

This garden journal is the property of

### **Getting Started**

**Step 1**: Register for the 4-H Grows Tier II project through 4HOnline. Contact your county Extension office if you need help registering, have questions about the project, or to pay the project fee (if applicable).

• Date completed: \_

### Selecting Your Gardening Site

**Step 2**: You will need to decide whether your garden will be a traditional garden or a raised bed garden (see below for definitions of both).

**Traditional Garden**: A traditional garden is one in which you plant your seeds and plants directly into the soil.

**Raised Bed Garden**: A raised bed garden is one in which you construct a raised garden frame that is at least 6 inches higher than the surrounding soil. The bed is filled with growing media such as a vegetable garden soil mix from a local home and garden store. If you need directions on how to construct a raised bed garden, see Extension publication ANR-1345, "Raised Bed Gardening," or visit https://www.aces. edu/blog/topics/lawn-garden/raised-bed-gardening/.

The garden area for tier II should be approximately 40 square feet (4'x10' beds) (not included with project).

When selecting the site, make sure that it will receive at least six to eight hours of direct sunlight each day. It will be helpful if you have a water spigot or water source close by so you can easily water the garden without dragging a long garden hose. The tier II garden project (fall) will provide a larger and broader gardening experience for participants. The fall project will include broccoli (3), collards (3), cauliflower (2), Bonnie cabbage (2), buttercrunch, romaine or other lettuce (6), and spinach (6) or other comparable plants/seeds. **Step 3**: Preparing the garden for planting by conducting a soil test.

After you have chosen your garden site, you will have to decide whether you need to conduct a soil test (optional). A soil test will indicate how to provide your garden plants with the right types of nutrients for optimal plant development. The cost of the soil test is \$7, which is not covered by 4-H for this project. The following explains how to conduct a soil test if you decide to do one.

### Soil Test (Optional)

**Traditional Garden**: If you are growing a traditional garden, you need to conduct a **routine analysis** soil test. *If the garden has been tested in the past three years, you may skip this test.* The cost for the test is not covered by 4-H for this project. To conduct the test, go to www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forage-soil-testing/routine-soil-analysis and download the routine soil test form (Alabama Extension publication ANR-2307). The instructions for performing the test are on the form. When you have followed the instructions, return your sample to your county Extension office, and they will send it to the Auburn University Soil Testing Laboratory. You should receive the results in about two weeks after submitting the report.

Because you are soil testing a small area, the following formula will help you figure the percentage of an acre that you will be testing. This is important when you take the soil analysis and break it down for your area.

Date site selected: \_\_\_\_\_



Square feet area of garden/43,560 of acres (square feet in acre) x 100 = % of an acre

Example: 54 square feet/43,560 = 0.001239 x 100 = 0.1239 % of an acre

Raised Bed Garden: If you are gardening in a raised bed garden filled with a commercial garden soil mix, you will not need to conduct a soil test this year. If the garden is three or more years old, you should conduct a special soil test called a **special soil** analysis. When you access the form at www.aces. edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/SoilFormRevised. pdf, you will see that there are several choices. The only test you need is the S18 for home garden use in raised beds. The instructions for performing the test are on the form. When you have followed the instructions, return your sample to your county Extension office, and they will send it to the Auburn University Soil Testing Laboratory. You should receive the results about two weeks after submitting the report.

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Square feet area of garden/43,560 of acres (square feet in acre) x 100 = % of an acre

Example: 54 square feet/43,560 = 0.001239 x 100 = 0.1239 % of an acre

#### Check one of the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I did not conduct a soil test this year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I conducted the soil test this year and have included a copy of the soil test in my journal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I followed the soil test recommendations.

Date completed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 4**: You will be contacted when it is time to pick up your plants from your county Extension office or at a designated site.

