



Putting it all Together

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT

By reviewing physical characteristics of your home landscape and garden area, you can generate a future plan of design and construction that is informed and realistic. The information you have collected shows a more comprehensive view of your site than any one step can do on its own. It is counter-productive to create a garden plan without factoring in opportunities or limitations your site presents. We have pre-determined areas of strengths and weaknesses that are inevitable on any property. We work with what we know in generating a future plan of design and construction that is both informed and realistic.

ACTIVITY

Record many factors that describe your site

MATERIALS:

- CLIPBOARD AND PENCIL
- SKETCH STARTED IN STEP #2
- LIST OF EXISTING PLANTS FROM STEP #11

In order to keep all of our findings in one place, the following checklist may help you refer back to what you have found and what you can continue investigating.



Home Garden and Landscape Site Assessment Checklist

Date of initial checklist review _____ Site Location _____

Size of site¹ _____

Limitations to below-ground space²: utilities marked and noted on sketch

Limitations to above-ground space²: overhead wires (height: _____)

Sunlight Levels ³: full sun (6 hrs. or more) partial sun or filtered light shade

USDA Hardiness Zone ⁴: ___7___6___5___4___3___2

Microclimatic Factors ⁴: re-reflected heat load frost pocket climate moderated

Wind ⁵: overall windy site windy in isolated sections relatively calm

Soil Factors: Compaction ⁶: severely compacted moderately compacted
 somewhat compacted uncompacted

Drainage Characteristics ⁷: wet well-drained Low lying spots

Drainage test results (in./hr.)⁷: Infiltration Percolation

poorly drained (less than 4" per hr.) moderately drained (4" - 8" per hr.)
 excessively drained (more than 8" per hr.)

Texture ⁸: clayey loamy sandy Range of pH Levels _____

Observations: recent construction⁶ modding⁷
 topsoil was removed⁸ excessive salt usage⁸



Note: A superscript number (e.g. ⁴) on the Checklist refers to the Step where this information was collected.

Home Garden and Landscape Site Assessment Checklist (con't)

Interference from wildlife⁹

- serious and obvious concerns marginal concerns to track not a problem now

Existing Plants¹⁰

- total number of trees total number of shrubs number where name is known
 number where name is not known presence of noxious weeds

Optional Observations (from Optional Steps)

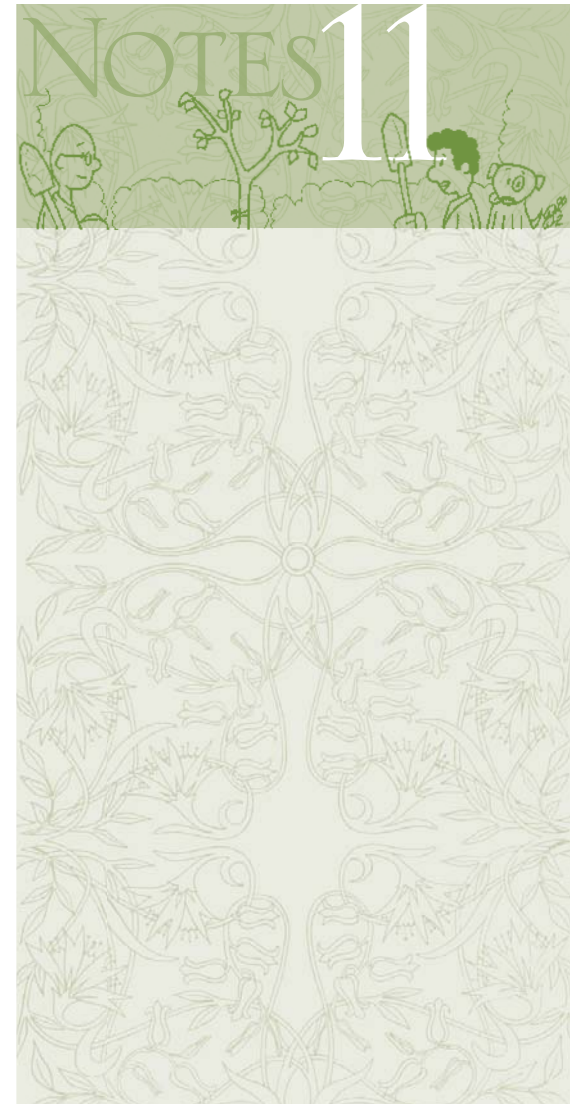
- slopes to consider erosion soil contamination presence of irrigation system

ESTIMATED TIME: 20 MINUTES TO COLLECT INFO FROM PREVIOUS STEPS

Fill out a separate checklist for study areas or sub-divisions of your property. A few items in the checklist were not specifically observed in Steps 1-10. This checklist is a reference; you can add new observations over time (e.g. presence of noxious weeds) as you work with and become more familiar with your site.

USING WHAT YOU FOUND IN THIS STEP

You are now ready to plan a garden or landscape on your property. You have much more information that is useful to make good decisions about the layout and configuration of your design. You can select plants suited to your site.



FOR FURTHER READING

Cornell Guide to Growing Fruit at Home,
www.gardening.cornell.edu/fruit/homefruit.html

Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening, by the staff of
Organic Gardening and Farming Magazine, Rodale
Books, Inc., Emmaus, Pa., 1999.

Tough Plants for Tough Places, by Gary Vergine and
Michael Jefferson-Brown, Contemporary Books, 1997.

Livable Landscape Design, by John F. Collins and
Marvin Adelman, [http://dspace.library.cornell.edu/
bitstream/1813/2648/2/Livable+Landscape+Design.
pdf](http://dspace.library.cornell.edu/bitstream/1813/2648/2/Livable+Landscape+Design.pdf)

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, 5th Edition, by
Michael Dirr, Stipes Publishing, LLC, Champaign, Ill.
1998.

“What perennial where?”, by Roy Lancaster, DK
Publishing, 1997.

