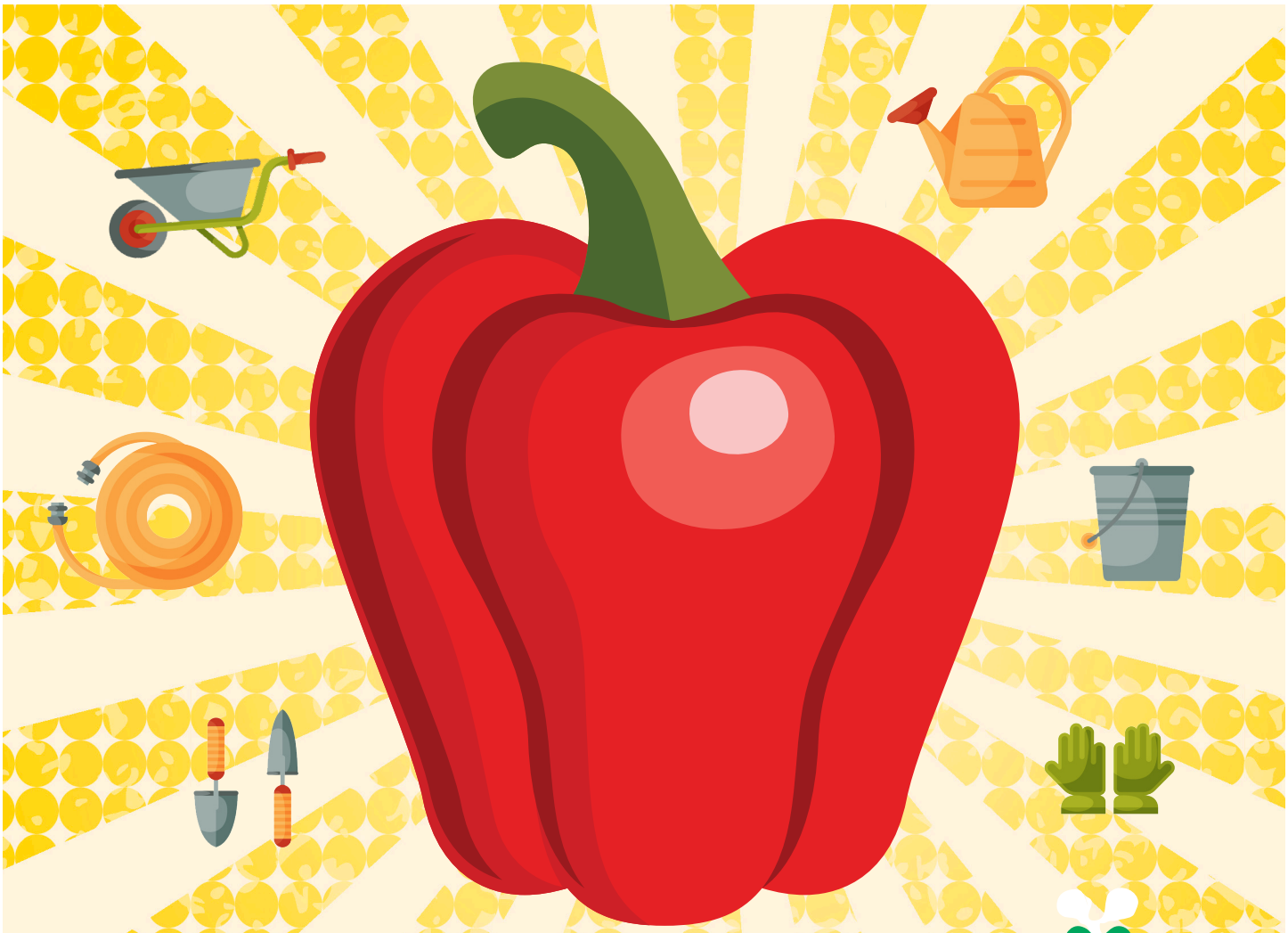

Alabama 4-H Grows

Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Tier I Garden Journal

www.aces.edu

Bonnie PLANTS SINCE 1918

This garden journal is the property of _____

Getting Started

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

- Date completed: _____

Selecting Your Garden Containers

Step 2: Even though you will be growing your garden in containers, they still need to receive at least 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight per day. The advantage to growing in containers is that you will be able to move the plants from one area to another to achieve the desired hours of daylight that your garden needs. It will be helpful if you have a water spigot or water source close by. Since the plants are in containers, they may dry out at a faster rate, requiring you to water them every day or every other day.

- Date site selected: _____

Step 3: Once you select your three gardening containers, drill drainage holes along the bottom edge or in the bottom of your container if they do not already exist. This will allow excess water to drain from the container.

Failure to provide adequate drainage may result in the roots of your plants receiving too much water and therefore leading to your garden failing. Drill at least six evenly spaced holes that are 1/4" in diameter around the bottom edge of the container. Once holes are drilled, fill each bucket with commercial garden soil to within two inches of the top of the container. Water the container and allow the soil to settle. Add any additional soil to bring the soil level back within two inches of the container's top.

- Date completed: _____

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

- Date of delivery to you: _____

Planting Your Garden

Step 5: Begin your Alabama 4-H Grows Project and Journal. To plant your plants, carefully remove the plants from the plant packets, dig a hole in the center of the container, and place the root in the hole. Then, carefully backfill with the soil. Water the plants and you 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 and then tear the pot along the sides. Plant the pot with plant in the container and water.

- Date you planted and started journal: _____

Step 6: Make an entry in the gardening journal every time you interact with your garden (watering, moving containers, or other activity). You should be making at least one to two entries each week throughout the gardening project. When your garden is ready to be harvested, please make an entry in the Alabama 4-H Grows Harvest Journal. It is located behind the daily garden journal and in front of the weather charts. **Harvesting may be a one-time event or in the case of many summer vegetables, daily or weekly for a period of several weeks once the produce reaches that point of maturity.**

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

Planting the Plants

_____

Date planted Time Spent in Garden

What type of plants are you planting in your three containers? _____

_____

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.