Date of delivery to you: \_\_\_\_

**Step 5**: Begin your Alabama 4-H Grows Project and Journal.

Before you plant, map out your garden using the garden planning page in your journal. Remember to think about proper spacing between plants as you create your garden design. Refer to the following suggested spacing information during this step of the garden project.

#### Traditional Garden Spacing:

- Broccoli and cabbage-24" between plants
- Cauliflower and collards– 18" between plants
- Lettuce–
  8" between plants
- Spinach– 12" between plants

#### Raised Bed Garden Spacing:

You will be able to space plants closer in a raised bed garden because it is easier to control watering and plant maintenance.

- Broccoli and collards- 18" between plants
- Cabbage-24" between plants
- Cauliflower-16" between plants
- Lettuce-8" between plants
- Spinach-12" between plants

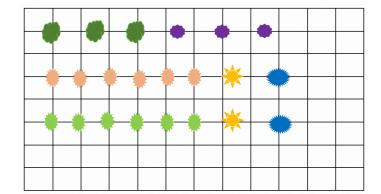


Figure 1. Traditional garden design (1'x1' scale).

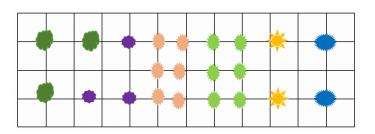
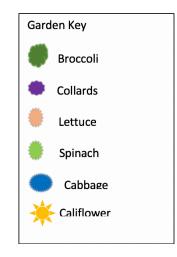


Figure 2. Raised bed garden design (4'x12' garden).





#### Alabama 4-H Grows Tier II Fall Garden Journal 4

#### Date design completed:



### Planting Your Garden

**Step 6**: Carefully remove the plants from the plant packets, dig a hole deep enough to allow the root ball to be completely buried in the soil. Push the soil back in the hole around the roots and lightly pack the soil around the plant. Water the plants, and they should be ready to grow.

If the plants come in a peat pot, do not remove the pot before planting. Instead, remove the plastic label wrapped around the peat pot, and then tear the pot along the sides. Plant the pot with plant in the soil.

Date you planted and started your journal: \_

**Step 7**: Make an entry in the gardening journal every time you interact with your garden (watering, moving containers, or other activity). At minimum, you should be making at least one entry per week throughout the gardening project. If you need to add additional pages of daily journal page, we have placed a copy of just this page on the website at https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/4h/alabama-4-h-grows/.

When your garden is ready to be harvested, please make an entry in the Alabama 4-H Grows Harvest Journal. (Harvesting may be a one-time event, such as with cabbage, while multiple harvests may be possible with the other fall plants.)

Complete the Alabama 4-H Grows Weather Charts daily throughout the project. This is important as weather factors such as temperature and rainfall per day all have an impact on the success of your garden.

**Step 8**: Keep track of expenses. Use the Expense Page that is included in your journal to record all expenses. You will also want to indicate on each journal page any expenses made during the project.

### Garden Planning: Layout

Date plan designed: \_\_\_\_\_

Time spent on plan: \_\_\_\_

Use the following grid to lay out your garden design. Create a key or label the plants in your garden design. Make sure you show the boundary of your garden on the grid and then locate the plants within the boundary.

What types of produce and number of plants are you planting in the garden?

### **Comments/observations:**

### **Planting the Plants**

#### Date planted

Time Spent in Garden

Record the types and number of plants you planted in the garden: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Weather Conditions**

Record high/low temperature as well as any precipitation/water provided to the garden using weather charts. Use a local weather station to help you find this information.

Air temperature: \_\_\_\_\_

Soil moisture (check one of the following):

- □ Moisture visible at surface without moving soil.
- □ No visible signs of moisture in top 2 in. of soil.
- □ Signs of moisture visible at 3 in. or deeper.

Water your plants immediately after planting.

### Garden Journal

Date of Observation

Time Spent in the Garden

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If soil is lacking moisture, make sure you water the garden. Any garden problems? In the remaining space, tell us what you did and any observations you made while planting your garden. Take a photo and attach it to this page.

