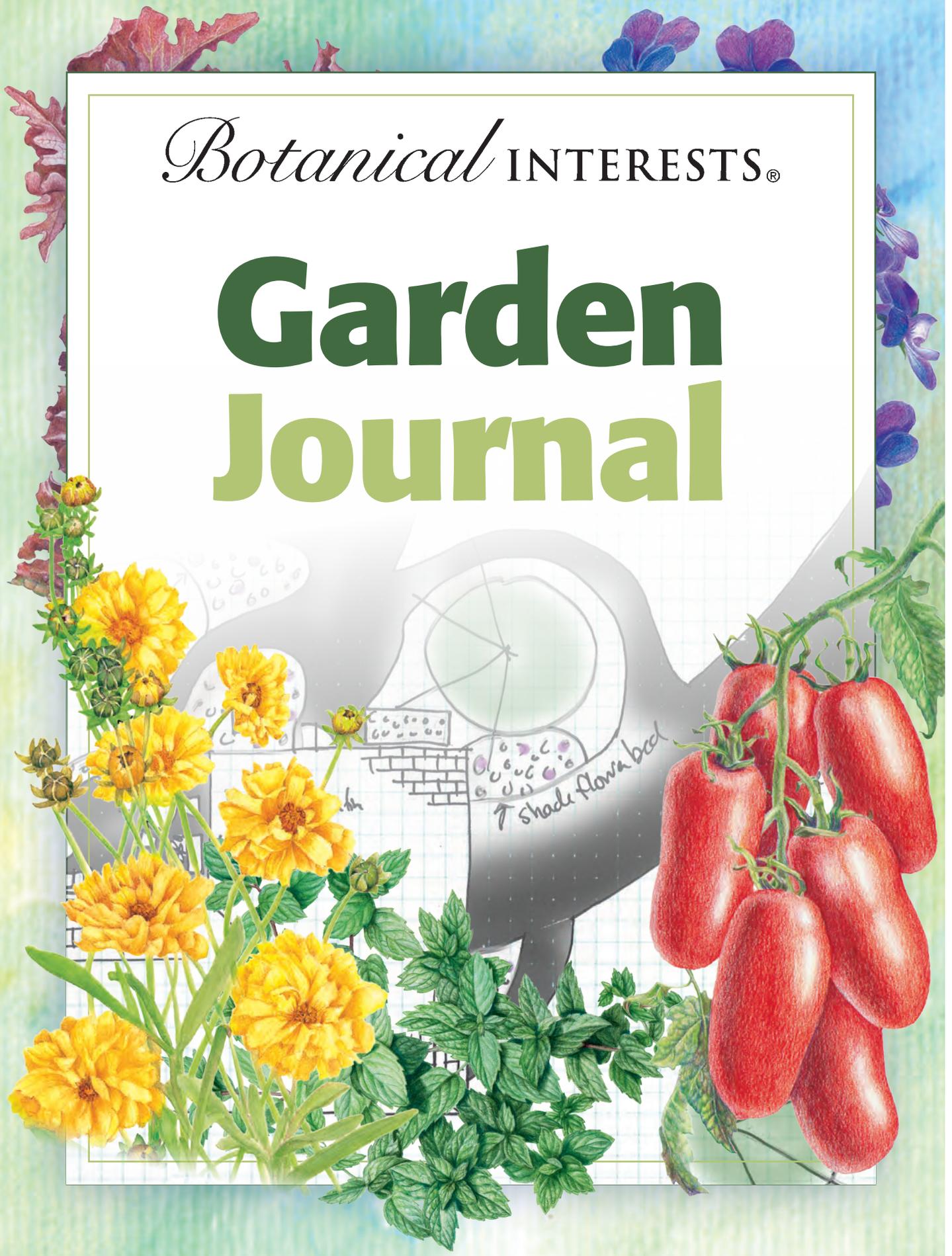


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# Garden Journal



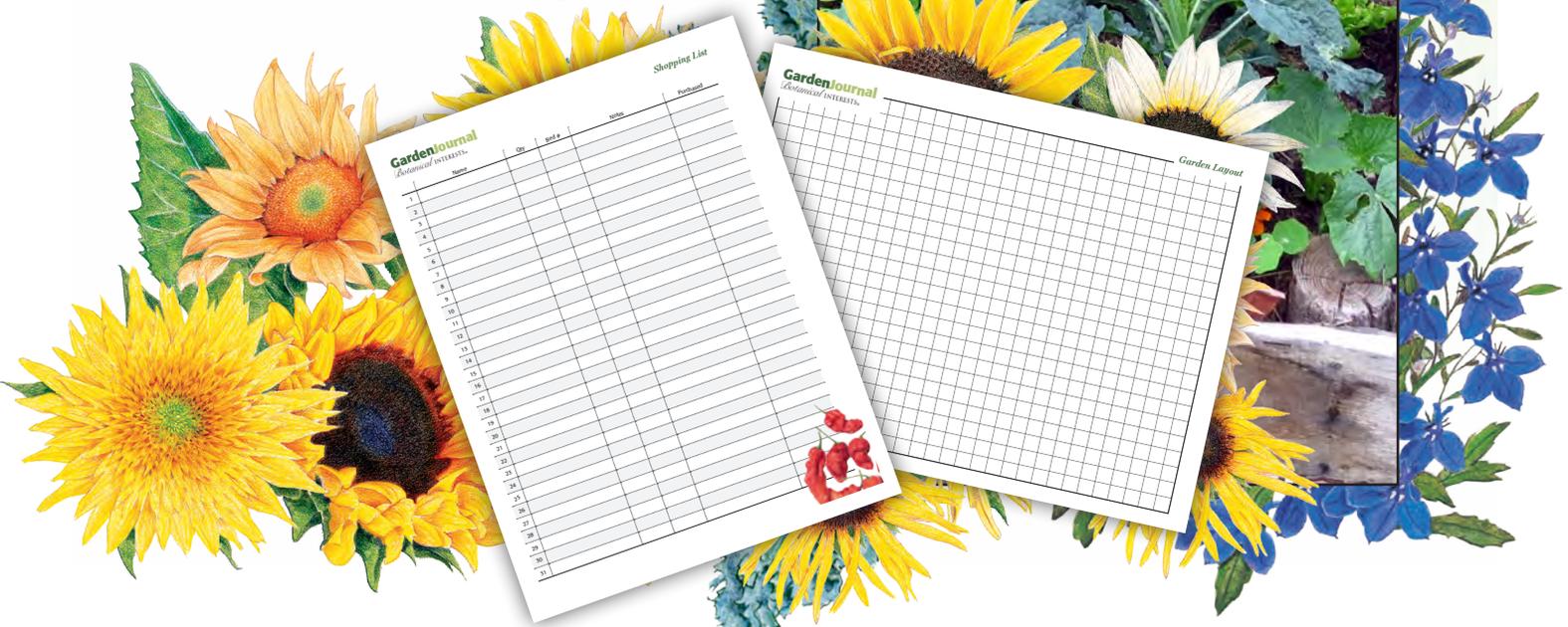
# GardenJournal

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## *Why do we love our garden journal?*

It's amazing how helpful it is to keep a record of your garden's progress so that next year you can remember the little tricks that worked so well, and avoid some that didn't. Garden journaling can be as simple as keeping notes and pictures of the happenings in your garden, as thorough as recording harvest weights and dates, and/or as creative as writing about your garden daydreams. Keeping a journal strengthens your personal connection with your garden and helps you reminisce about the bright warmth of summer while your boots and mittens dry by the fire.