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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.

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.

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Garden Journal

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Date of Observation

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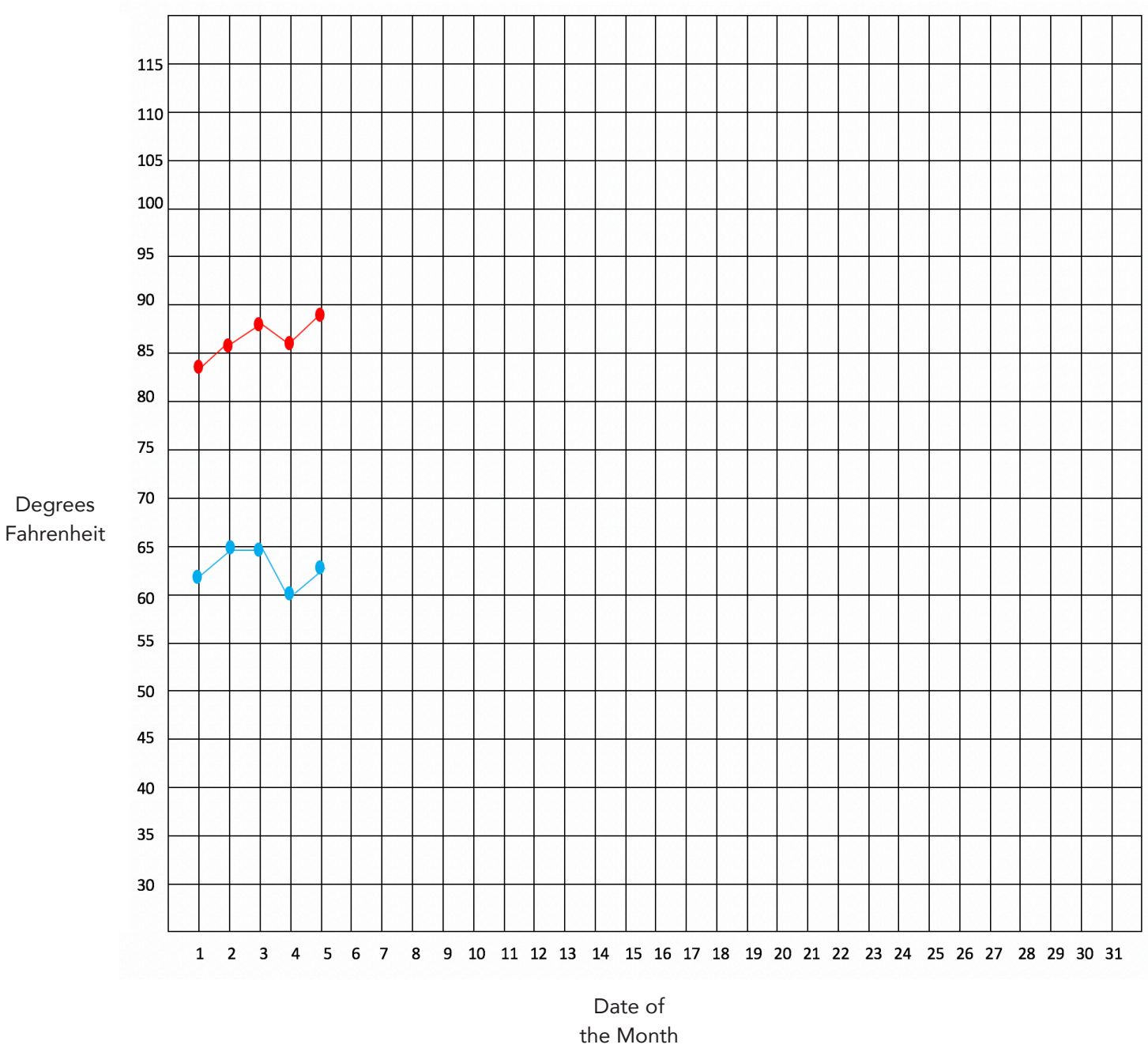
Weather Charts: Temperature

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 _____.



