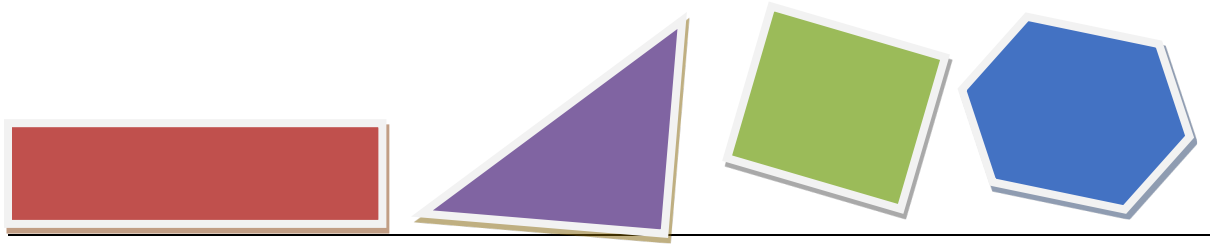


Shapes

In landscaping, the shapes of the material you work with, and the shape of the space that you work in, determine the way you do your job. For example, if you are mixing fertilizer for a lawn, the shape of the lawn determines the way you would calculate the amount of fertilizer you would mix. If the lawn was circular, you would use a specific calculation; if the lawn was square, you would use a different calculation.

As a horticultural technician, the amount of calculating that will be expected of you is minimal; however, you should have an understanding of the basic shapes that you will be working with and an understanding of how those shapes influence how you do your job. Some of the most common shapes you will be working with are called polygons.

Polygons

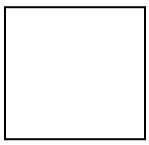
A polygon is a many-sided shape made up of line segments. All polygons have straight sides.

A **regular** polygon has **equal** line segments. When we look at polygons for this course, we should look at the following properties:

1. The number of sides
2. The length of the line segments

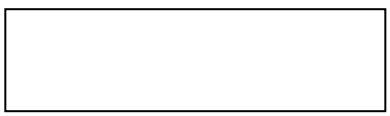
Regular Polygons

Square



- All four sides are of equal length.

Rectangle



- Opposite sides are of equal length.

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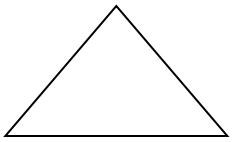
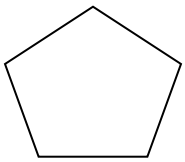
Triangle

- A three-sided enclosed shape. The prefix **tri** means 3.



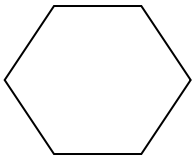
Pentagon

- A 5-sided polygon. The prefix **pent** means 5.



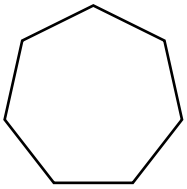
Hexagon

- A 6-sided polygon.



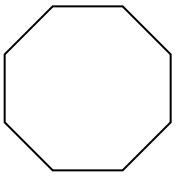
Heptagon

- A 7-sided polygon.



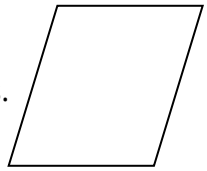
Octagon

- An 8-sided polygon. What traffic sign does the octagon remind you of?



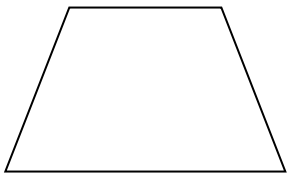
Parallelogram

- Opposite sides are parallel and are equal lengths. Opposite lines never cross.



Trapezoid

- One set of the lines are parallel; the other set is not. One set could cross if you extend the lines far enough.



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