

Garden Plan 1

Basics and Dreams



Welcome to the garden plan process I use at Hawthorn Farm! Whatever the scope of your gardening vision, I hope this helps you express it.



The map is not the territory. There is some redundancy in the lists that follow. It's to clarify your patterns and goals. Your plan will change as you learn more. That's okay!



This is geared primarily to the home vegetable gardener. The process is valuable to gardeners and creators of any type—feel free to adapt it for your purposes.

Let's jump right in.

Exercise 1: Make Two Lists

What I know about my garden 10 to 15 things

What I don't know about my garden 10 to 15 mysterious things

Exercise 2

Write a few sentences about what you learned about gardening in the last year.

Sample ideas: hours you spent or wished you spent, gardening, tools you had or wished you had. Which vegetables did you buy? Which of those could be grown by you? What worked and what didn't in your last garden?

Exercise 3

Write a few sentences about how you will know your garden is successful. Be as specific as you can, i.e. I have 50 heads of garlic to braid, I eat a pint of cherry tomatoes every day July through September, my family eats homegrown salads for 6 months, I have fantastic stories of outwitting the local woodchucks... 5 to 10 goals is about right for now. You might have zillions of garden goals, but this is just to find out the ones that are MOST IMPORTANT to YOU.

Exercise 4

Send your imagination into your future garden. You can do this in your garden space, or from wherever you are. What do you see, smell, touch, and hear there? What are your emotions? What are you harvesting? Jot down some unfiltered notes or sketches, or write yourself a letter from your future self at the height of the growing season or at harvest time. Try a few formats.

Wrapping This Phase of Your Plan

Look back over your notes from the previous 4 exercises. Which themes emerge? Which crops are important to you? Remember that crops don't have to be just about calories—you might be looking for a feeling of resilience, or peace, or joy. We're all meant to have nourishing food nearby. This template is just a first look at the delicious art project that is your life in the garden. Draw a final sketch or symbol or doodle to sum up your garden dream.

You can always find me at Hawthorn Farm.org for garden help. We at Hawthorn Farm feed ourselves from our nutrient-dense gardens, year-round. It's a joy to share this process with you. Curious what to do with the information from this template? Stay tuned for worksheets on solar exposure, soil, water, veggie varieties, compost and more!

To the soil that sustains us,

Alexia of Hawthorn Farm

"Transforming suburbia into a permaculture paradise"

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