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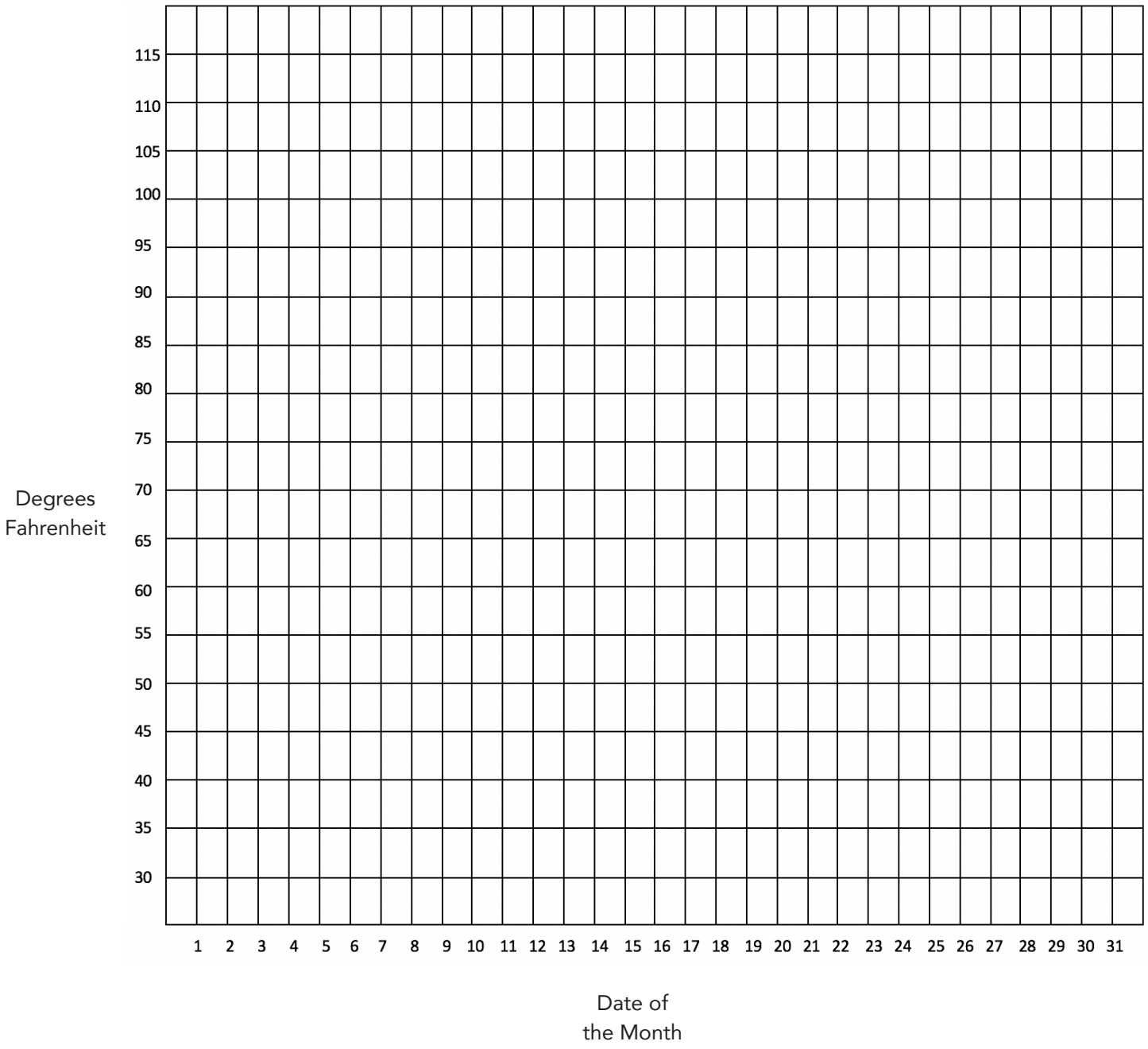

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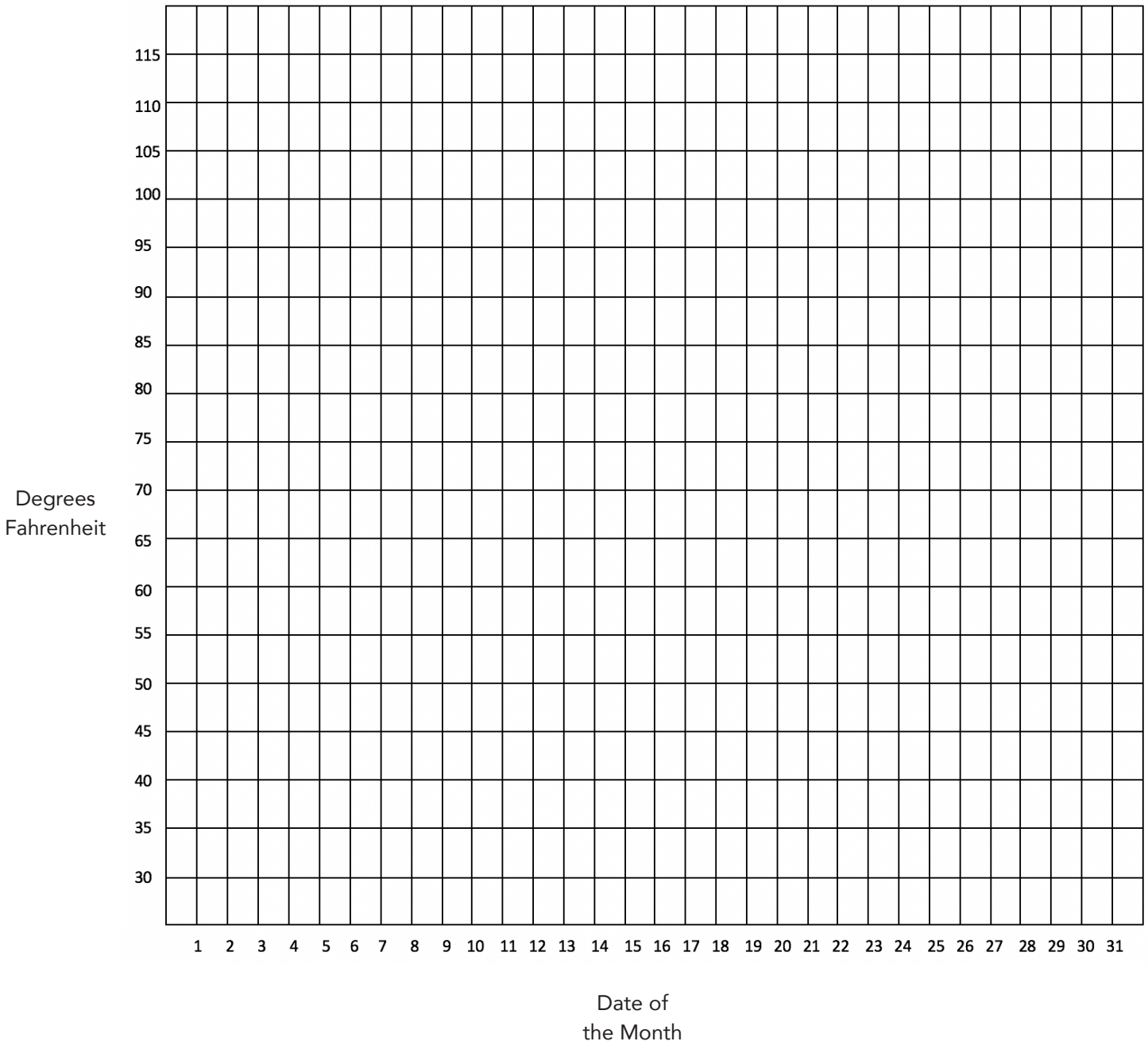

