

# 8 QUESTIONS EVERY GARDENER SHOULD ASK THEMSELVES

In gardening, the possibilities *and* the uncertainties are endless. Overcome the overwhelm and get garden clarity by asking yourself these eight questions.

## 1. What do you want to create?

Picture yourself in your garden five years from now. What do you see? Describe the sounds and smells around you. What does it feel like to be here? What is it like in different seasons and a different times of day? How do your friends and family interact with the space?

## 2. Why does gardening matter to you?

Write down at least 3 reasons why you want to garden.

## 3. What elements are part of your dream garden?

What plants would you love to have? Do you want any structures or benches or water features? Would you like to have animals (like chickens!) or special areas for children? What wildlife do you want to attract to your garden?

## 4. How much can you give to your garden?

When can you schedule time for your garden into your calendar?

How much of the work can you do yourself? If you need help from others, when are they available?

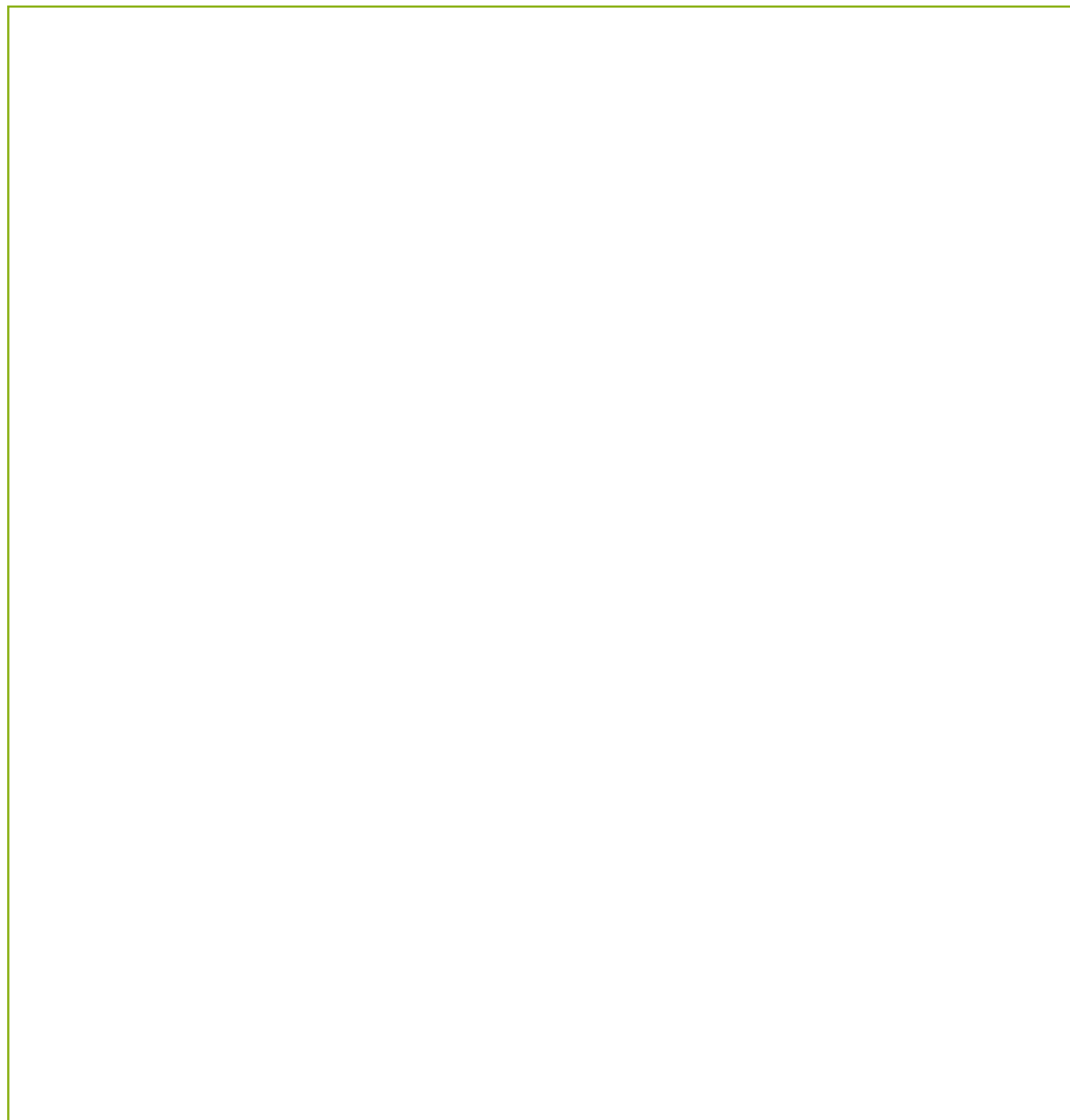
How much money will you spend on your garden? Will you find creative ways to pinch your pennies?  
Or will you use money to take a few gardening shortcuts?

