



Love & Carrots

Garden Design, Installation, & Coaching





Gardening in Challenging Spaces

Garden Design, Installation, & Coaching



Outline

- **Love & Carrots**
- **Garden Set Up**
 - **Sun & Site Assessment**
 - **Soil**
 - **Water**
- **Sub-optimal conditions**
 - **Shady Gardens**
 - **Small Gardens**



What We Do

Design, Installation, Maintenance, Coaching -- Since 2011

Design & Installation

- Over 1000 gardens

Full Service Garden Care

- ~150 Gardens

Garden Coaching

- Curriculum-based
bi-weekly Lessons



Local, Woman Owned & Run, Award Winning



Garden Set Up

Assess your space and optimize garden conditions.

1. **Sunlight:** Maximize Sunlight Hours
2. **Soil & Nutrients:** Optimize your garden set up
3. **Water:** Install Irrigation
4. **Crops:** Guidance & Creativity!

- Shady Spaces
- Small Spaces
- Trouble Shooting



Garden Set Up

Assess your space and optimize garden conditions.

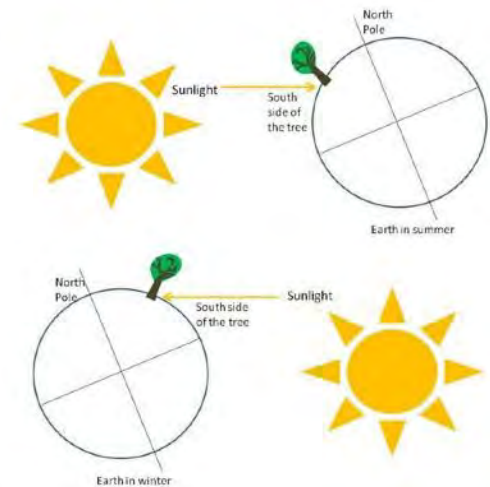
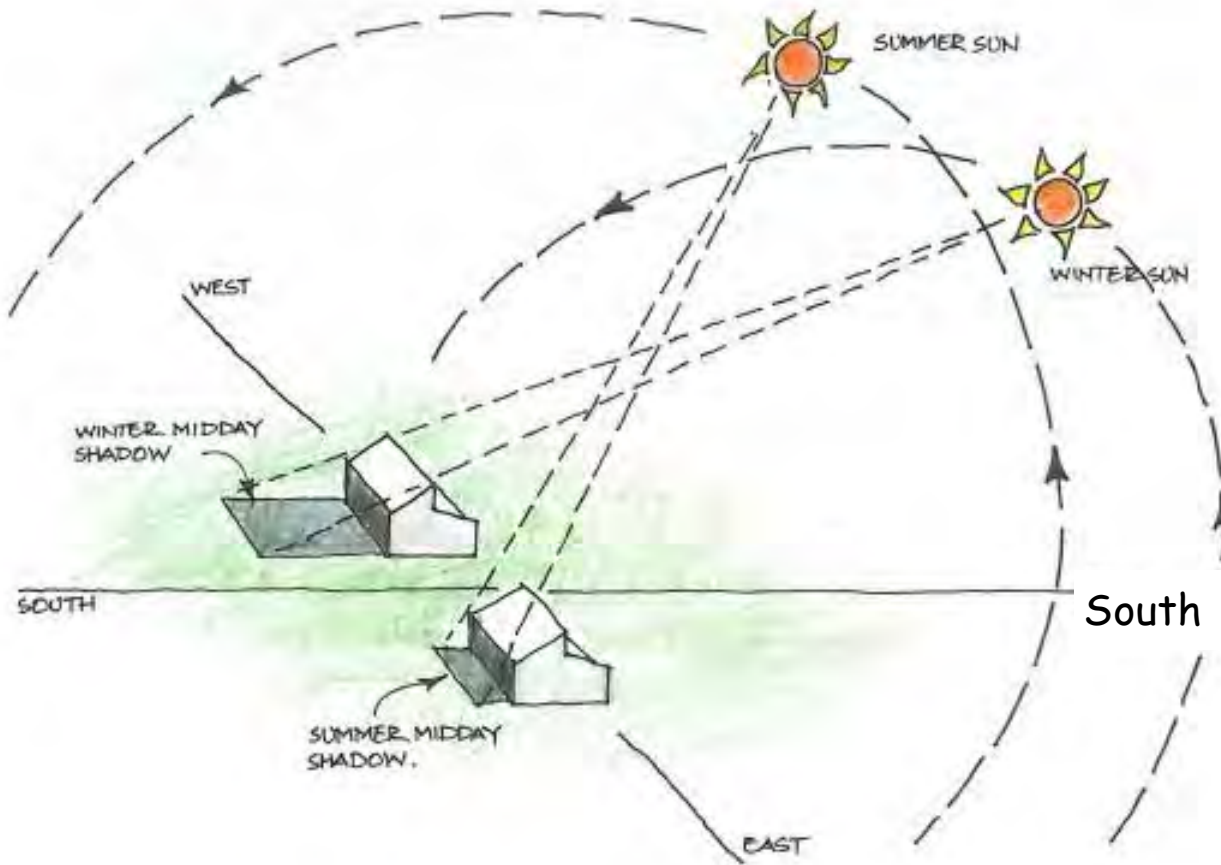
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Start with a Site Assessment