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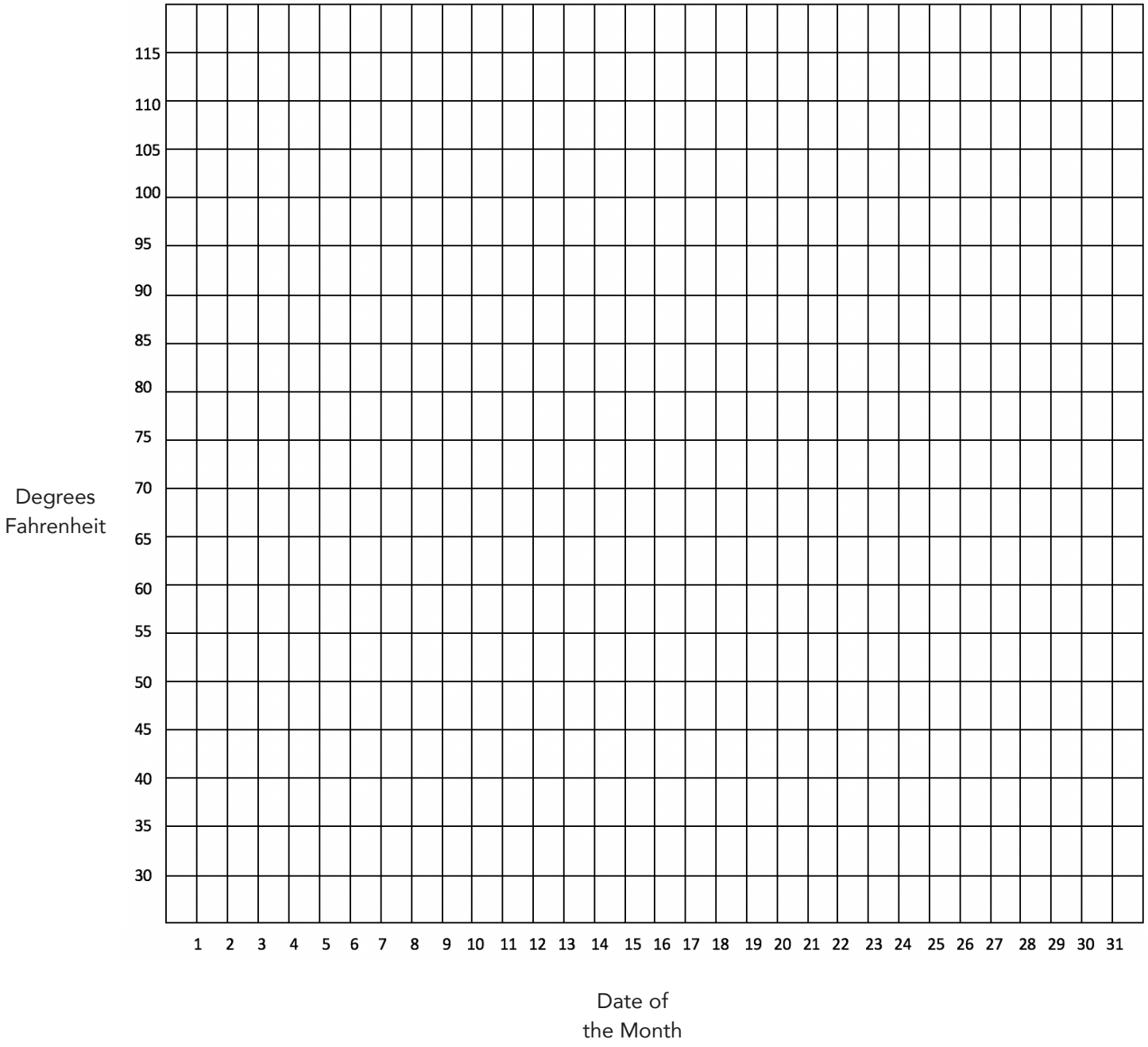

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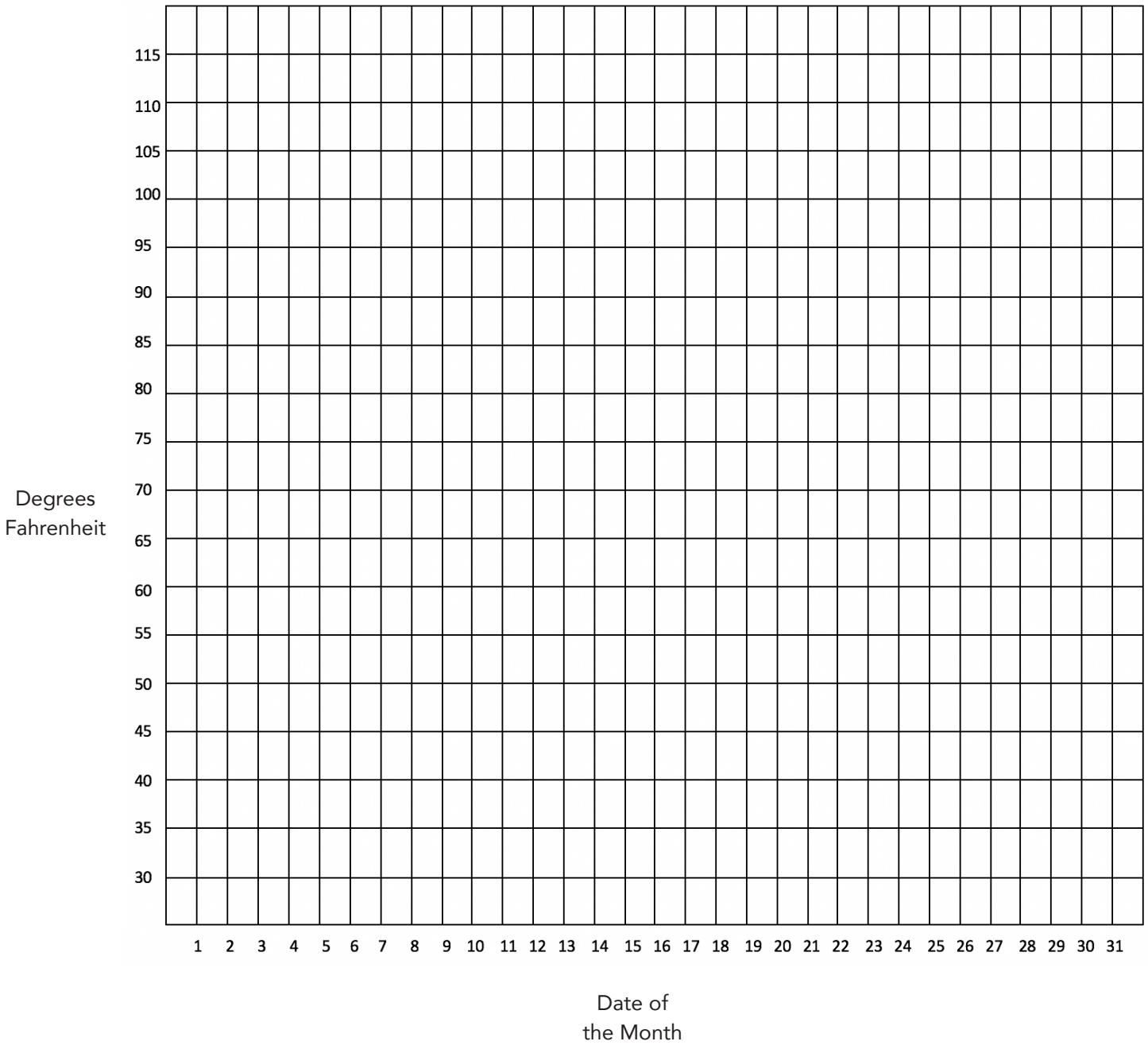