A garden journal can also be in any format with which you feel comfortable. Some gardeners use a bound notebook, attaching photos, seed packets, and notes; some use a three-ring binder to easily add pages and really, anything else they want, and some use an electronic tablet, taking digital pictures to go along with their notes. We've put our heads together to create some journal sheets templates to help you stay organized.



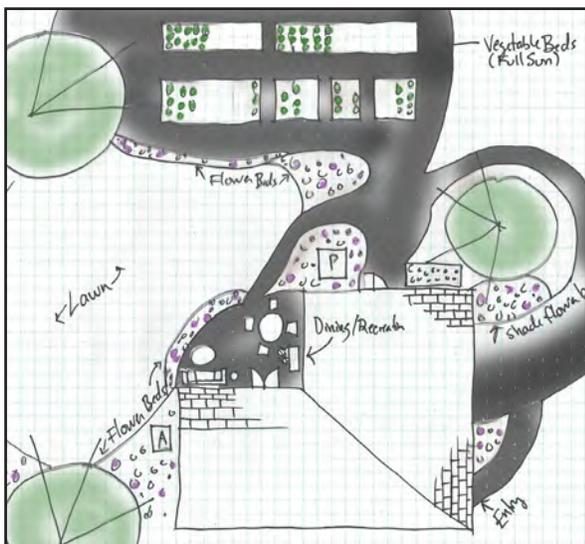
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## Planning

A clever way to visualize and plan your garden is to make the plans tangible. Whether you take a photograph of your space and edit it digitally, print a photograph and draw on it, or even use **graph paper** to draw all of it out, it's helpful to find a way to view and revise your gardening space.

