3/6/2021



Morgan Matchette

Patrick Jolly

Austin Hargis

Garden Planner Preliminary Investigation Report

# Garden Planner Preliminary Investigation Report

# Introduction

Group Members: Morgan Matchette, Patrick Jolly, Austin Hargis

Project Idea: Garden Planner

A website that will allow user to search for plants by hardiness zone, plant type, and sunlight needs. A webpage dedicated to hardiness zones provides the user information from the USDA’s hardiness zone map, with a link to their website. Users can create an account from the main page or through the log in page. They can then use the plant tracker to log plants by sew date and add additional notes.

# Systems Request Summary

The Garden Planner needs a system that will allow users to search for plants by zone and care needs. This system will be in the form of a website and MySQL database. The user can create a login to the site to track their plants. The site would be helpful for users who are interested in planning and organizing their garden.

# Preliminary Investigation Findings

SWOT Analysis:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Strengths | Weaknesses |
| * Ease of access * One site for a variety of information about plants and gardening * Users have the option to filter by zone * Does not mine user data for advertising * Useful for farmers and gardeners | * A large amount of data must be stored and retrieved * Not yet profitable |
| Opportunities | Threats |
| * Advertising for business related companies * Add to home-screen option * Sell garden supplies * Recent surge in new gardeners looking to grow sustainable food options * Increased number of people staying at home | * User credentials could be compromised by hacking attempts * Other competing gardening sites |

**Feasibility study:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Economic** | Benefits would exceed the costs. There are zero costs, and it will provide a reliable database for gardeners. More people are planting their own gardens now due to covid-19. More people are stuck at home and need to explore cost effective ways of growing their own food. |
| **Operational** | Users will be able to reference garden information easily. The interface will be simple but user friendly and attractive. |
| **Schedule** | This project will be due at the end of the semester which is in May. This timeline should be enough time to complete the project requirements. This will also ensure the site is ready in time for Spring gardening. |
| **Technical** | The site will require internet access to use. Some software developing programs and programmers will be needed for development. |

# Recommendations

Allow users to log in and track their garden. Enter plants started and pin specific plants that user will want to access later.

# Time and Cost Estimates

The time constraint for this project is the end of the semester. There are no anticipated costs in materials.

# Expected Benefits

The website will help users plan their garden by allowing them to find plants by their zone. They can filter by herbs, flowers, vegetables, different sunlight needs, and where they tend to thrive. Users can journal their planted seeds with the plant log to track their growth. Additional gardening features can be added in future development. Having all helpful plant information in one place will be helpful for people trying to grow their own garden.