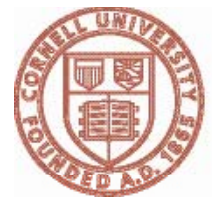
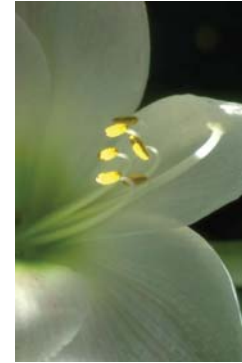


Pre-publication Version

# Site Assessment for Gardeners

a step-by-step workbook  
for better home gardens and landscapes

COMPILED BY CHARLES P. MAZZA



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## Site assessment for gardeners

a step-by-step workbook for better home gardens and landscapes

Ever wonder why some gardens and landscapes look dazzling year after year, while others just go down hill after planting?

Are you looking for ways to prevent gardening problems before they get out of hand?

Then site assessment – the ‘discovery process’ that reveals the physical traits that make your yard unique – can help your gardens and landscapes thrive.

The hands-on activities in this workbook will help you find out more about the soil, wind, light, temperature, drainage, and uninvited wildlife guests that determine the success or failure of your plantings.

When you’ve gotten to know your property better using this approach, you’ll have:

- A sketch of your yard with information you’ll need to make important planting decisions for years to come.
- A list of existing plants and how they fit into your future plans.
- A checklist of other physical factors that you have discovered during your site assessment.



Matching your plantings to your site’s characteristics will help you create more-sustainable and easier-to-care-for landscapes.

Each step includes an explanation of its importance, information-gathering activities, how to use the information you gather as well as books and websites for more information.

New York Master Gardeners who used the workbook say:

- *Before we assessed our landscape site, we kept wasting money by putting the wrong plants on our property. Now we have information to guide our buying decisions.*
- *I had no idea that wind was such an important factor in stressing my lakeside garden. I need to rethink how I set out new trees. I might have to move a few to less windy spots on my property.*
- *It’s fun and easy. We made site assessment a family event on Saturday afternoons.*