Record observations from your garden visit and describe your garden activity. Take a photo and attach it to this page.

Expenses:

Date of Observation

Time Spent in the Garden

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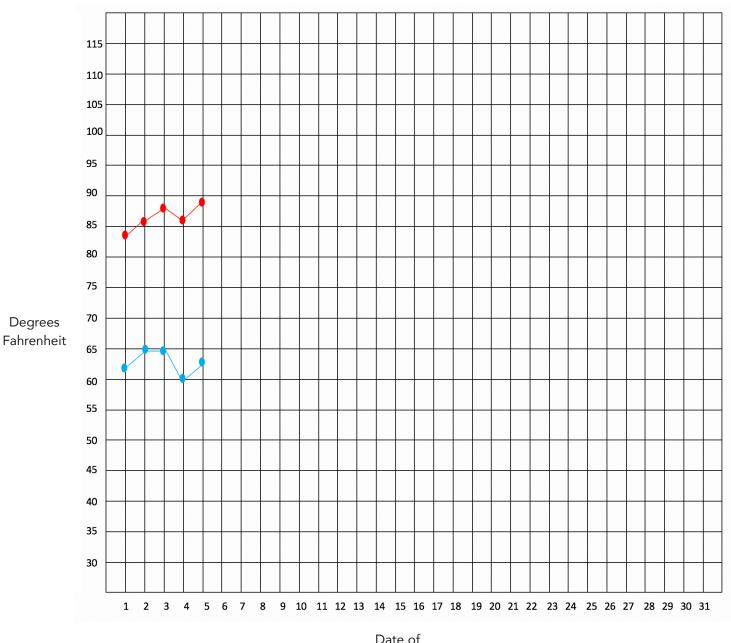
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Using two different colored pencils, record the high and low temperatures for each day on the graph below. Once you record the high and low temperatures, connect with a line all of the highs to one another and all of the lows to one another in sequence.