## 5. What is happening in your yard now?

Go outside and observe. Here's a list of possible observations to get you started:

Movement of the sun (daily and seasonally)  
Shadiest and sunniest spots  
Water sources (manmade and natural)  
Movement of rain and other water across land  
Directions of summer and winter winds  
Existing structures

Notable trees, shrubs and other plants  
Existing paths or driveways  
Slopes  
Views you want to enhance or block  
Areas with problem soils  
Areas with soils ready for planting

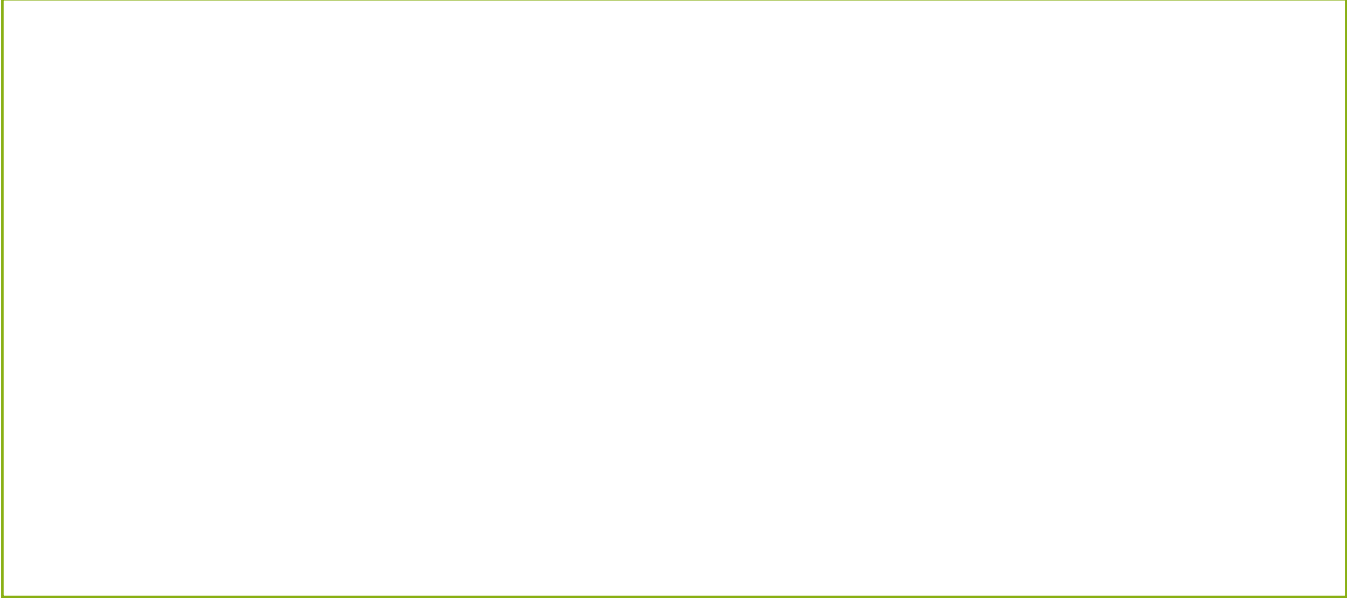


## 6. What elements or projects are the most valuable?

a. How do you measure value? Use your "why" from #2 to decide.


6b. Take your list from #3 and rank it by value. You can re-write it here, or number it above.

6c. Take the top few elements from your list and break them down into actionable steps.



## 7. What can you do now to save time and resources later?

These are capacity-building tasks that leverage your efforts. For example, keeping good records, caring for soil, mulching, and growing from seed.



## 8. Who can you turn to for help?

What are three local resources you can go to for help and information.

How can you grow your network of “plant people”?

What are your go-to places for learning (reference books, websites, forums, etc.)?

Now that you’ve completed this worksheet, you have a better understanding of your motivations, values, resources, and the next steps you should take in your gardening efforts.

Happy Gardening!