Weather Charts: Precipitation

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

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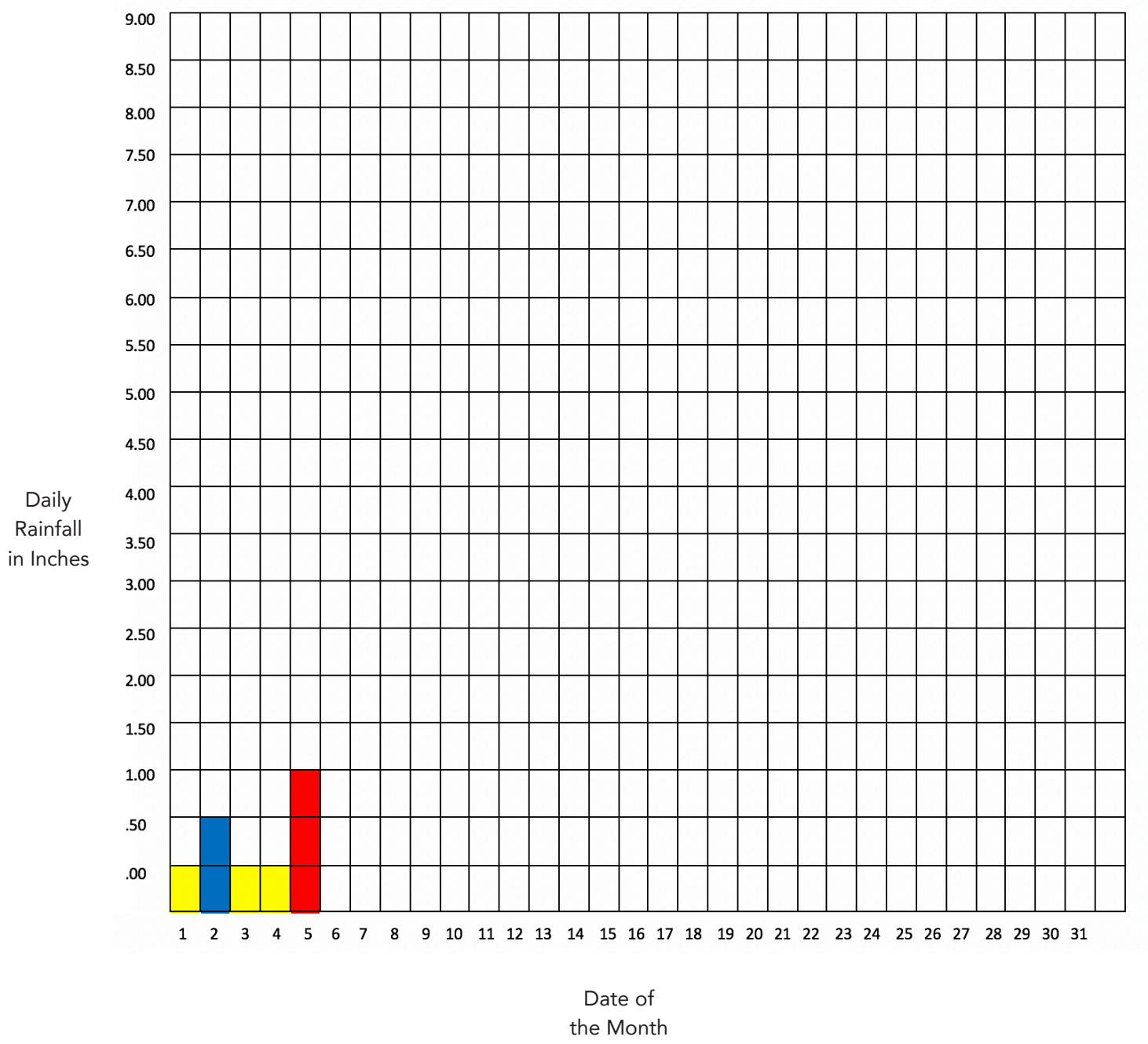