Example: Red Pencil—Daily High Temperature | Blue Pencil—Daily Low Temperature

Temperature Chart for the Month of \_\_\_\_\_

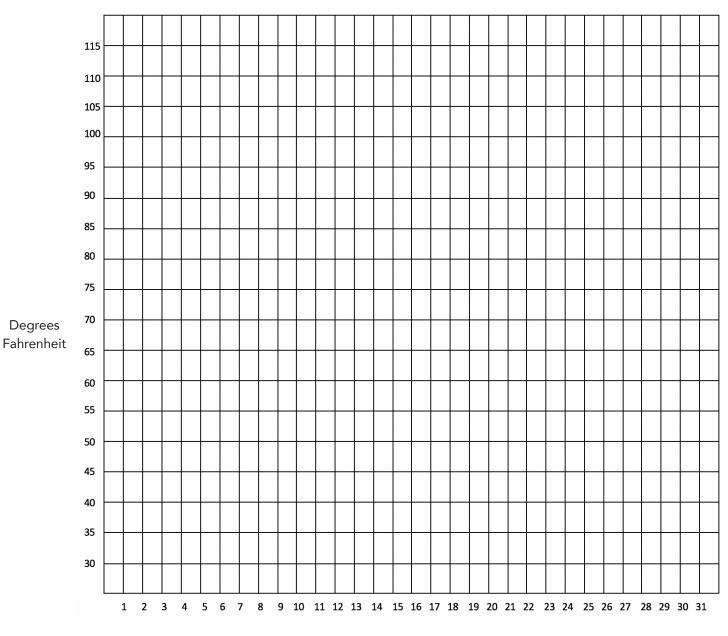


the Month

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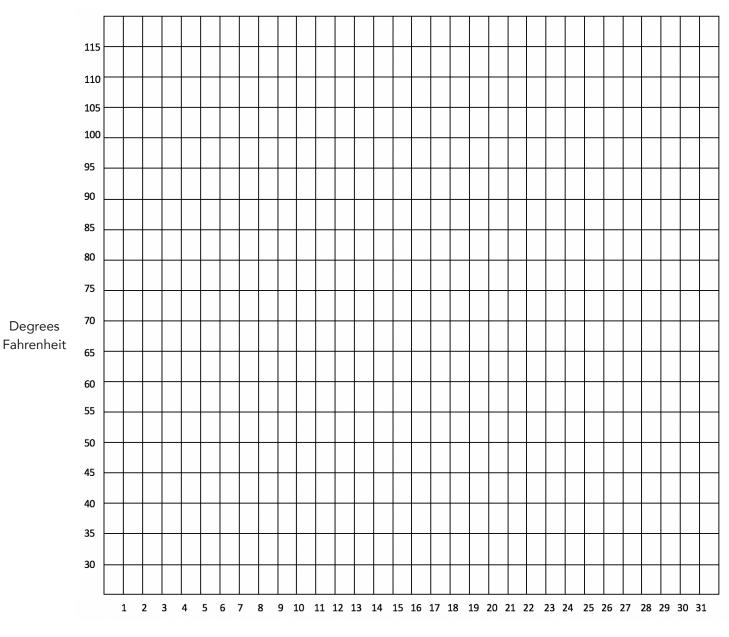