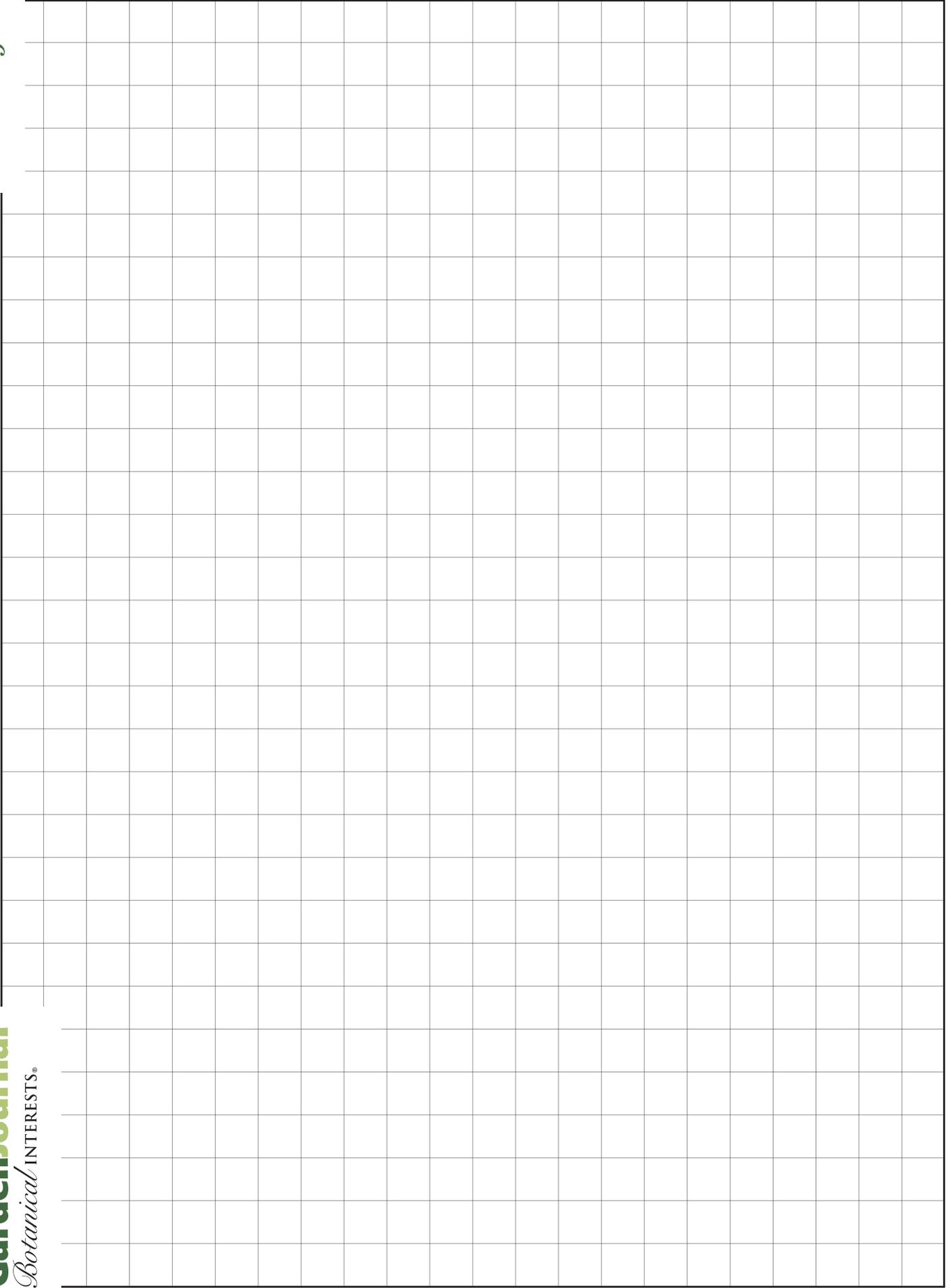
As you flip through your Botanical Interests catalog, have the photo or drawing next to you and think about how different plants may work together in your garden. Maybe you sow corn west of the lettuces to shade them from late afternoon sun, place the herbs front and center for easy access at dinnertime, or note how flowers' blooms and leaves complement each other. Whatever your plan, pencil-in where each variety is going to live. Make sure to draw them at the fully mature size, even if it's just an outline, so you get a realistic view of your future garden. Numbering your garden beds or creating a key for plants can also help you with your organization.