Put Your veggies in the sun!



Start with a Site Assessment



Start with a Site Assessment

Solar Pathfinder



Siting Edibles



Siting Edibles



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Optimize Soil Conditions

Compost.



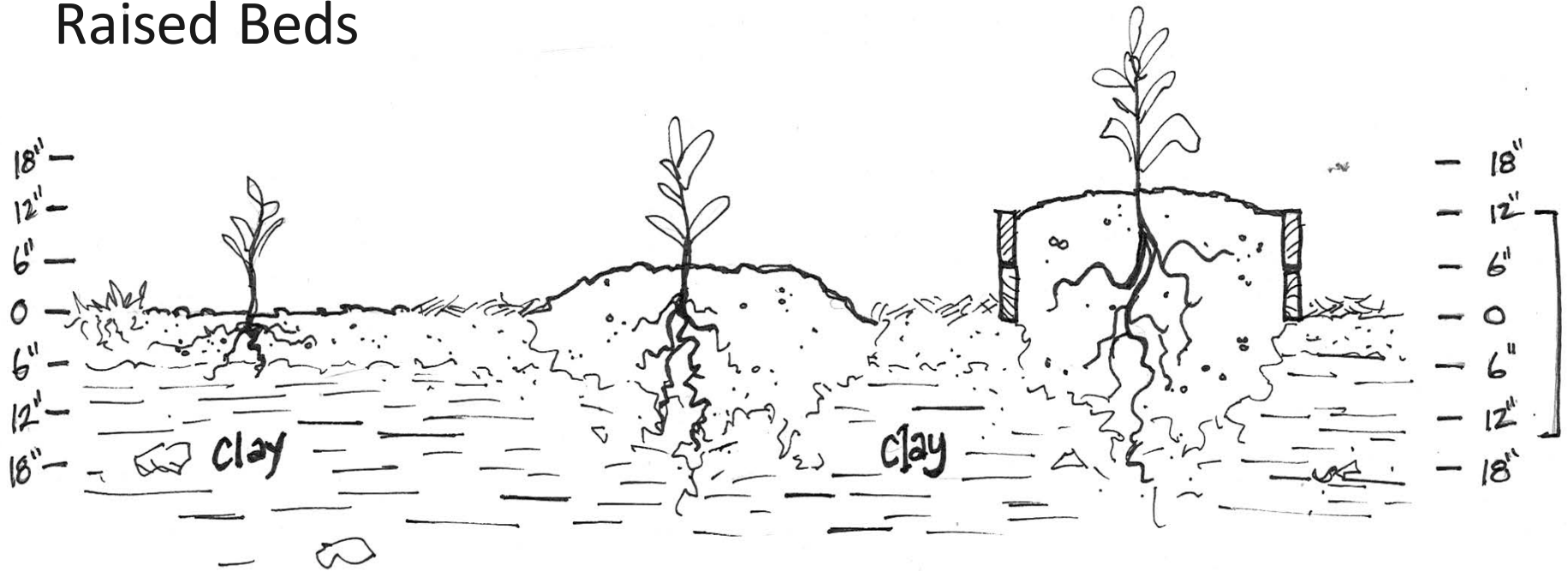
Compost.



