

# Garden Planning

Great gardens are the result of planning and research. They're well worth the effort!



## STEP 1: Dream and Research

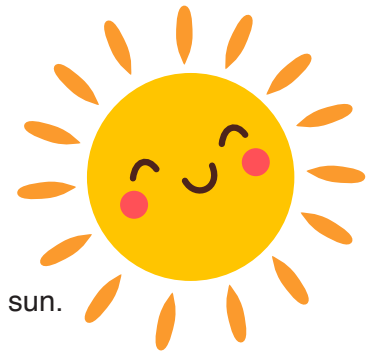
Start by thinking about the kinds of plants you want to grow. Research the needs of the plants and learn how they will grow. Here are some good questions you'll want to answer:

- How much sun and water do the plants need?
- How big will the plant get?
- Do they need something to support them as they grow?
- Look up the "hardiness zone" the plants grow in to be sure you're planting something that will thrive. Learn the frost dates so you don't plant too early or late in the season. If you live someplace very cold, you might want to start with seeds or plants indoors and then move your plants outside after the frost date.
- Are you planting in the ground or in container?
- Does the plant have specific planting needs?

### Plant Research

Plant Name	Hardiness Zone	Hours of Sunlight	Water Needs	Planting Notes	Comments

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## STEP 2: Make a Plan

- Draw a sketch of the area where you want your garden to be.
- Spend a day observing how the **sun** shines on the area. Consider taking a photograph every hour to see how the light passes over the ground throughout the day. This will give you a good sense of which areas get the least or most sun.
- Make sure you have a good source of water.

## STEP 3: Prepare Your Garden

- Invest in a soil that is nutrient-rich and well-drained.
- Remove old plants, rocks, and other debris.
- Talk with local gardeners and seek advice on how they deal with undesirable insects and critters.

## STEP 4: Plant and Care

- Plant according to your research.
- Water and feed your plants regularly.