

## Week 1: Small Space Garden Design

### **Objectives:**

Describe a variety of small space garden types

Determine where to place a garden based on space available, exposure to sun, amount of time available/desired, what you want to plant

Know what materials are needed to begin garden

### **Introductions –**

Introduce yourself to the class. Some information you may want to share

Do you have a garden? Why or Why Not?

Why are you interested in gardening?

Ask students to introduce themselves and why they are interested in gardening.

Explain why gardens are important:

On a global scale – Sustainability, less waste, green and organic gardening techniques

On a local scale – Fresh, healthier foods, knowing where food is from, less dependent on gas and oil for delivery of foods, spending less money

Explain to the class that gardening can be as sophisticated or as simple as they want it to be. One of the goals of this class is to expose you to a variety of techniques to use to begin and maintain a garden. Use this information as guidelines and adapt them to your needs and comfort level.

### Types of Gardens

Popular Garden types for Small Spaces

Container Gardening

Patio Gardening

Square Foot Gardening

Community Gardening

Window Gardening

Please note that many of these gardening types are subsets of one another. For example, a square-foot garden can be created in a backyard or in a community garden. Container gardens can be created on a patio, balcony, deck or inside.

Below are videos and websites with additional information about each garden type. If you aren't sure about a garden type, take 5 – 10 minutes to look at some of the resources below.

Gardening Ideas:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSUC3AHekRs&feature=BFa&list=WL9A4FCB337DD545D0&index=2>

General Gardening Tips:

[http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/lawn\\_garden/veg.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/lawn_garden/veg.html)

Square Foot Gardening:

<http://www.mysquarefootgarden.net/choosing-a-gardening-method/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0NBiyd8w&feature=BFa&list=WL9A4FCB337DD545D0&index=6>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNxmOrxZM9Q&feature=BFa&list=WL9A4FCB337DD545D0&index=7>

Community Gardening:

<http://www.communitygarden.org/learn/>

Patio/ Balcony/Container Gardening:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smS20a1Hbec&feature=BFp&list=WL9A4FCB337DD545D0&index=1>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBLfVXpRkPQ&feature=BFa&list=WL9A4FCB337DD545D0&index=4>

Window Gardening:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9q6yOKcg8&feature=BFa&list=WL9A4FCB337DD545D0&index=5>

## Class Activities

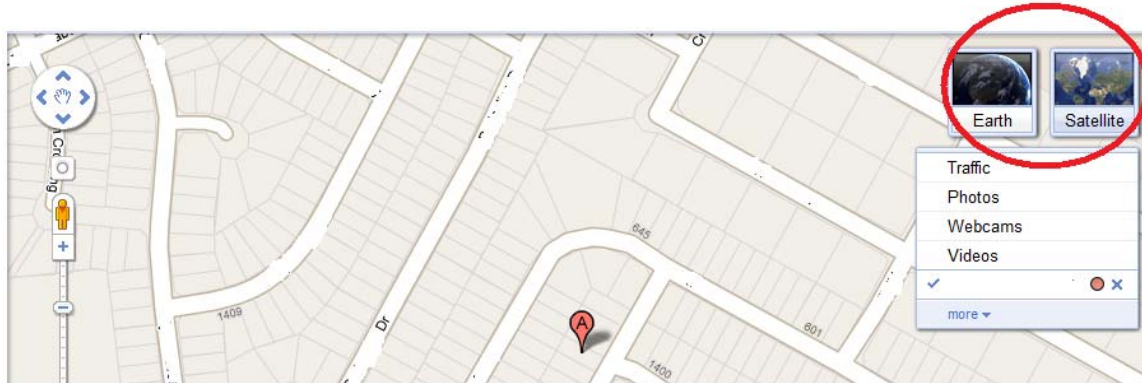
### Activity #1: Determining where to place your garden

When determining a location for your garden, one important thing to consider is exposure to sun. Placing your garden on the south or west side of your house is best to maximize the amount of sun exposure. (Remember, the sun rises in the east and sets to the west).

We will use Google Maps to identify possible locations of your garden. Get into groups based on the type of garden you are interested in.

- Step 1. Go to [markup.io](http://markup.io).  
Follow directions to place the markup icon on your bookmark bar in your web browser. You will use this at step 5.
- Step 2. Go to the Google Maps website ([maps.google.com](http://maps.google.com))  
Type in the address of the location where you plan to grow your garden.

- Step 3. In the right hand corner of the maps, click on Earth or Satellite. Viewing your home in the Earth or Satellite View will allow you to determine N, S, E and W.



- Step 4. Once you are in the Earth or Satellite view, use the Zoom tool and Compass tool (on the right side of your screen) to orient your house in an appropriate direction.



- Step 5. Identify a few locations to place your garden. Use the Markup Tool from Step 1 to draw a square or circle around potential area. Discuss this with someone in your group.
- Step 6. Once you have marked up possible locations for your garden on the webpage, email yourself a link of the webpage to reference at home.
- Step 7. When you get home, verify the amount of sun exposure to the areas you want to place your garden. Select an area.

## **Activity #2: Materials for garden**

Now that you have decided what type of garden you want, in your group discuss what you will need to get started. Feel free to use the websites provided to find answers to your questions or use other resources. Good resources outside of class include: someone at a local nursery, family, friends, or neighbors who have a garden.

### Guiding Questions for all groups

What type of gardening tools do I need? What types of vegetables, fruits, herbs, flowers am I interested in planting?

### Guiding Questions per group

#### Square foot Garden

How big do you want the garden to be? Do you want to use wood or concrete blocks? Do you want to build the perimeter or buy one that is pre-built? If you are going to build the perimeter, are there any places to get repurposed wood? How do I remove grass and weeds from the area where I want to place my garden? Should I plant a raised garden or in-ground garden?

#### Container Garden

How many containers do I need? What type of containers is best? How big should the containers be?

#### Community Garden

How do I organize people in my community? Should I contact my HOA? Should I plant a raised garden or in-ground garden?

In the forum area on the website, begin discussion threads to document additional questions and document questions discussed in class and responses

### Tasks to complete by next class meeting

- Decide on location for garden
- Prepare location for garden
- Obtain tools and materials for garden

Optional Meet-up this week – Community Garden