Cornell - Farm Kitchen Garden School

January Garden Planning Worksheet

When planning your Kitchen Garden, it's a good idea to start by asking yourself a few simple questions. Record your answers to the following prompts to jump start your planning process for the year ahead.

•	Do you have any goals for growing a kitchen garden this year? If so, what are
	they? (For instance, you might be interested in seed saving, exploring organic
	practices, or growing a more diverse garden. If you don't have any now, it's
	totally fine to skip this question and come back to it later!)

• What kind of produce do you and your family enjoy eating?

• Is there a particular dish you serve — perhaps for the holidays — that you would like to grow veggies, fruits or herbs for? This can be a fun way to set a goal and celebrate your garden successes.

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•	What fruits and vegetables have you grown in the past that you would like to try growing again? Are there any you would like to grow for the first time?
•	How much time do you have to spend in your garden?
•	What is your budget? (If you are looking to keep costs low, consider starting seeds rather than planting starts. Or start a few containers!)
help to	nswers to these questions, along with knowledge of your gardening space, will o determine how big of a kitchen garden you should plan. Be realistic! There is a wrong with starting on a more modest scale.

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Do some research on a few of the fruits, veggies, and herbs you identified above that would like to grow in the year ahead. Try grouping them into "cool season" and "warm season" crops, as well as "more sun" and "less sun." Put a checkmark in the corresponding box for each. This will help you to create a plan for your garden space.

Crop	Cool Season	Warm Season	More Sun	Less Sun
Ex: Broccolí	V		V	

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If you have a garden or garden plot, go for a walk around in it, and pay attention to the building blocks of a kitchen garden: Soil, Sun, Water, and Wind. Based on your research, think about which plants might do best in which areas of your garden.

Next, draw your space for kitchen gardening. Include any existing plants and structures, like raised beds or trellises, as well as any you might like to build. Try drawing in where some of the plants on the list from the previous page might go!

Your Kitchen Garden:							

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As you continue to walk around your garden, make note of any tasks you might need to undertake in the year ahead, jot down any reflections on what worked well and didn't work well in the previous year, and identify projects you could undertake to address any issues with Soil, Sun, Water, or Wind. A little creativity goes a long way!

If you didn't have any goals written down at the beginning of this worksheet — and even if you did — try circling back and making a few now that you have given more thought to the matter.

Armed with these notes, you have the beginnings of a plan for the kitchen garden of your dreams. From here, you can continue to refine your goals, research the plants you want to grow, and identify any areas for improvement in your garden. Check back for more "Kitchen Garden School," and until then: *Happy Kitchen Gardening!*