Compost

Optimize Soil Conditions

Raised Beds



Improve Soil, Drainage, and Space Efficiency

Optimize Soil Conditions

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Improve Soil, Drainage, and Space Efficiency

Optimize Soil Conditions

Use BIG Pots: Avoid getting root bound



Optimize Soil Conditions

Use BIG Pots:

Avoid getting
root bound



Garden Set Up

PLAN: Use what you have to optimize garden conditions

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Set Up Irrigation

Irrigation is a great investment

- Timer + mainline and driplines for beds
 - Consistent watering
 - Easily adjustable
 - Flexibility to travel
 - More efficient, less water waste
 - Waters at the root line for best uptake by plants



Watering

- Water regularly
 - In spring, every 2-3 days
 - In summer, every day (possibly 2x per day if extra dry)
- Watering in the morning is best
 - Evening is 2nd best
- Water at the root line, not the foliage
- Underwatering can lead to stressed plants
 - Early fruiting
 - Disease
 - Bolting
 - Plant death



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Small Spaces

Tailor Your Crop List: Continual harvest is best

Vegetables that mature SLOWLY and have LOW yield per square foot are not ideal for small space growing:

Crops to Avoid:

- Carrots
- Beets
- Onions
- Potatoes
- Squash
- Okra
- Corn



Small Spaces

Best crops for continual harvest:

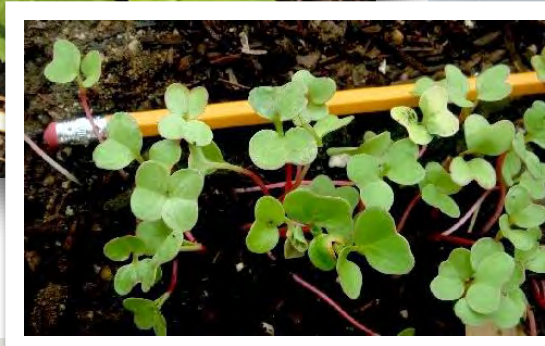
- Tomatoes
 - Cherry tomatoes
 - Look for “determinate” tomato varieties – they are shorter bush-types and don’t sprawl as much
- Most herbs
 - Keep perennial herbs in pots (mint, sage, rosemary, oregano, etc)
 - Basil, cilantro, parsley, dill
- Greens
 - Swiss Chard
 - Kale
 - Collards
 - Asian Greens
 - Salad Mixes
- Peppers
 - Shishito
 - Lunchbox
 - Lipstick
- Eggplant
 - Asian varieties
 - Patio baby
- Cucumbers
 - Diva or pickling varieties
- Beans
 - Climbing or bush varieties



Small Spaces

Progressive Thinning

- Thinning promotes strong growth
- Thin every 2 weeks so that plants are “touching, not crowding”
- Enjoy a microgreen harvest every 2 weeks!
- Crops to thin: salad greens, root crops



Small Spaces

Thinning



Before



After

Small Spaces

Cut and Come-Again Greens

- Get multiple harvests - cut just above the point of growth for salad greens



Small Spaces

Grow vertically

- Smaller Tomatoes
 - Determinate varieties
- Climbing Cucurbits
 - Cucumbers
 - Tromboncino squash
- Pole Beans:
 - Scarlett Runner
 - Blue Lake
- Snap Peas
 - Sugar Anne
- Malabar Spinach



Small Spaces



Grow Vertically!

