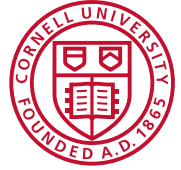


Cornell Cooperative Extension

Cornell Garden-Based Learning



Garden Site Assessment Basics

It is important to do a basic site assessment before planting a garden. By exploring a garden site and its characteristics we can determine what plants will grow well there. This checklist will guide you through a basic garden site assessment.

Supplies:

- Paper, pencil and clipboard
- Gloves for handling soil
- Optional: Camera



Activity Time: 1-2 hours

Directions:

- Get to know a garden or landscape by observing the site.
- Explore the site by going through the site assessment checklist.
- Make notes, drawings or take photos for each bullet on the checklist.



Site Assessment Checklist



☐ Name or location of property:

☐ What direction is north? How can you tell?



☐ How many hours of sunlight does the site get?

- ☐ Full sun (6 or more hours)
- ☐ Partial sun
- ☐ Shade



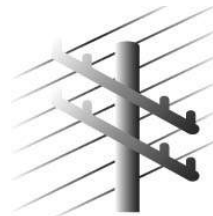
☐ Are there sloped areas?

- ☐ Steep
- ☐ Moderate
- ☐ Gradual or flat

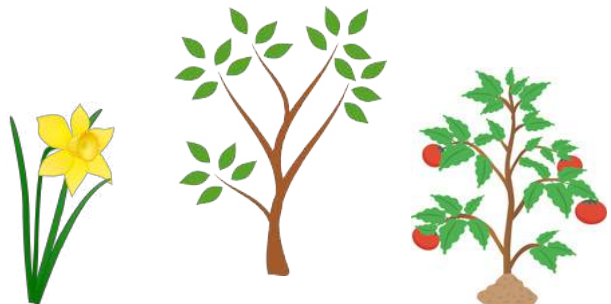


☐ Are there obstructions? (powerlines, fences, etc.)

- ☐ Above ground?
- ☐ Below ground?



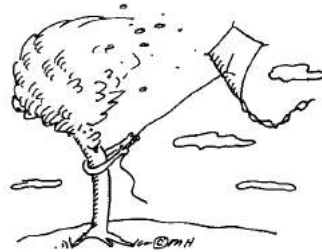
☐ What existing plants do you see?
(Simple description)



- ☐ Are there pollinators such as bees or butterflies?



- ☐ Is the site windy?



- ☐ What does the soil look like?
 - Color:
 - Texture or feel:



- ☐ Do you see standing water or puddles?



- ☐ Do you see signs of wildlife?
 - Chew-marks on plants
 - Foot prints
 - Animal scat



- ☐ Is there anything unusual about the site?

What else do you notice?