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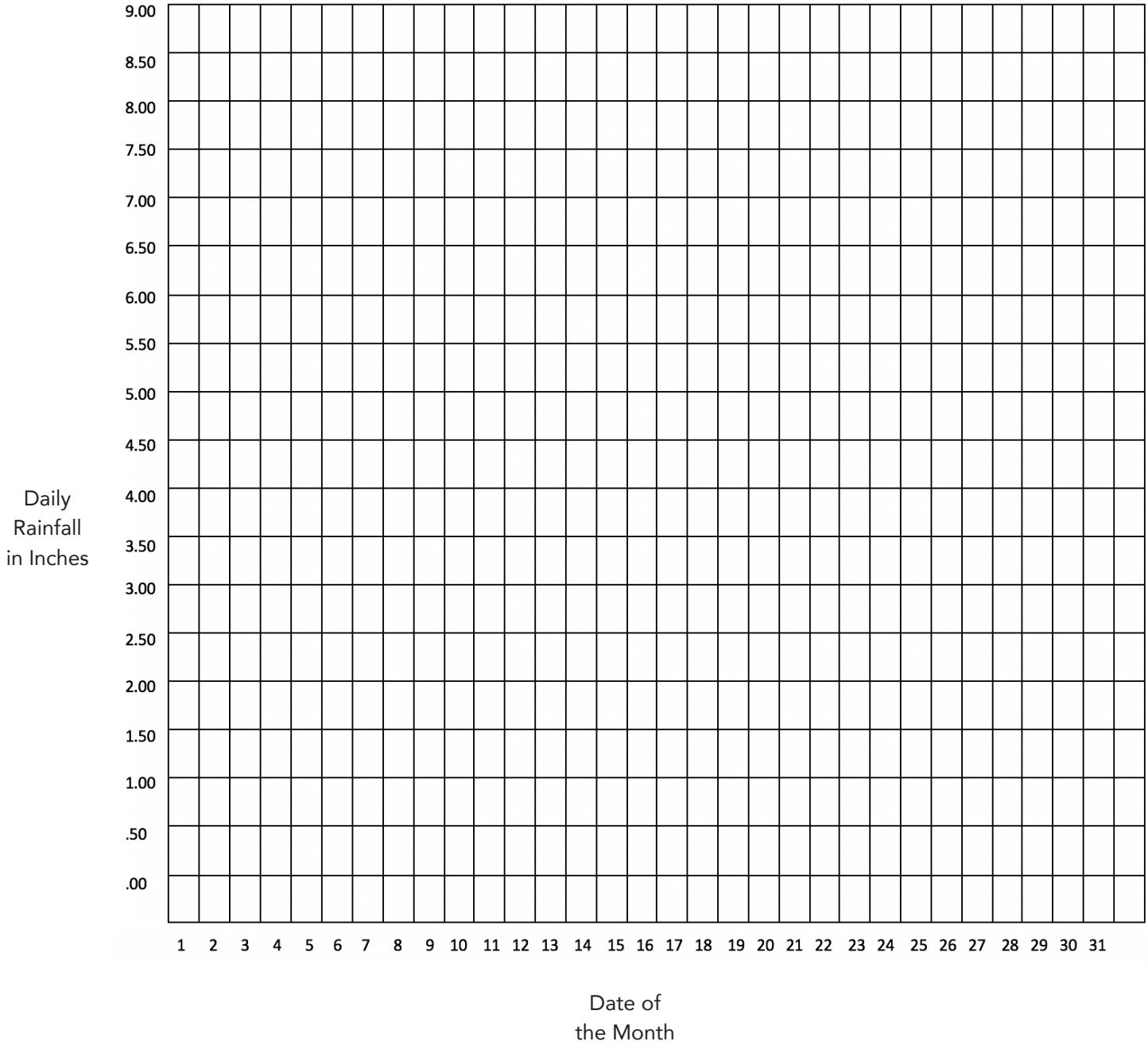

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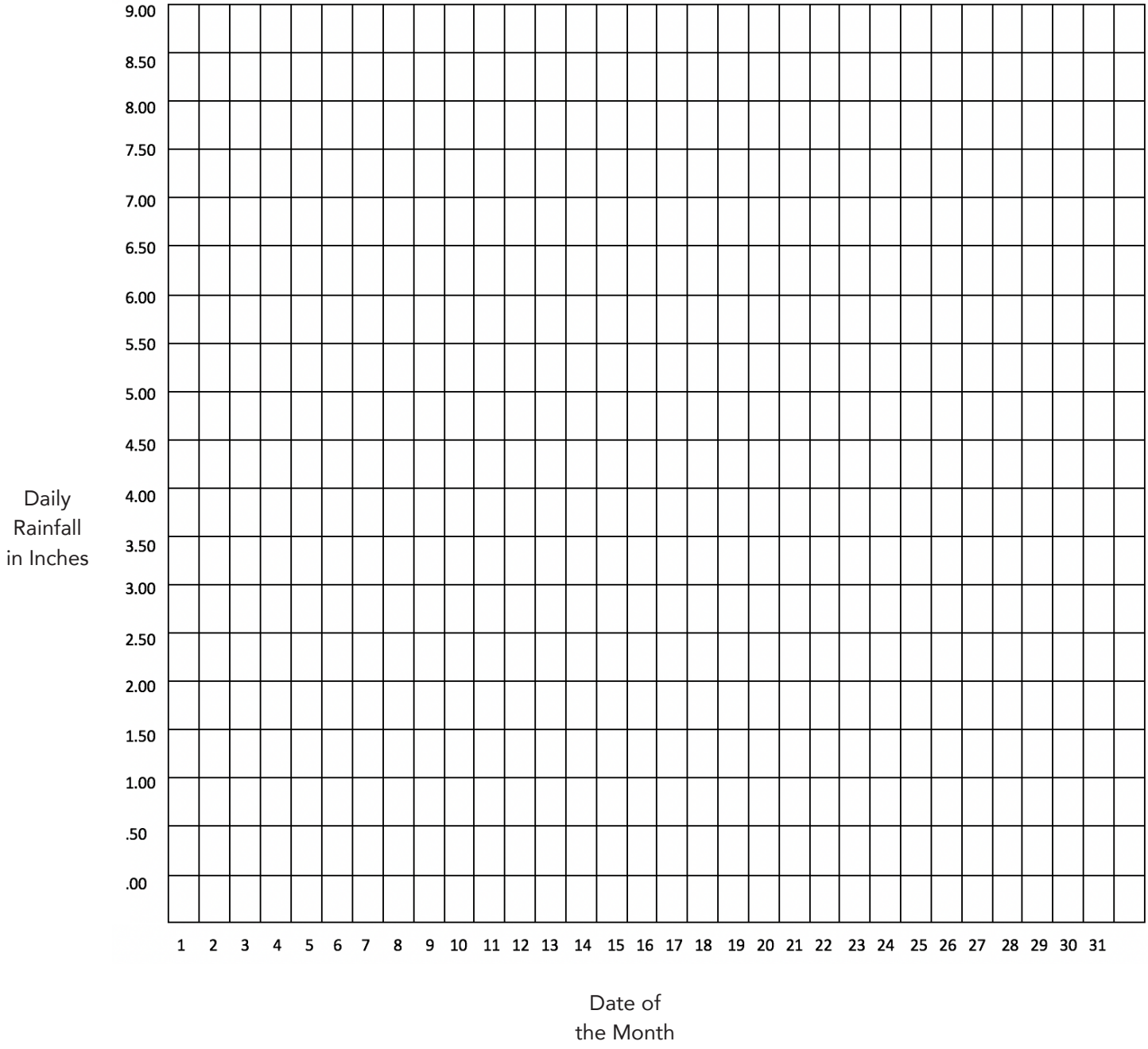

