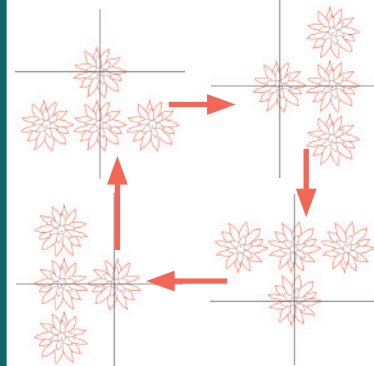
Type **S** for smaller plant spacing.

Crosshair Angle



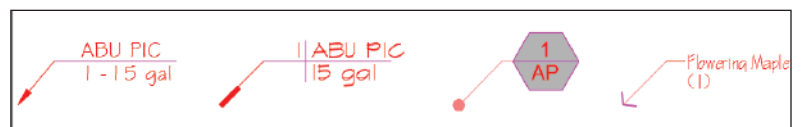
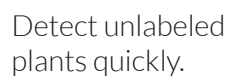
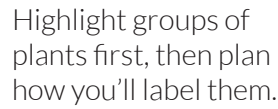
Use the **X** key to snap your plants to a crosshair angle in your drawing.

Rotate Plants



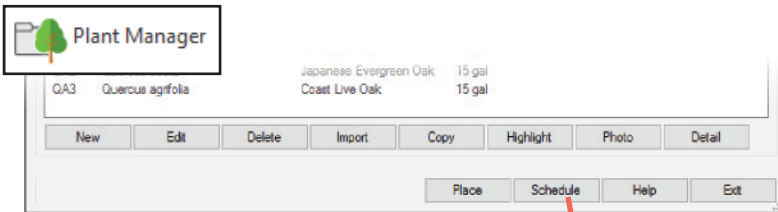
Rotate your group of plants 90 degrees to the left or right by typing **A** or **D**.

F/X Planting >

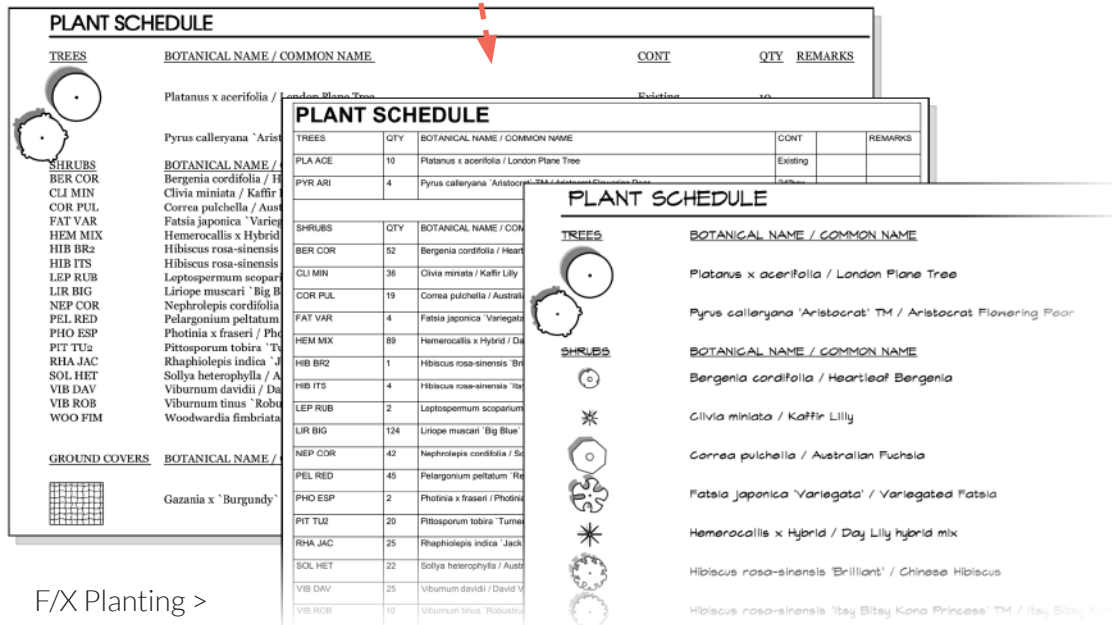


Select your label style in the Planting Preferences. (See Page 4.)

