

ETCD New Garden Worksheet

Step 1: Where is the garden going to be?

Before you really start planning how you are going to build your garden, you need to figure out where it will be. Determining this early in the process will help you choose the best methods and practices to build a healthy garden.

Descriptively describe the area:

In your own words, describe the garden area. Some examples of what to include are: Coastal or Inland, Tundra or Temperate, near bodies of water, permafrost, is the site on a hill or flat area,

ETCD New Garden Worksheet

Step 2: Knowing the facts about your area

Where is your sun?

Knowing where your sun is during the growing season is very important. The amount of direct and indirect sunlight and the position of the sun will help determine how to set up the garden area.

1. How high is the sun at your location around noon.
2. When do you start to see the sun in the year (how long is your growing season).
3. Where is the sun in regards to the location (east, west, north, south)
4. How long is the daylight hours during the growing season?

What is the climate in your area?

Water

1. How much rain do you get in a year (inches or cm)?
2. Do you have large rain events or drizzly rain events?
3. When is your wettest month?
4. How much snow do you see on average during the winters?
5. Does the snow stick around (average snow pack) and until when?

Wind

1. Is your location windy during the growing season?
2. Is the wind gusty or constant?
3. Does the wind come from the same direction or from different directions?

Temperature

1. What is the average summer temperature in your area (F or C)?
2. What are your extremes for the summer months (growing season)?
3. When do you start to see temperatures above freezing at night in the spring?

ETCD New Garden Worksheet

4. When do you start to see temperatures below freezing at night in the fall?
5. When is your warmest time of day?

Step 3: Building or improving your soil

1. Do you have soil in the area you would like to plant a garden?

How deep is this soil (inches or cm)?

If you have soil, have you done any soil testing or the jar test?

2. What do you have that can be used to help improve or build your soil in your community?

☐	Food compost
☐	Yard compost
☐	Animal/Fish Compost
☐	Vegetation
☐	Bones
☐	Manure if yes, what type:
☐	Sand
☐	Clay
☐	Other

Step 4: Logistics

Water

1. Do you have a water source for the garden?
2. How far away is this water source?
3. What mechanisms are you going to use to get water to the garden?

Labor

1. How many people are going to help implement this garden?
2. How many people are going to help maintain this garden?

Equipment

ETCD New Garden Worksheet

1. What type of equipment for creating the garden do you already have on hand? (i.e. wheelbarrows/carts, tractors, shovels, hoses, etc.)

Budget/timeline

1. What is your budget for the garden (approximate range)?
2. What is your timeline for having a functioning garden (start to table)?

Step 5: Ideally, what would you like to grow in your garden?

What types of plants would you like to grow in your garden? Think about what the food will be used for, how many you would like it to feed, and what you are likely to eat. The sky is the limit here, so just list everything you would like to grow.

ETCD New Garden Worksheet

Step 6: Map it

Draw a simplified map of your garden site. Use blue arrows to indicate where water runoff is going, draw the sun on the side of the garden the closest. Draw in any greenhouses, where the water is coming from, and any other distinguishing characteristics. Make sure to mark any trees that are staying close to the garden site. Any photos of the area is a great addition to the drawn map.

Example Map:



