



# Garden Planning Checklist

Use this checklist to keep track of your garden planning progress as you begin your growing journey.

Remember, you can find help with every step at [purlsandpixels.com](http://purlsandpixels.com).

## YOUR GARDEN FOUNDATION

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> USDA Growing Zone: _____          | ➔ | Determine your zone to choose plants suited to your climate. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Frost Date: _____           | ➔ | Plan for when to protect plants or end your growing season.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Last Frost Date: _____            | ➔ | Start seeds or transplant outdoors after this date.          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Growing Season Length: _____ days | ➔ | Use this to plan your planting and harvest timelines.        |

## GARDEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Total Garden Space: _____ sq. ft. | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun Mapping:                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Source Location: _____      | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Sun Areas (6+ hours): _____ sq. ft.     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Type: _____                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Sun Areas (4–6 hours): _____ sq. ft. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil pH: _____                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Shade Areas (4 hours or less): _____ sq. ft. |

## PLANNING & PREPARATION SEASON (FEB–MARCH)

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Purchase Seeds</b><br>(Order early to secure your favorites.)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prepare Indoor Growing Space</b><br>(Set up grow lights or sunny windowsills.)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sketch Garden Layout</b><br>(Plan plant position for best sun & spacing.)       | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Plan Compost System</b><br>(Start composting for nutrient-rich soil.)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Gather Basic Tools</b><br>(Trowel, pruning shears, gloves, plant markers, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Complete Soil Test</b><br>(Use a kit or send a sample to check pH and nutrients.) |

## EARLY SEASON (MARCH–APRIL)

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Start Indoor Seedlings</b><br>(Tomatoes, peppers, and other slow-growing plants.) | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prepare Garden Beds</b><br>(Clear debris, add compost, and loosen soil.)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Plan Irrigation System</b><br>(Choose soaker hoses, drip lines, or sprinklers.)   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Add Soil Amendments</b><br>(Boost fertility with compost, manure, or fertilizers.) |

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## PLANTING SEASON (MAY–JUNE)

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Harden Off Seedlings</b><br>(Gradually acclimate plants to outdoor conditions.)        | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Group Plants by Water Needs</b><br>(Simplify watering by placing similar plants together.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prepare Frost Protection Materials</b><br>(Use row covers or cloches for late frosts.) | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Set Up Support Structures</b><br>(Stakes, cages, & trellises.)                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Create Planting Schedule</b><br>(Stagger planting for continuous harvests.)            | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Finalize Garden Map</b><br>(Keep track of plant locations and spacing.)                    |
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## HARVEST SEASON (JULY–OCTOBER)

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Create a Harvest Calendar</b><br>(Track when crops will be ready to pick.)  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Share the Bounty</b><br>(Gift extras to friends or food banks.)                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Monitor Ripeness</b><br>(Harvest at peak flavor and freshness.)   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Store and Preserve</b><br>(Freeze, can, or dry your food and herbs.)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Keep Up with Weeding</b><br>(Regularly remove weeds to prevent them from stealing nutrients and space from your crops.) | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Evaluate Harvest Success</b><br>(Note what worked and what to improve next year.) |

# Year-Round Gardening Tips:

- **Plan Ahead** – Sketch your garden layout and order seeds early to ensure a productive season.
- **Test Soil Annually** – Check soil health at least once a year to maintain optimal growing conditions.
- **Weed Consistently** – Stay on top of weeding to prevent pests and competition for nutrients.
- **Rotate Crops** – Change planting locations yearly to avoid soil depletion and reduce disease risk.

Want more detailed planning tools and guidance?  
Visit [PurlsAndPixels.com](https://PurlsAndPixels.com) for the complete Garden Planning Starter Kit!

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