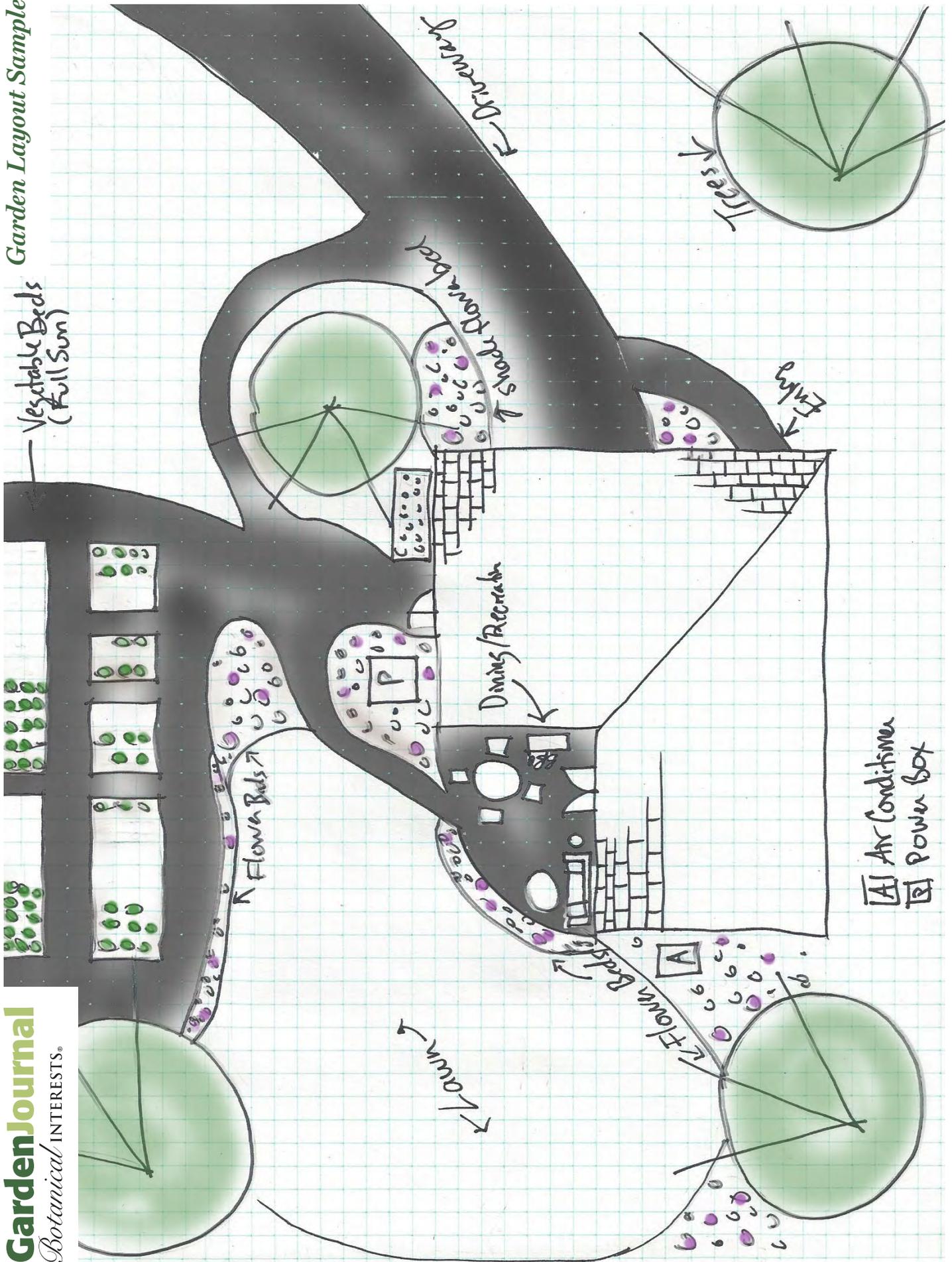
As the season goes on, continue taking photos of your garden as it progresses, definitely when the flowers are in full bloom, and just before you harvest the vegetables. That will be the perfect time to take notes for next season's garden, because next year when you're trying to remember, you'll be glad you have them.

