



Choosing a garden spot

Sun and light

Spot gets at least 6–8 hours of direct sun for most vegetables.

No heavy afternoon shade from trees, fences, sheds, or buildings.

Tall structures will not shade shorter crops during peak season.

Soil and drainage

Area does not hold standing water for more than a few hours after rain

Soil is not compacted subsoil from construction or heavy traffic.

Garden is not directly under large trees or dense shrubs competing for water and nutrients.

Raised beds or containers are planned if native soil is very rocky or heavy clay.

Water access

Hose or spigot reaches the garden easily without multiple connections.

Path to water is safe and not slippery or obstructed.

Plan exists for regular irrigation (hose, watering can, drip, or soaker hoses).

Distance and visibility

Garden is within easy walking distance of the house or main door.

Beds are visible from a frequently used window, porch, or path.

There is enough space to move around beds with a wheelbarrow or tools.

Microclimate and safety

Site is not a wind tunnel between buildings or at the bottom of a cold, frost-prone hollow.

Area is not over septic fields, utilities, or places that may need future digging access.

Pets and wildlife access are considered; fencing is possible if needed.

Layout and future expansion

Enough room for current crops plus basic paths between rows or beds.

Tall crops can be placed where they will not shade shorter, sun-loving plants.

Space exists for compost bins, trellises, or an extra bed later if you expand.