

Start with the space

Use this workbook before the shopping trip, then return to it through the season.

- 1. Observe.** Complete the space audit and light map on two different days. Record the date; light changes across the year.
- 2. Choose.** Decide what you want the garden to do. Limit the first project to one bed, one container group or one useful experiment.
- 3. Plan.** Check each plant's label for mature size, light, hardiness, planting timing and care. Use local guidance and your actual conditions rather than a universal calendar.
- 4. Buy in phases.** Set a budget, list the essentials and leave space for growth.
- 5. Keep evidence.** Use the care log, harvest notes and season review to make the next purchase better.

My first project and the date I will start

Example: three herb containers beside the kitchen door. First action: measure the area and record direct sunlight before choosing plants.

Map the light

Record direct sun, shade and date. Repeat when the season changes.

LOCATION	MORNING	MIDDAY	LATE DAY	TOTAL DIRECT SUN / DATE

A single midday photograph is not a sun map. Record the intervals when direct sun actually reaches each planting location. Use the plant label to match requirements to what you observed.

Best place for my first experiment