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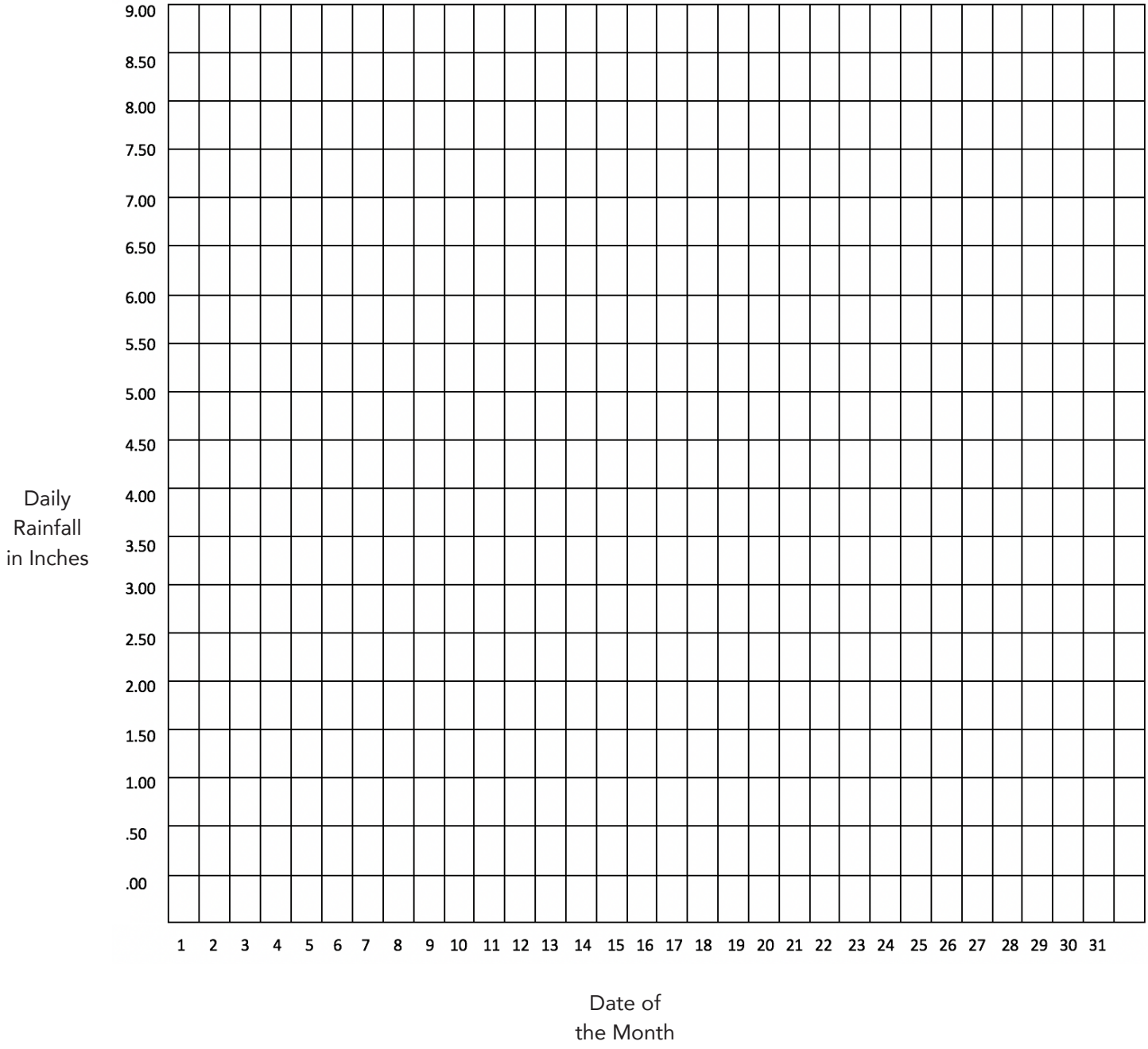