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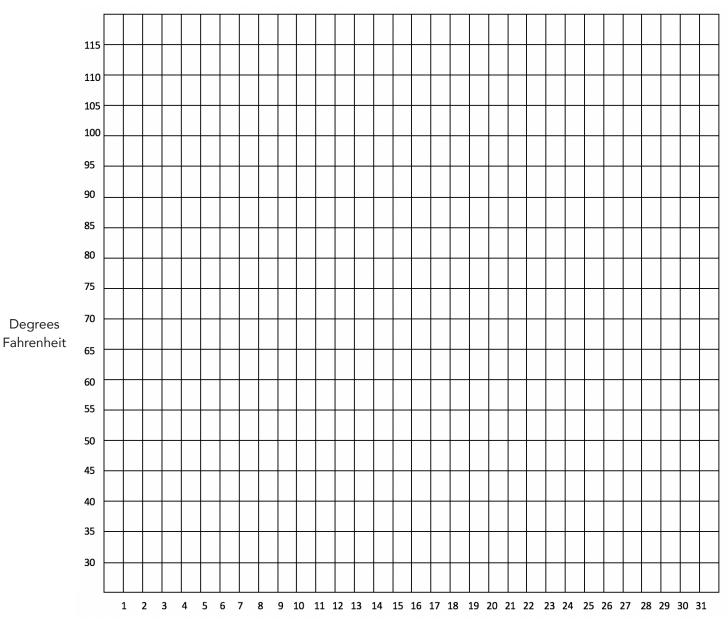
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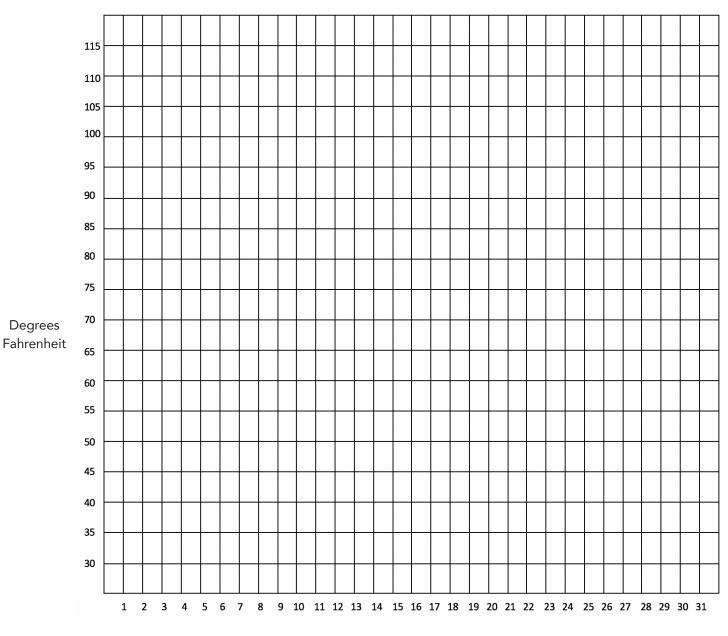
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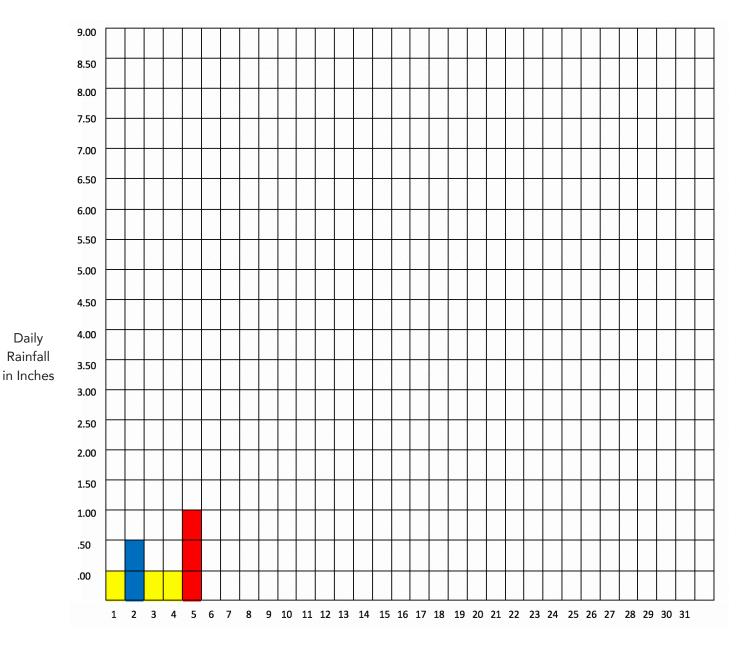
Temperature Chart for the Month of \_