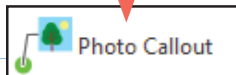
F/X Planting >



Reminder: Control the fonts and point sizes in your Plant Schedule by customizing the Schedule Text and Schedule Title text styles. See Page 6 of this guide for instructions.

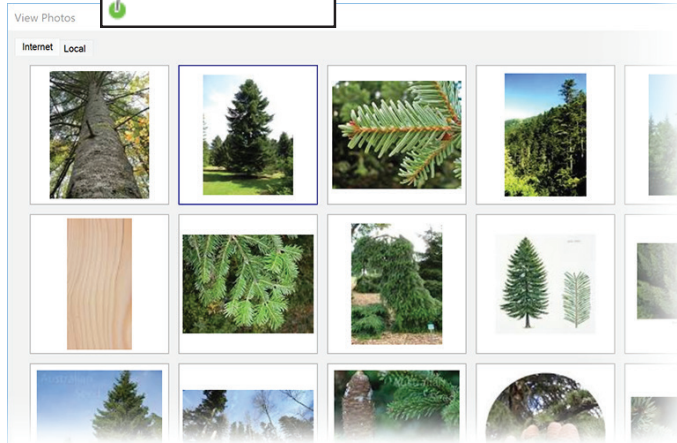


F/X Planting >



POWER TIPS

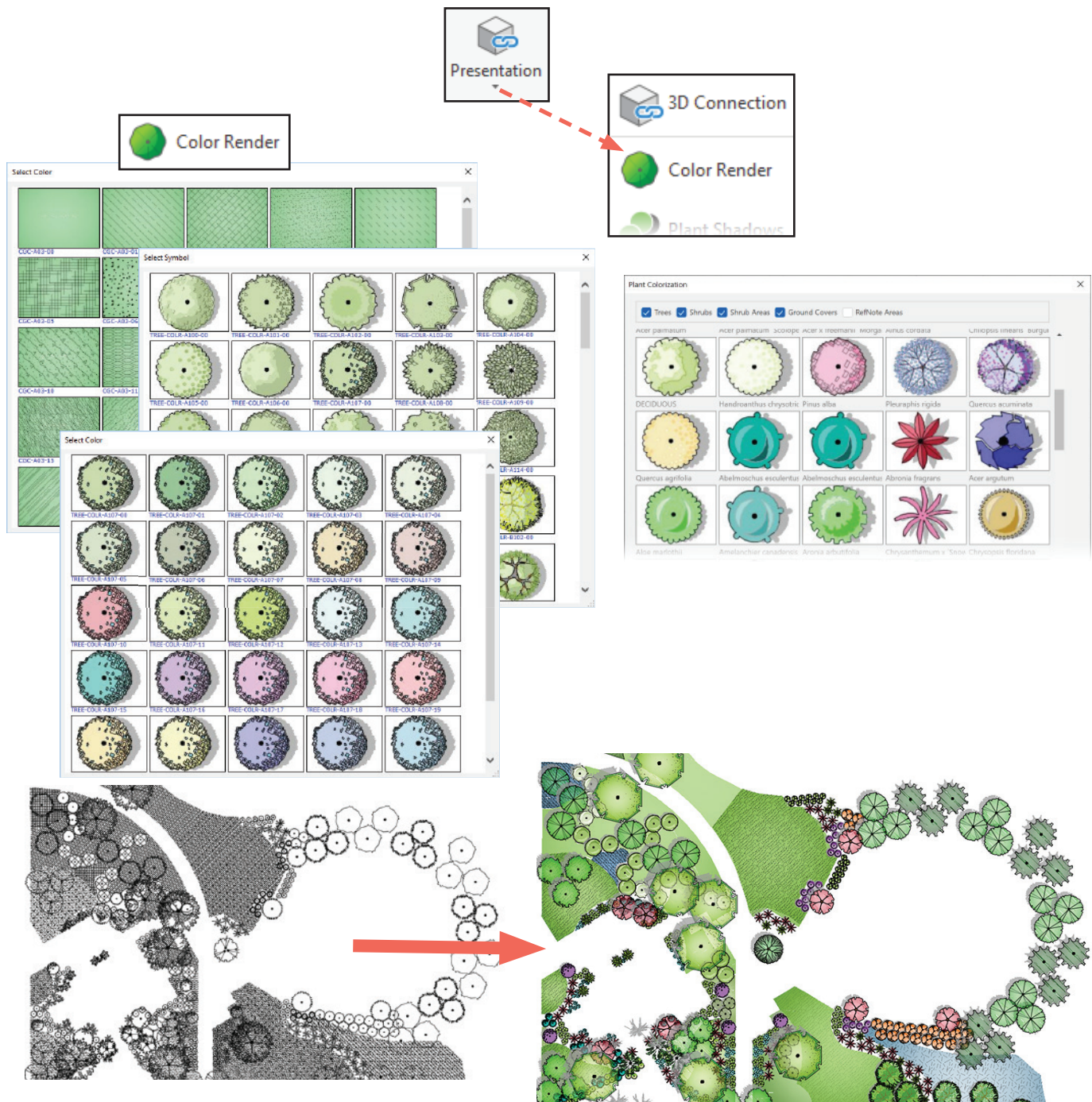
Use the **New Work Area** available on the F/X Admin ribbon, to limit your plant schedule to specific areas or phases of your project.