Small Spaces

Undersowing

- Pair light feeders with heavy feeders
- Layer quick growing crops under young slow-growing crops
 - Baby greens under kale
 - Radishes in front of head lettuce or cabbage
 - Cilantro under Peppers
- Seed new crops under fading old crops, before they are pulled
 - Cucumbers under Peas
 - Carrots under Tomatoes
 - Lettuce under onions

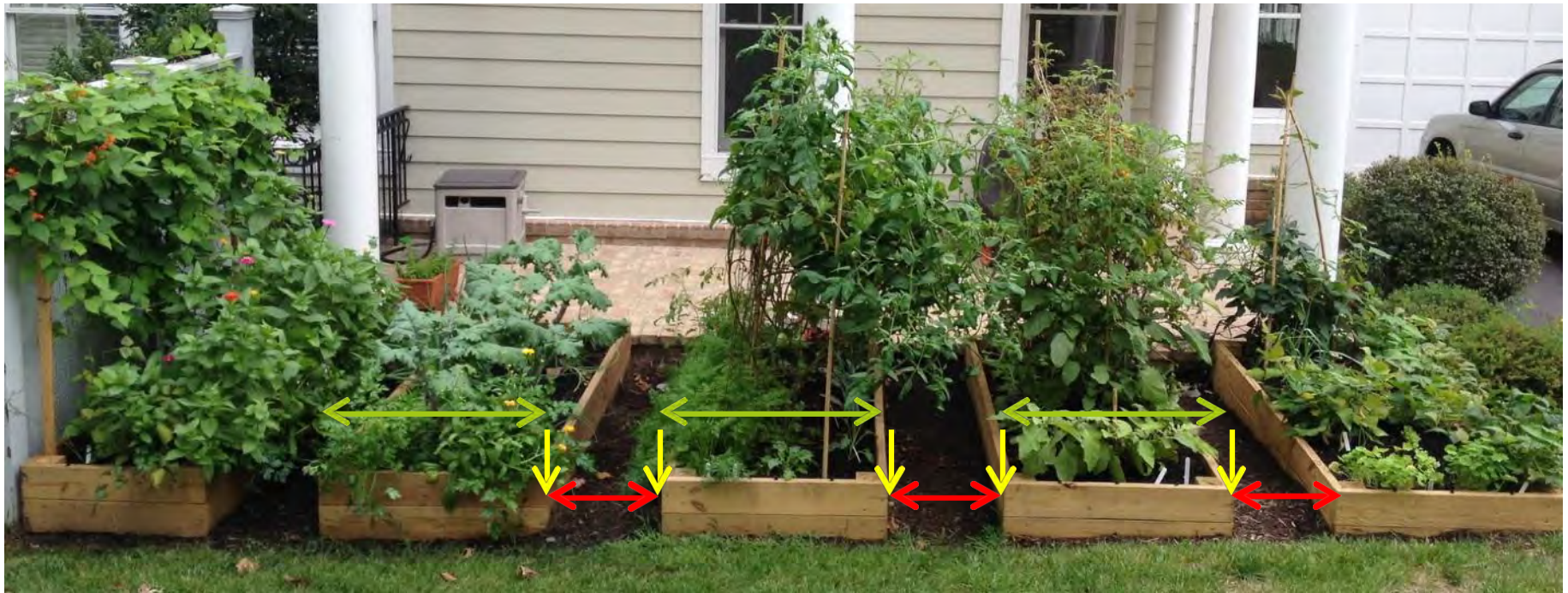


Small Spaces

Maximize Space Efficiency

3 or 4' wide Raised Beds

Narrow Paths: 12" to 18" wide





Shady Spaces

Urban Farm Design, Installation, & Coaching



Shady Spaces - Tailor your crop list

- >8 hours..... Any crops that fit!
- 6 to 8 hours..... Some fruit, herbs, greens
- 4 to 6 hours..... Focus on certain herbs and greens
- < 4 hours Get creative