Using three different colored pencils, create a bar graph as a means to record the natural rainfall/ precipitation your garden receives or when you water your garden using a hose or other source.

Example: Red Pencil—Natural Rainfall | Blue Pencil—Other Water Source | Yellow Pencil–No water

Precipitation Chart for the Month of \_\_\_\_\_

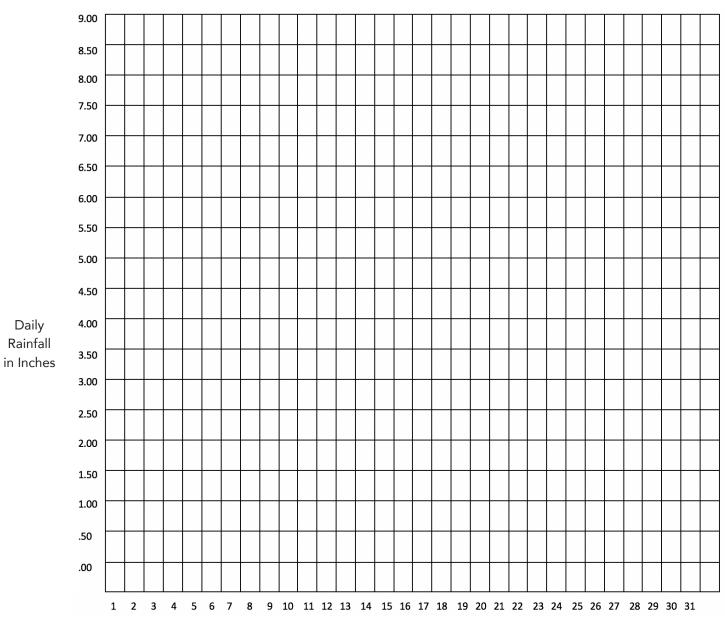


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Daily

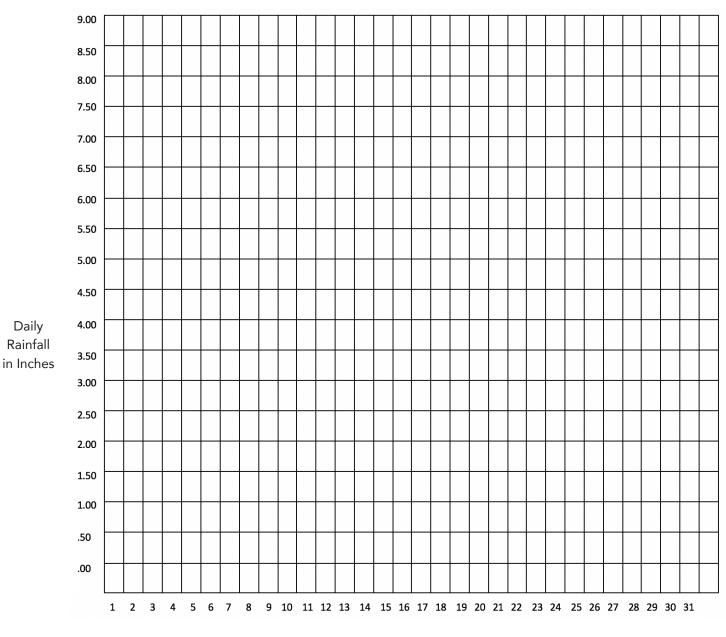


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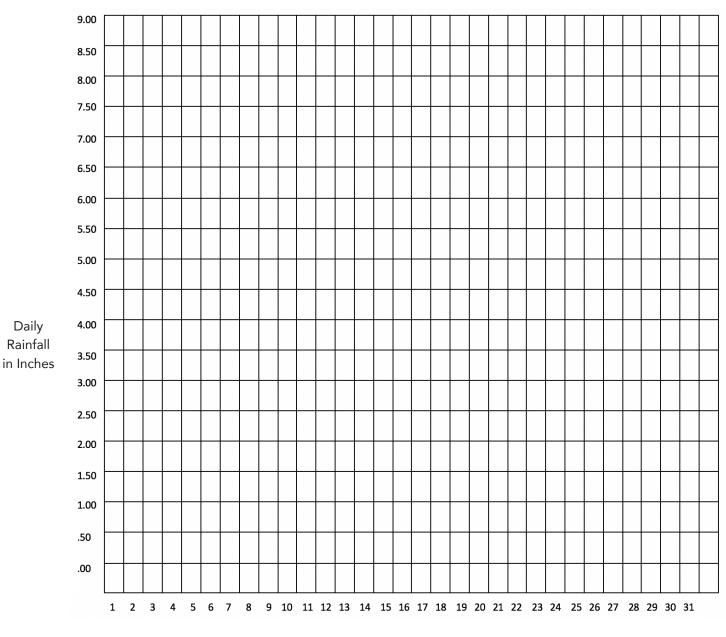
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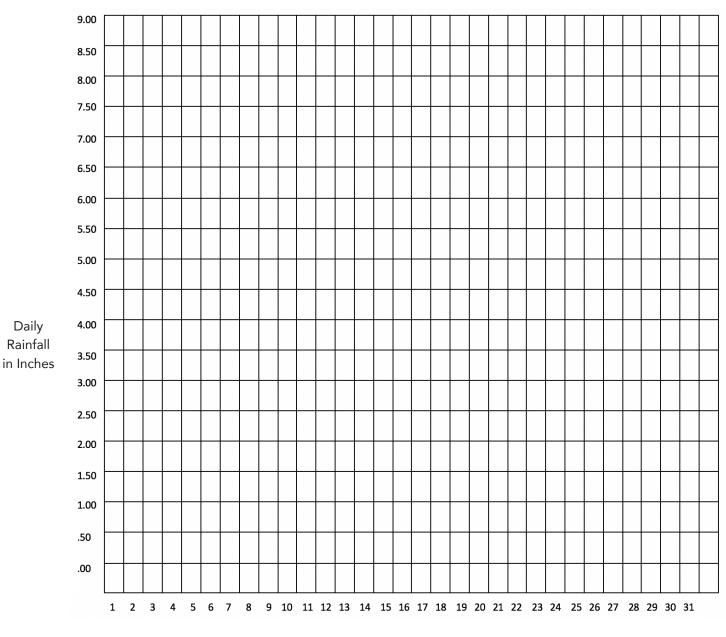
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### Harvest Record

