

Garden Planning Checklist

1. FIND THE BEST SPACE

- Determine how much space you have for your garden
- Observe *how* the sunlight hits that space, and determine the amount of sun the space receives

2. SET YOUR BUDGET

- Take a look at your household budget and set a limit for your garden
- Consider items you will need to purchase or borrow: gardening tools, building materials, soil, compost, seeds, seed trays, plants purchased locally, kitchen items for preserving food, etc.

3. GET REAL WITH YOUR TIME

- How much of your time are you willing to dedicate to the garden? (Babying plants, pulling weeds, watering, harvesting, preserving, cleaning up the garden at the end of the season.)
- Do you have someone to help?

4. FIND YOUR ZONE

- <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>

5. DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT TO PLANT

- What fresh foods do you enjoy?
- How many of each type do you want to plant?
- How much space do you have for storing your harvest?
- Will you donate or share produce?

6. RESEARCH YOUR CHOICES

- Which plants are best to start from seed indoors?
- Where will you purchase garden-ready plants?
- Which plants get sown directly into the garden?
- What are the mature sizes for each of your plants?

7. LAYOUT YOUR GARDEN PLAN

- Sketch a plot with paper and pencil (or use Excel) to draw a plot roughly the size of your garden space.
- Determine the layout of your plants by height (so they don't shade other plants), and by good neighbors/bad neighbors
- Using your measurements for your entire space, determine how many of each plant will fit, and where they will be planted.
- Have fun!**