

PLANNING A GARDEN

There are many types of gardens and reasons to garden. Gardens can grow food for people, create beauty, provide food and habitat for wildlife, prevent flooding from rainwater, attract pollinators, prevent erosion, and more. Gardening can be hard work and it can also be a fun physical activity.

Can you think of other kinds of gardens or reasons to garden?



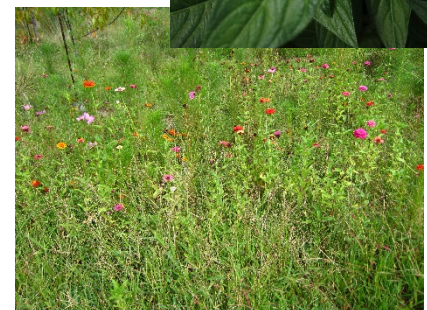
DESIGN YOUR OWN GARDEN

If you have a place where you can plant plants, design a real garden. If you don't have a place that you can plant plants, design an imaginary garden or a garden you would like to have in the future.

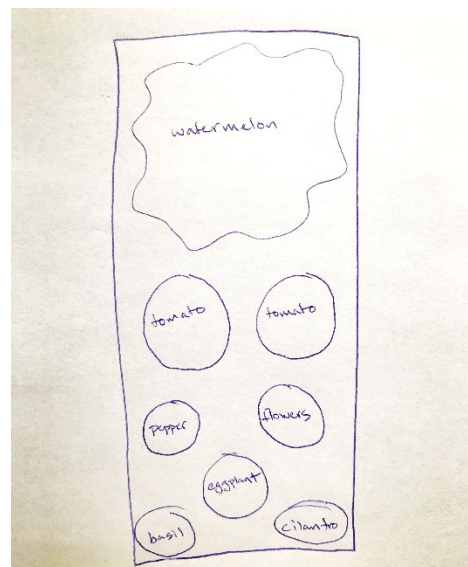
You could choose to design a garden using plants that can grow in our area or plants from somewhere else!

First, think about these decisions. You could write your ideas in your nature journal or talk about them with your family.

1. Decide on the reason for your garden. What kind of garden will you design?
2. Decide on the place for your garden. Will it be in your yard? A bed in a community garden? In pots? In your imagination?
3. Decide on the size of your garden. How much space do you have for your garden?
4. Check on the different plant needs in your garden space. How much light is there? What is the soil like?
5. Decide what plants you want to put in your garden. Favorite fruits? Vegetables? Flowers – what kind? Ferns? Native plants?



Now, use all of your ideas to draw your garden! How do you want your garden to look? Make a map that shows what plants go where.



PLANT YOUR GARDEN

If you can plant your garden, the next step is to get everything ready! Make sure the place you're planting doesn't have weeds, and has enough soil.

Then, get your plants. You can plant your plants as seeds or as small plants.

If you are going to buy seeds to use in your garden, seeds packets have information about how to grow your plant. Learn how to read a seed packet here:

<https://edibleschoolyard.org/how-read-seed-packet>

This chart on the next page gives some information about common plants that you can plant from seeds or as small plants.

You may need to do more research about the plants you plan to put in your garden.

Some Common Plants Planted from Seeds and What They Need in Our Area

Plant Type	When to Plant Outside	How deep	What kind of Soil	How Far Apart	Light needed	Full Grown	Other Information
Pansies	October	1/6"	Rich, well drained, lots of organic matter	7-12"	Full sun to partial shade	1-3 weeks	Pansies are edible
Tomatoes	Late April	1/8"	Well drained, lots of organic matter	12 -48"	Sun	6-8 weeks	Start seeds indoors 6-8 weeks before planting
Basil	2 weeks after last frost	1/8 – 1/4"	Well drained, moist, moderately rich	4-8"	Sun	50-60 days	Start indoors
Mint	Spring or anytime until 2 months before 1 st frost	¼"	Rich, well drained, Adapts to many	18-24"	Full sun to partial shade	90 days	Best to grow in pots because they will take over the garden
Sunflowers	Late spring	½"	Loose well drained	6"	Sun	80-120 days	2-3" between rows, Have long tap root
Radishes	2-3 weeks before last frost	½"	Fertile, well-drained, deep, sandy	1"	Full sun to partial shade	3-4 weeks	Cool weather crop, replant every 2-3 weeks until first frost, rows 10-16" apart
Spinach	4-6 weeks before last spring frost	½"	nitrogen-rich soil	2"	Full sun to partial shade	6-8 weeks	Plants have a deep taproot, loosen soil 1' deep
Marigolds	After spring frosts	1"	Moist, well drained	8-12"	Full sun to partial shade	8 weeks	
Zucchini's	Spring to mid-summer	1"	Warm, moist	3'	Sun	6-8 weeks after planting	Plant in holes
**Potatoes	Early spring	6-8"	Moist but not water-logged	12-15"	Sun	10 weeks	Cut potato, plant cut side down, Rows 3' apart

** grown from cut potatoes