Need a striking visual aid for a presentation? Our **Photo Callout** tool connects you with high-quality images of a selected plant, fully vetted and added to our database by our team. It also does an automatic online images search for a plant's botanical name. Select a photo to call out the plant, or select the **Local** tab to use your own photo.

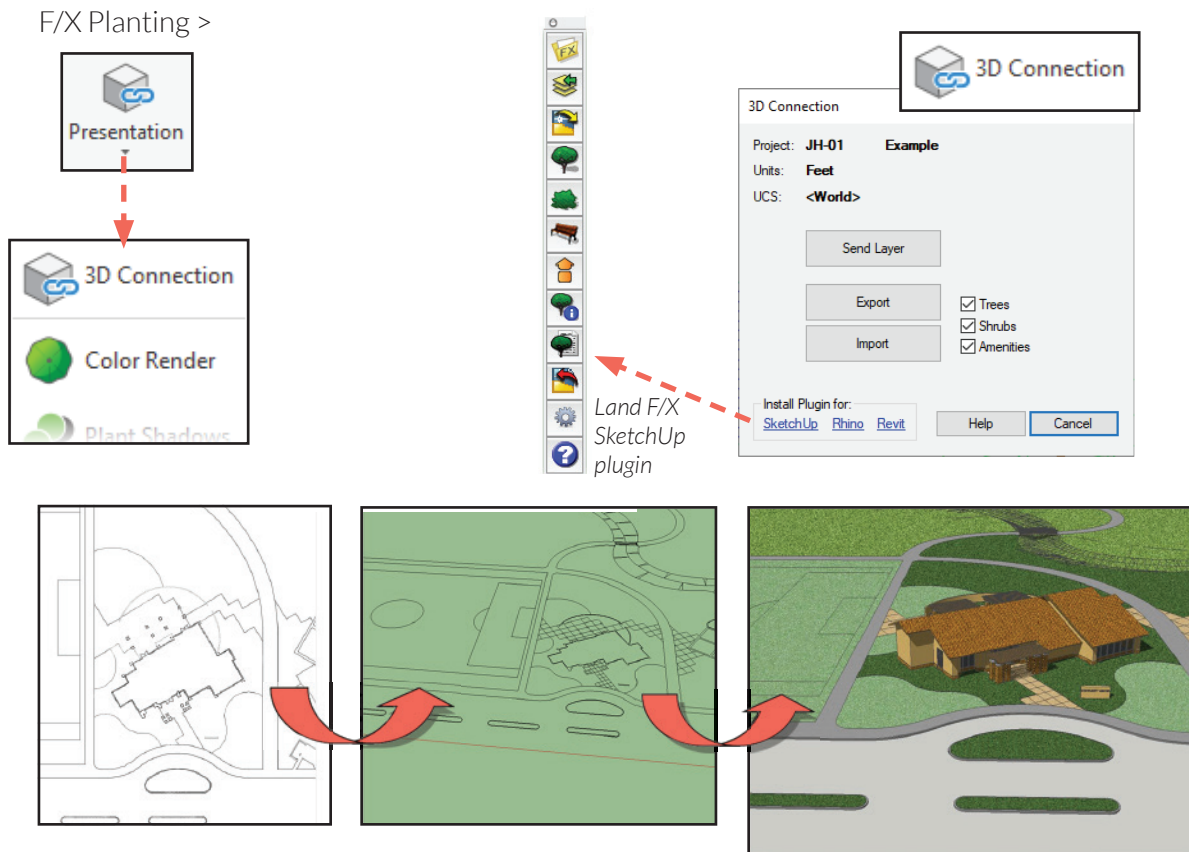
- *Color Render creates a presentation-ready plan by coloring your plant symbols and hatches.*

F/X Planting >



POWER TIPS Always select **Plot Transparency** in your plotter settings when printing your color-rendered plans.