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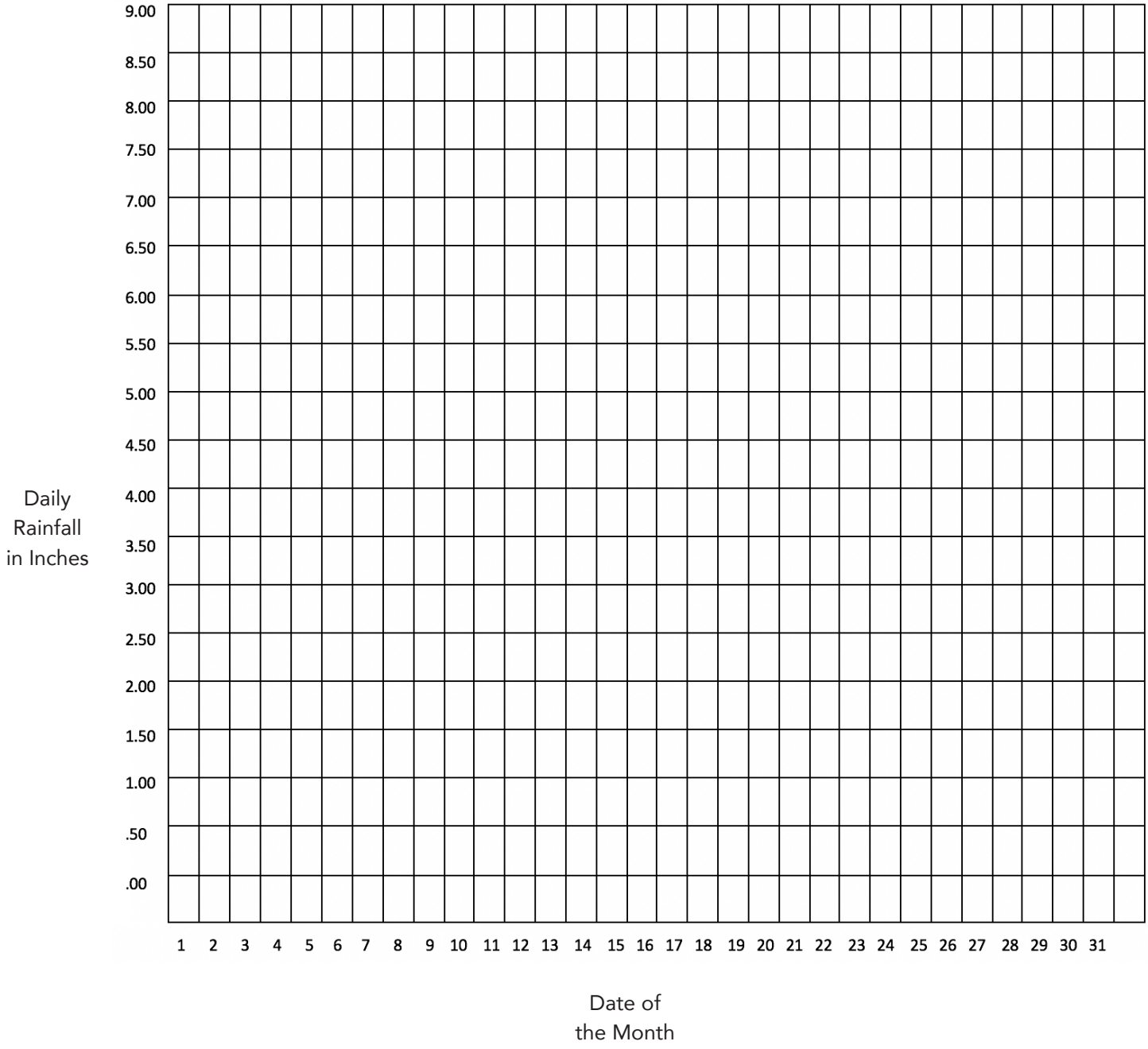

Harvest Record

Record the type and amount of produce harvested. If you harvest from more than one of the containers on the same day, please make a separate entry for each container.

Container Harvested: _____ Date of Harvest: _____ Time Spent: _____

How many fruits did you harvest? _____ Weight of produce? _____

What are you going to do with this harvest?

_____

When do you think the plant will be ready for harvest again?

_____

Do you have any other comments or observations?

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Container Harvested: _____ Date of Harvest: _____ Time Spent: _____

How many fruits did you harvest? _____ Weight of produce? _____

What are you going to do with this harvest?

_____

When do you think the plant will be ready for harvest again?

_____

Do you have any other comments or observations?

_____

_____

_____

Harvest Record

Record the type and amount of produce harvested. If you harvest from more than one of the containers on the same day, please make a separate entry for each container.

Container Harvested: _____ Date of Harvest: _____ Time Spent: _____

How many fruits did you harvest? _____ Weight of produce? _____

What are you going to do with this harvest?

_____

When do you think the plant will be ready for harvest again?

_____

Do you have any other comments or observations?

_____

_____

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Container Harvested: _____ Date of Harvest: _____ Time Spent: _____

How many fruits did you harvest? _____ Weight of produce? _____

What are you going to do with this harvest?

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Do you have any other comments or observations?

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_____

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Container Harvested: _____ Date of Harvest: _____ Time Spent: _____

How many fruits did you harvest? _____ Weight of produce? _____

What are you going to do with this harvest?

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When do you think the plant will be ready for harvest again?

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Record the type and amount of produce harvested. If you harvest from more than one of the containers on the same day, please make a separate entry for each container.

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When do you think the plant will be ready for harvest again?

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Do you have any other comments or observations?

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_____

_____

Container Harvested: _____ Date of Harvest: _____ Time Spent: _____

How many fruits did you harvest? _____ Weight of produce? _____

What are you going to do with this harvest?

_____

When do you think the plant will be ready for harvest again?

_____

Do you have any other comments or observations?

_____

_____

_____

Total Harvest Record

Refer back to your daily harvest record. Total the harvest from each container/variety of plant. Then, record the data below.

Type of plant in container 1:_____ Total weight harvested:_____

Type of plant in container 2:_____ Total weight harvested:_____

Type of plant in container 3:_____ Total weight harvested:_____

Looking back through your gardening journal and harvest record, how much time was spent in your garden?

_____

What did you learn from your gardening experience?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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