Record your harvest below each time you harvest anything from the garden.

	_ Time Spent:	
Type of produce harvested. (Place	a check in front of type of produce and pro	wide weight.) Enter additional
produce not listed.		
	Spinach Weight:	
	Cabbage Weight:	
	Weight:	
Lettuce Weight:	Weight:	Weight:
What are you going to do witl	n this harvest?	
When do you think the garder	will be ready for another harvest?	
Do you have any other comme	ents or observations?	
Date of Harvest:	Time Spent:	
Date of Harvest:		
Type of produce harvested. (Place	Time Spent: a check in front of type of produce and pro	
Type of produce harvested. (Place produce not listed.	a check in front of type of produce and pro	ovide weight.) Enter additional
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Type of produce harvested. (Place produce not listed. Broccoli Weight: Cauliflower Weight: Collards Weight:	a check in front of type of produce and pro Spinach Weight: Cabbage Weight: Weight:	ovide weight.) Enter additional Weight: Weight: Weight:
Type of produce harvested. (Place produce not listed. Broccoli Weight: Cauliflower Weight: Collards Weight:	a check in front of type of produce and pro Spinach Weight: Cabbage Weight:	ovide weight.) Enter additional Weight: Weight: Weight:
Type of produce harvested. (Place produce not listed. Broccoli Weight: Cauliflower Weight: Collards Weight:	a check in front of type of produce and pro Spinach Weight: Cabbage Weight: Weight:	ovide weight.) Enter additional Weight: Weight: Weight:

### Do you have any other comments or observations?

Record your harvest below each time you harvest anything from the garden.

	check in front of type of produce and pro	vide weight.) Enter addition
produce not listed.		
	Spinach Weight:	
Cauliflower Weight:	Cabbage Weight:	Weight:
	Weight:	
Lettuce Weight:	Weight:	Weight:
What are you going to do with	this harvest?	
When do you think the garden	will be ready for another harvest?	
Do you have any other comme	nts or observations?	
Date of Harvest:	Time Spent:	
Type of produce harvested. (Place a	Time Spent:	
Гуре of produce harvested. (Place a produce not listed.	check in front of type of produce and pro	wide weight.) Enter addition
Type of produce harvested. (Place a produce not listed. Broccoli Weight:	check in front of type of produce and pro Spinach Weight:	ovide weight.) Enter addition
Type of produce harvested. (Place a produce not listed. Broccoli Weight: Cauliflower Weight:	check in front of type of produce and pro Spinach Weight: Cabbage Weight:	ovide weight.) Enter addition Weight: Weight:
Type of produce harvested. (Place a produce not listed. Broccoli Weight: Cauliflower Weight: Collards Weight:	check in front of type of produce and pro Spinach Weight: Cabbage Weight: Weight:	ovide weight.) Enter addition Weight: Weight: Weight:
produce not listed. Broccoli Weight: Cauliflower Weight: Collards Weight:	check in front of type of produce and pro Spinach Weight: Cabbage Weight:	ovide weight.) Enter addition Weight: Weight: Weight:
Type of produce harvested. (Place a produce not listed. Broccoli Weight: Cauliflower Weight: Collards Weight:	check in front of type of produce and pro Spinach Weight: Cabbage Weight: Weight: Weight:	ovide weight.) Enter addition Weight: Weight: Weight:

#### Do you have any other comments or observations?

Record your harvest below each time you harvest anything from the garden.