■ Jump seamlessly between CAD and SketchUp, Rhino, or Revit. The Land F/X 3D Connection exports your AutoCAD drawing into a 3D model – and back again.



Exporting your drawing layer by layer retains your CAD layer names in a 3D model. Keep your design organized while moving in and out of 3D.

Create your planting design in CAD, then visualize it quickly in SketchUp, Rhino, or Revit. Or design in 3D first, then bring the exact plant placements back into CAD.



Start your design in 3D, placing your plants. Then bring those placements into CAD using the Land F/X Export to CAD tool in SketchUp, Rhino, or Revit.



Appendix



Photo credit: Landscape Contractors + Developers, Puerto Rico.
Project created using Planting F/X

Land F/X Pen Color & Weight Standards.....	16
Layer Colors & Lineweights	17
Plant Symbol Examples	18
Color Plant Symbol Examples	19

SOLID LINE COLORS

Color Description Line Sample

013M - Extra Fine (0.13mm)

8	Gray	
13	Lt. Brown	
150	Lt. Blue	
191	Lt. Lavender	

Dot & Box Sample



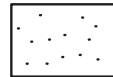
025M - Fine (0.25mm)

1	Red	
4	Cyan	
7	White (Black)	
15	Brown	



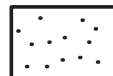
035M - Medium (0.35mm)

6	Magenta	
11	Lt. Red	
32	Brown	
123	Teal	



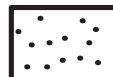
050M - Broad (0.50mm)

3	Green	
5	Blue	
52	Olive Green	



070M - Extra Broad (0.70mm)

30	Orange	
74	Dull Green	



100M - Wide (1.00mm)

40	Dk. Yellow	
----	------------	--



IRRIGATION LINE COLORS

Lateral Pipe - (0.35mm)

193	Min.	
153		
160		
113		
110		
71		
21		
240		
241		

Mainline Pipe - (0.70mm)

143	Min.				
170					
122					
100					
53					
23					
242					
203					
	Max.				

SCREENED LINE COLORS

SMXX - Medium (0.35mm)

255	0%	
254	10%	
253	20%	
252	30%	
251	40%	
250	50%	
249	60%	
133	0%	

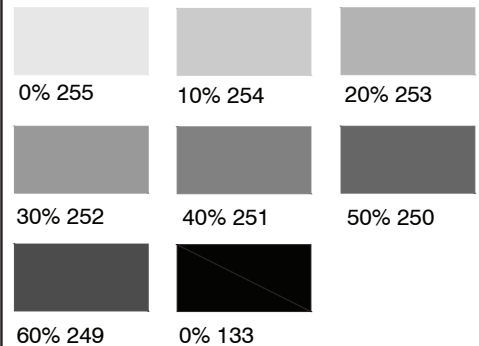
SBXX - Broad (0.50mm)

141	20%	
140	30%	
142	40%	
152	50%	
154	60%	

SWXX - Wide (1.00mm)

