



# WHERE SHOULD YOUR GARDENS GO?

Assessing your yard & bed designs





# ASSESS YOUR YARD BEFORE YOU DESIGN YOUR GARDEN

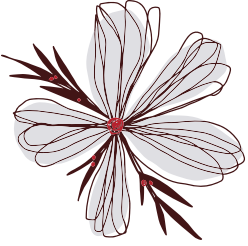
Full midday sun is crucial for gardens in our area, if you don't know, a fun tool for tracking the sun is google earth. You can play with daylight hours according to date. Direct sun changes with the sun's angle and day-length. Try to put yours where is captures the strong midday sun.

Most vegetables need 6-8 hours of direct sun during the growing season.

The tolerant veggies for half-day sun: Leafy greens, spinach, lettuce, so plan for those to be panted in the cooler shadier area reserving the best places for your favourite sun-lovers.



*Keri Knapp*



# ASSESS YOUR SOIL

\*Remember that working saturated soil is detrimental to soil and plant health.

Gardens need to have good drainage or plants will develop disease.

In a new location, it's important to determine the depth of your soil, a minimum of 30 cm is recommended. You can improve upon this over time for free, and though quick fixes usually cost more than free, they may not be expensive. Stay tuned.

Think about competition going on underground as well, tree roots and shrubs have well established roots that may take water or nutrients away from your plants.

There are solutions to no soil, poor soil, poor drainage, weeds, etc. Don't get discouraged, this is about identifying the best spot you have and working with it.





*Create the garden that will work for you.*

1. Garden width matters. Are you able to reach all areas without straining or compacting the soil?

2. Do you prefer to lean over a raised bed or don't mind working on the ground?





# PROS AND CONS OF RAISED BEDS



Raised beds encourage drainage

The soil also warms earlier in the Spring



They *can* dry out quickly, something to keep in mind in the hot months

Can be easier on your body, or not (body depending)

The design can help with a sloped property, holding soil in place

Can cost more in materials but raised permanent beds without sides reap some of these benefits as well and just require a shovel initially.



If using wood, ensure you use untreated wood for the sides. Stone, straw bales, concrete blocks, look for ideas online. Or go sideless: mound your soil up to create the raised effect. Keep drainage in mind too

