

Small Space Permaculture Garden Action Items

Determine where south is

- Tall trees are planted to the north side, bushes and shorter trees to the south
- Remove any fencing that may be blocking the south facing sun on your garden beds, if possible (make sure to ok it with your neighbors first)

Create multi-functional spaces

- Greenhouse sheathing is used for a spring or fall garden, but can be easily removed in summer
- A cold frame extends your growing season, but can also be used raised planting bed in the summer (remove or leave glass door open)
- A horizontal trellis can also be a potting table
- A galvanized stock tank can be a small pond with aquatic plants such as lily pads, and goldfish, but also elevated as a drip irrigation source
- A chicken run can be full of straw, leaves, and weeds to encourage insect habitat for chicken protein, and also creates compost and mulch for the garden

Cover crop all off season or unused areas

- Builds soil and fixes nitrogen
- Prevents erosion from wind and rain
- Harbors beneficial organisms
- Can be used as supplemental chicken feed in winter (make sure that you use varieties that are safe for chickens)

Plant a large deciduous tree(s), preferably fruit bearing

- Provides summer shade in parts of the yard
- Can be underplanted with shade loving edibles (such as strawberry)
- Creates leaf litter for use in the chicken run (make sure that it's safe for chickens first), compost, and mulch
- Provides delicious summer fruit

Utilize raised garden beds

- Easy to reach and maintain
- Soil amendments are not lost to surrounding area
- Can maximize yield per square foot

Create vertical growing spaces with a fixed permanent trellis

- No need for seasonal staking, only occasional tying
- Increases growing area in a small space by growing “up”
- Exposes plants to more airflow and light
- Good for both annual and perennial climbers

Rainwater catchment

- Prevents erosion from roof eaves, runoff, and gullies
- Use for chickens, garden, washing, storage, and emergencies
- Elevate tanks for more pressure to drip irrigate plants
- Direct overflow to a “rain garden” or for deep soaking of garden beds or trees

Have a small weatherproof shed

- Storage for animal feed, tools, garden equipment, and parts
- Dry workshop and maintenance room
- Space for doing winter projects (use a small heater if needed)

Create a materials storage area

- Easily take stock of all unused materials at a glance so you know what you have available to use