202	40%	
220	50%	

SCREENED SOLID FILL HATCH



SCREENED NON-PLOT COLOR

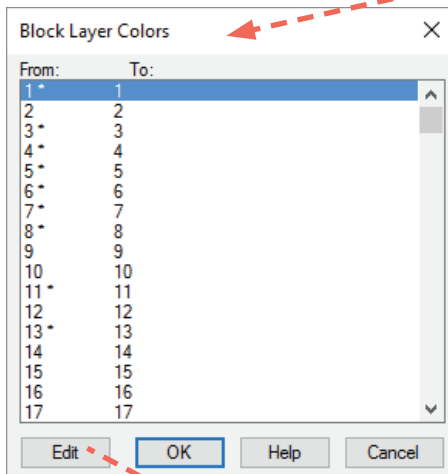
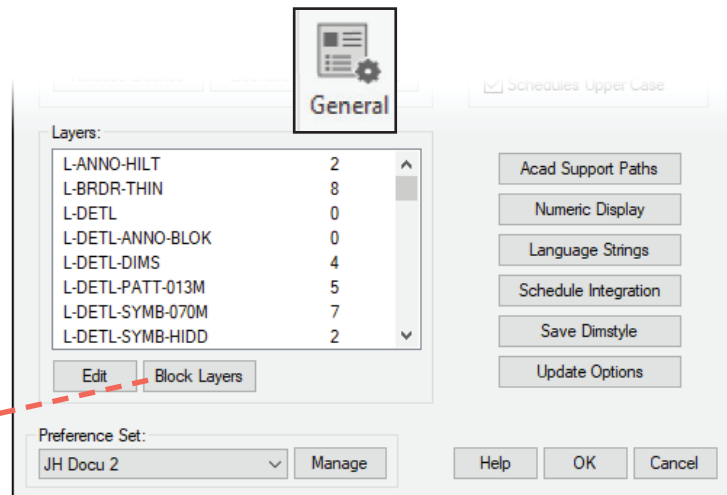
Screening set to 0%

111	Lt. Teal
211	Lt. Pink

■ Click the **Block Colors** button in the **General Preferences** to change the **Land F/X** colors to match your office standard.

First select the Land F/X Layer Colors to be Changed. See Page 16 of this Getting Started Guide for a list of the layer colors used by Land F/X. Review this list, and check whether any color used by Land F/X conflicts with your office standard. You won't need to review every color Land F/X uses – just review the colors used by both Land F/X and your office.

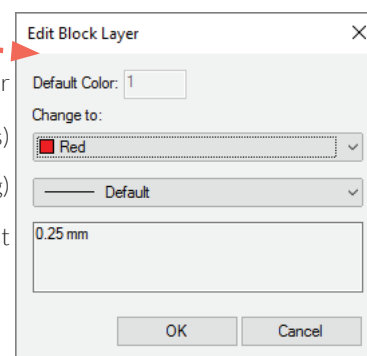
F/X Admin >



The **Block Layer Colors** dialog box lists the 255 colors used by AutoCAD as index colors for plotting. Each color used by Land F/X is followed by an asterisk (*).

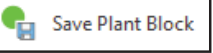
Go to each color used by Planting F/X that conflicts with your office standards. Click **Edit** to change it to meet your standards. You can ignore any colors your company doesn't use.

The **Edit Block Layer** dialog box:



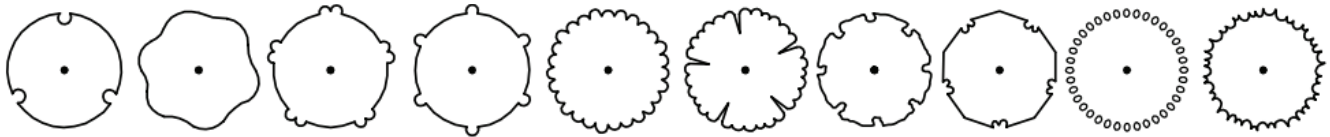
Land F/X default layer color
Color in your CTB that plots to the selected lineweight (thickness)
Optional lineweight (STB printing)
Block layer description/lineweight

Create the Plot File: Edit your CTB file to account for some additional colors, or just edit the **LFX.ctb** file. Visit www.LandFX.com/docs for instructions on saving your plot style.

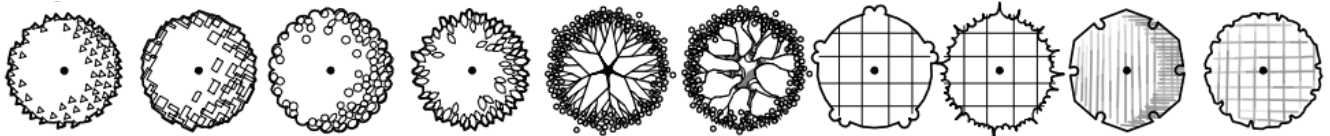
A sampling of the thousands of symbols available. You can also use our  Save Plant Block tool to import your own. See the Customization section of www.LandFX.com/docs for more info on custom symbols.