Shady Spaces

5-6 Hours of Sun

- Cherry Tomatoes (only)
 - Supersweet 100
 - Sungolds
- Herbs
 - Oregano
 - Mint (in pots only!)
 - Rosemary
 - Thyme
 - Chives
 - Basil
 - Cilantro
 - Parsley
- Greens
 - Swiss Chard
 - Kale
 - Collards
 - Asian Greens
- Others
 - Scallions
 - Tromboncino Squash
 - Cucumbers
 - Smaller-fruited Peppers
 - Peas



Shady Spaces

4-5 Hours of Sun

□ Herbs

- Chives
- Basil
- Cilantro
- Parsley

□ Greens

- Salad/Asian Greens
- Swiss Chard
- Kale
- Collards

□ Others

- Scallions
- Cucumbers
- Pea shoots



Shady Spaces

3-4 Hours of Sun

- ❑ Mustard greens, Chard, Kale
- ❑ Baby lettuces
- ❑ Arugula
- ❑ Chives, Basil, Parsley
- ❑ Scallions

Expect that your crops will grow slower and will be smaller

Occasionally you can grow more plants in the same area to compensate for slower growth and smaller maturity size

Try to maximize early spring growing time before trees leaf out





Season Extension

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Season Extension

- Take advantage of deciduous trees dropping leaves for extra sun
- Use row covers to protect crops from frost
- Plant strategically to ensure late fall harvests



This location gets 8 hours of sunlight from October to late April

Season Extension

- Spring plantings
- Don't wait until May!
 - Peas
 - Arugula
 - Spinach
 - Lettuces
 - Scallions
 - Turnips, radish

- Fall plantings
 - Plan for fall/winter crops in late summer
 - Kale
 - Spinach (overwinter)
 - Scallions, leeks
 - Turnips, Radish
 - Some lettuces, winter-hardy greens (claytonia, mache)



Small Spaces

Smart succession planting makes the most of your growing space:

- Spring Carrots into Fall Beets, Spring Beets into Fall Carrots
 - Low growing plants, plant on the South side of the garden beds. Space requirements are also similar.
- Spring Greens into Tomatoes
 - Greens produce a quick crop, timed well with tomato planting time.
- Spring Brassicas into Summer Bush Beans, Fall Carrots
 - Seed beans and carrots any time in early Summer, as soon as your brassicas are finished
- Peas into Cucumbers
 - Both grow on a trellis. Peas will finish in the late spring while cucumbers are just starting in early summer.



Common Pests

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Common Pests

Slugs

Effective Slug Control Methods

- Beer traps
- Slug pellets (iron phosphate)
- Dry it out – avoid overwatering

Less Effective Methods

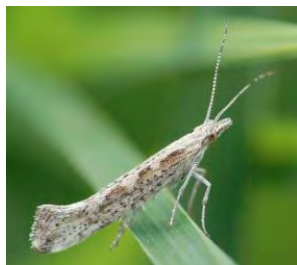
- Copper Strips
- Coffee Grounds
- Cornstarch
- Eggshells or other “rough surfaces”



Slug damage: jagged holes on foliage

Common Pests

Cabbage Worms / Loopers / Moths IPM



- Agricultural Fabric (row covers)
- Hand-picking!
- *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt)
 - Toxic to larva when ingested – only affects leaf-feeding insects
 - Safe for adult insects
 - Harmless to humans
 - Not to be overused

Bt Application:
Timing and location are key

Common Pests

Aphids

- You may notice curling leaves
- Can be grey, black, white, orange
- Tend to attack newest growth
- Control by smushing off by hand, spraying with neem oil
- Spray off with hard jet of water
- Remove heavily infested plants



Recap

- For best success, take care when siting your garden – consider the conditions year-round – sunlight is the number one priority
- Optimize your soil by amending or installing raised beds
- Water consistently and at the soil line, install irrigation if possible
- For small spaces: maximize with crop planning – high yield crops are best
- For shady spaces: choose crops that will tolerate low-light conditions, plant more, and prioritize smaller-fruited varieties
- Identify North in your garden to avoid shading out crops within a bed, and plant strategically
- Extend your season by planting in early spring and planning for the fall

Happy Gardening!



 LOVE &
CARROTS