## Shopping List

Now that you've planned what you are going to grow, a **shopping list** with variety names, quantities needed, and which garden bed they are going into can be helpful. On our shopping list, use the notes area to record details, such as African Daisies can get up to 16 inches tall versus the African Crackerjack marigolds that could reach 3 feet. It's not just seeds you need (although that is the best part); maybe you need new pots for indoor sowing, new gloves for weeding, tomato supports, or garden stakes.



Vegetable Beds  
(Full Sun)



	Item	Qty	Bed #	Notes	Purchased
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
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31					



# GardenJournal

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## *Month-to-Month Organizer*

Staying organized in the garden is worth its weight in gold—or seeds, in this case. This **calendar template** organizes three activities in one place in your garden journal, providing an at-a-glance review of a season's successes to learn from for next year.

Fill out the calendars' dates for several months out and mark your average last frost date. The average last frost date for your city or zip code is easy to find on the web or you can consult your local independent garden center.

Now turn to your seed packets and organize them into "sow indoors" and "sow outdoors" piles. For each variety, note the recommended number of weeks before or after your average last frost date, and you'll then count backwards (or forwards, depending on the sowing time) from your average last frost date, noting that variety or crop on the calendar.

Three tricks we use on our calendars:

- 1) Use two different color pens or pencils to indicate which varieties are indoor sowing and which are outdoor, or you can preface the variety with "i" for indoors or "o" for outdoors (e.g. "i-peppers, "o-poppies").
- 2) Use the right column to write notes or reminders to yourself, such as fertilizing your zinnias or weeding the vegetable garden on Saturday. This is also the perfect spot to jot down those tips from our newsletter, your local nursery, or newspaper.
- 3) Tracking the weather is a great tool for later reference. Because the weather has a tremendous effect on your plants' success, it's helpful to know that it rained several inches and maybe that's why your tomatoes had blossom end rot or your corn grew so tall. At the bottom of each day on the calendar is a place to record these natural events, because although you may not be able to control the weather, you can learn from how the conditions affected your garden for future planning. You can use websites like <https://www.weather.org/weather-history/> to fill in your frost weather data.



Month: \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Reminders
<input type="checkbox"/>							
☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ 🌨️ 🌡️	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ 🌨️ 🌡️	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ 🌨️ 🌡️	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ 🌨️ 🌡️	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ 🌨️ 🌡️	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ 🌨️ 🌡️	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ 🌨️ 🌡️	
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☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ 🌨️ 🌡️	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ 🌨️ 🌡️	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ 🌨️ 🌡️	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ 🌨️ 🌡️	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ 🌨️ 🌡️	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ 🌨️ 🌡️	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ 🌨️ 🌡️	
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# GardenJournal

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## Seed Starting

Maybe you've had an experience like this: You found the magic timing to get the earliest crop ever and then by the following year, you've forgotten what seed starting medium you used, how long the grow lights were on per day, how many you grew, what container size you ended up using, how long it took to germinate, and so on? It has happened to most of us at one point or another. We created this **worksheet** where you can list your varieties, capture your progress, and write notes to yourself for future seasons' reference.

While we're talking about seed starting, you may find some useful tips in the our **seed starting articles**, and our **Sowing Guides** can help you create a schedule; then you're well on your way to starting your best garden yet.

### How to use the indoor seed starting worksheet

On the following worksheet, track all the varieties you start indoors for one season. Then next season, you will have a personal record of when to start your favorite varieties, how many you need, and suggestions from yourself for any improvements, if needed.

#### 1. Write the variety name in the first column.

#### 2. In the germination section, fill in:

- Date: The date you sowed the seed.
- Quantity: Record how many seeds, number of packets, number of grams, or whatever will help you with purchasing next season.
- Comments: Note your success or needed improvements.

#### 3. In the transplant section, fill in:

- Date: The date you transplanted the seedling.
- Quantity: This is very helpful information for seasonal planning. For example, how many six packs did you need of lobelia for edging flowerbeds and for containers?
- Size: It is important to record what size container you used in case you need to purchase more next season.
- Comments: Describe your successes and suggestions. For example, you might write, "Use a larger container for the zinnias" or "3" paper pot would be better."

Print and use this worksheet in your garden journal this year!