TREES

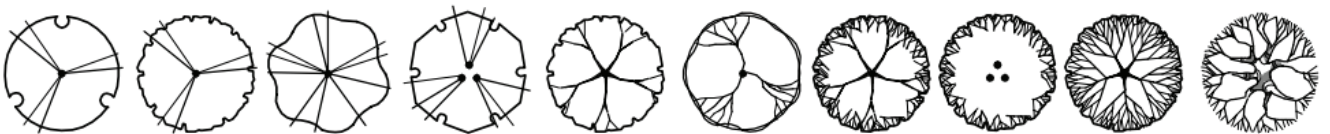
Simple



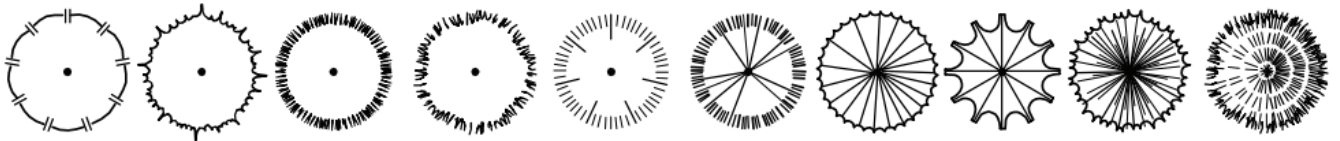
Evergreen



Deciduous



Conifer



Palm



SHRUBS

Large



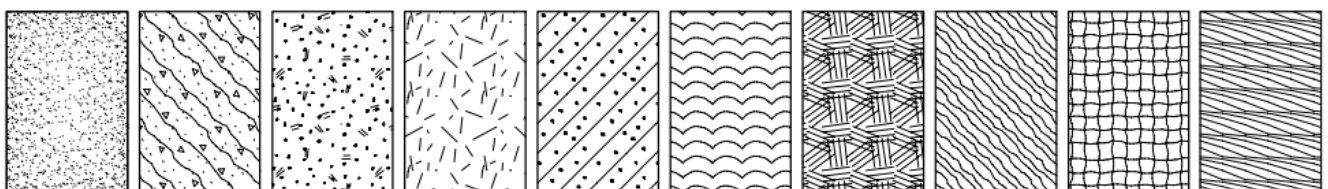
Small



Tropical



GROUNDCOVERS/SHRUB AREAS



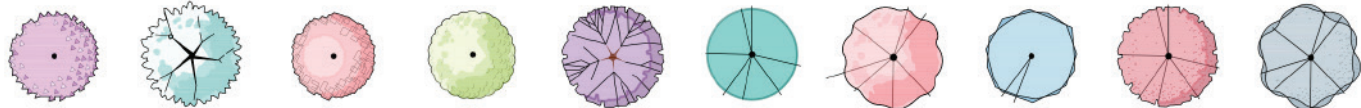
Here is a sample of our vast color symbol library for trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and Shrub Areas.

TREES

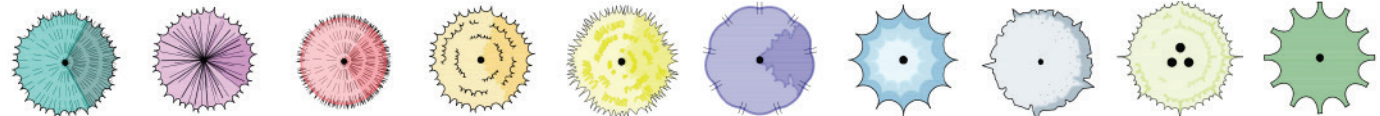
Simple



Interior Leaf Line



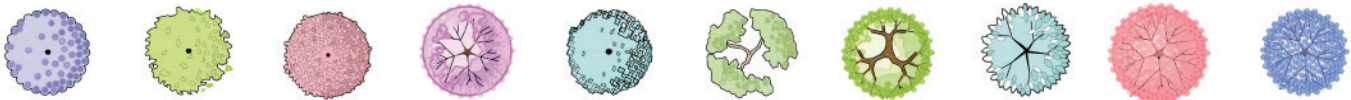
Conifer



Graphical/Palm



Multi-Color/Flower

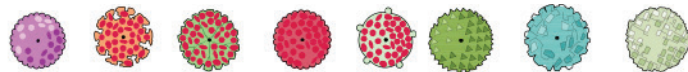


SHRUBS

Simple/Interior Leaf Line



Multi-Color



Tropical



GROUNDCOVERS/SHRUB AREAS



Notes

Use this page to take notes as you learn the software.

Notes

Use this page to take notes as you learn the software.

Notes

Use this page to take notes as you learn the software.