Growing Gardens

Results Leadership

Gardens can provide a feast for our eyes as well as our bodies. Whether a small garden in windowsill boxes or a larger garden in a backyard or a community green plot, when we are intentional about what and where we plant, our vision comes to life in amazing shapes and colors. Weather conditions and terrain affect how to care for gardens. Explore the needs of various plants to see which need full sun or partial shade, and note which need room for vines to roam or stakes to guide upward growth. Interview successful gardeners and conduct research to help your garden produce fruitful results.

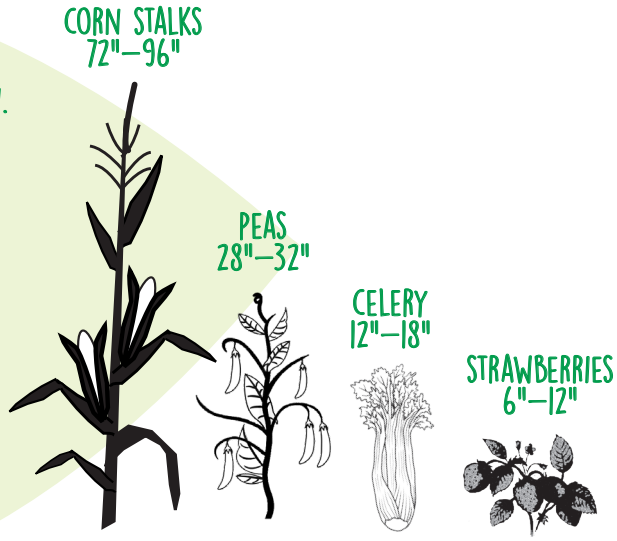


RESPOND to the soil, sun, and climate conditions available for your garden. Consider a variety of plants—those that produce fruits, vegetables, or lovely flowers. Note what each plant needs. How much growing space do you have available? Would the plants be grown in pots or in the ground? Would you start by planting seeds or seedlings? How much sun and water do these plants need? What type of soil is available? Do these plants prefer sandy, silty, chalky, or loamy soil or can they thrive in clay? If you are considering fruits or vegetables, when should they be planted and how long of a growing season do they need before they can be harvested? If you are planning a flower garden, will you plant annuals or perennials?



MAKE A LIST OF PLANTS YOU MIGHT INCLUDE IN YOUR GARDEN. WRITE THE EXPECTED HEIGHT NEXT TO EACH.

PLANT NAMES	TYPICAL HEIGHT





Kiersten Y.



Greg W.



Joy D.

Crayola Education

THINKING SHEET

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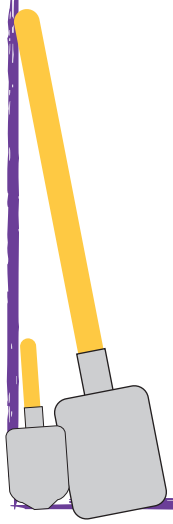


CREATE a sketch of your ideal garden, using the information collected about the plants that will thrive in your local conditions. Of the seeds or seedlings that you decide to grow, which are expected to be the tallest plants? Shortest? What colors will the vegetable, fruit, or flower blossoms be? How can you arrange the plants so that all are visible and are not blocking the sunlight, and the colors create a balanced scene of visual harmony?



DESIGN YOUR GARDEN.







TIP:
Use an erasable colored pencil for your first draft. Color your final version with markers or crayons for a bold image.

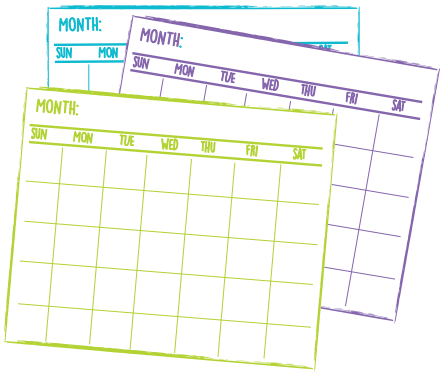


PRESENT your garden plan to others who are involved in designing and nurturing the garden. Often classmates, family members, and/or neighbors collaborate to select a plot, plant the seeds or seedlings, and care for a garden. Sharing plans provides great opportunities to blend ideas.



CONNECT your plans with actual harvest results over the next few months. Use a calendar to track the amount of produce or flowers that grow and which days they are picked. Radishes, peas, and lettuce mature faster than tomatoes. Squash is harvested late in the fall. Your flower bouquets can include different varieties throughout the spring and summer. Investigate what might be influencing unexpected results. For example, did animals nibble on seedlings and stunt their growth? Were there enough insects to pollinate the plants? Was there a drought or excessive water/flooding that disrupted growth? Talk with other local gardeners to compare anticipated and actual results.

USE A CALENDAR TO RECORD THE HARVEST RESULTS



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