Date of Harvest:	Time Spent:	
Type of produce harvested. (Place a	check in front of type of produce and pro	ovide weight.) Enter additional
produce not listed.		
Broccoli Weight:	Spinach Weight:	Weight:
	Cabbage Weight:	
	Weight:	
	Weight:	
What are you going to do with	this harvest?	
When do you think the garden	will be ready for another harvest?	
Do you have any other comme	nts or observations?	
Date of Harvest:	Time Spent:	
Type of produce harvested. (Place a produce not listed.	check in front of type of produce and pro	ovide weight.) Enter additional
Broccoli Weight:	Spinach Weight:	Weight:
	Cabbage Weight:	
	Weight:	
Lettuce Weight:	Weight:	Weight:
What are you going to do with	this harvest?	
When do you think the garden	will be ready for another harvest?	

### Do you have any other comments or observations?

Record your harvest below each time you harvest anything from the garden.

Date of Harvest:	Time Spent:	
	check in front of type of produce and pro	ovide weight.) Enter additional
produce not listed.		
	Spinach Weight:	
	Cabbage Weight:	
	Weight:	
Lettuce Weight:	Weight:	Weight:
What are you going to do with	this harvest?	
When do you think the garden	will be ready for another harvest?	
Do you have any other comme	nts or observations?	
Date of Harvest:	Time Spent:	
Type of produce harvested. (Place a produce not listed.	check in front of type of produce and pro	ovide weight.) Enter additional
	Spinach Weight:	Weight:
	Cabbage Weight:	
	Cassage Weight:	
	weight	Weight
What are you going to do with	this harvest?	
When do you think the garden	will be ready for another harvest?	
Do you have any other commen	nts or observations?	

Record your harvest below each time you harvest anything from the garden.

Date of Harvest:	Time Spent:	
	check in front of type of produce and pro	ovide weight.) Enter additional
produce not listed.		
	Spinach Weight:	
	Cabbage Weight:	
	Weight:	
Lettuce Weight:	Weight:	Weight:
What are you going to do with	this harvest?	
When do you think the garden	will be ready for another harvest?	
Do you have any other comme	nts or observations?	
Date of Harvest:	Time Spent:	
Type of produce harvested. (Place a produce not listed.	check in front of type of produce and pro	ovide weight.) Enter additional
	Spinach Weight:	Weight:
	Cabbage Weight:	
	Cassage Weight:	
	weight	Weight
What are you going to do with	this harvest?	
When do you think the garden	will be ready for another harvest?	
Do you have any other commen	nts or observations?	

### **Total Harvest Record**

Refer back to your daily harvest record. Total the number of times you harvested. Then, total the weight and record the data below. You will also need to go back to your journal pages and enter any expenses that you had during the project. Enter them at the bottom of the page and record your total expenses.

Broccoli (Number of times harvested):	Total weight harvested:
Cauliflower (Number of times harvested):	Total weight harvested:
Collards (Number of times harvested):	Total weight harvested:
Lettuce (Number of times harvested):	Total weight harvested:
Spinach (Number of times harvested):	Total weight harvested:
Cabbage (Number of times harvested):	Total weight harvested:
(Number of times harvested):	Total weight harvested:
(Number of times harvested):	Total weight harvested:

# What was the total weight of the produce that you donated to a local charity or used at a school in a public setting? Total Weight:

#### Using your journal entries, how much total time did you spend in the garden?

**Total Time Spent:** 

#### What did you learn from your gardening experience?

#### **Expense Record**

Date	Description of Expense	Amount



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