

# Sun to Shade

# Changing Light Patterns in Your Garden

**THE SUN MOVES FROM EAST TO WEST DURING THE DAY  
AND THE ANGLE OF THE SUN CHANGES WITH THE SEASONS.**



**Full Sun** = 6 to 8 hours of direct sun a day



**Partly Sunny** = 3 to 6 hours of direct sun a day (These plants can typically tolerate more light and need a minimum amount of direct sun to thrive. These plants may bloom poorly if given too little sun.)



**Partly Shady** = 3 to 6 hours of direct sun a day (These plants are going to be more sensitive to getting too much sun, particularly in the afternoon, and will need shade during the hottest parts of the day.)



**Full Shade** = less than 3 hours of direct sunlight a day.

# Sun Mapping

Sun mapping is recording the sun/shade patterns as the sun travels your garden. Start early in the morning and each hour, record where the sun/shade lays. At the end of the day, you will know how much sun each area of your garden/yard gets and you can start planning what plants you want to put in. Here are 3 recording methods to choose from: 1. Garden map, 2. Chart of sun, and 3. Taking photos of your garden. Use one method or all 3 methods.

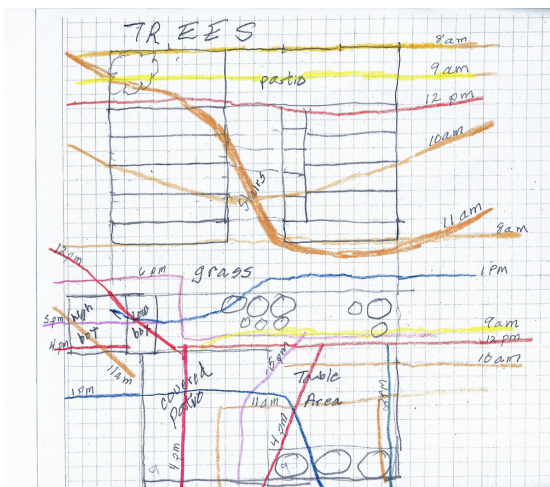
## 2. Chart the Sun /Shade

- Down the left side of your paper, name the various areas of your garden you want to sun map.
- Across the top of the paper, list the times you want to record starting in the morning and going until sunset. Leave space on the right side to tally how much sun each area gets in one day.
- Draw horizontal and vertical lines to create boxes to record sun, shade or part sun.

## 1. Mapping the garden

- Use graph paper to do a simple sketch of your garden, be sure to include objects/plants that create shade.
- Start early in the morning and draw a sun/shade line on the map and label the time. Continue this throughout the day until you have a full day of data.
- Determine how much sunlight each area of your garden gets in one day.

	8'	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Hydrangeas	Shade	Shade	Shade	Shade	Shade	Part Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun		Shade	Shade	shade	3-5
Raised Beds	Shade	Shade	Shade	Part Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Part Sun	Part Sun	shade	Shade	6-17
Flowers	Shade	Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Shade	Shade	10
Herbs perennials	Shade	Sun	Sun	Shade	Shade	Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Part Sun	Shade	Shade	7
Top slope	Sun	Sun	1-2 Sun R-shade	Shade	Sun	Shade	2-3 shade R-Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Shade	8-9
Lower slope	Sun	Sun	2-3 Sun R-shade	Shade	1-2 shade Shade	Shade	2-3 shade Sun	Sun	Part Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Shade	6-8



## Plants Are Getting Too Much Sun

- Plants looking visibly burnt and parched.
- Leaves will be brittle and break easily. Similar symptoms to that of underwatering, but watering doesn't help the health of the plant.

**Remedies:** Use shade cloth in the garden or move the plants if they are in a container. Consider planting fast-growing trees and shrubs around the garden as a long-term solution. Move and replace with sun-loving plants.

## Plants Aren't Getting Enough Sun

- Leaves are losing their vibrant color and turning yellow and/or mottled.
- Leaves falling off plant and growth seems stunted.
- Plants looking spindly with a lot of space between leaves.
- Plants leaning as they grow in an effort to get more light.

**Remedies:** If in containers, move plants to sunny location. If in raised beds you can relocate the raised beds if they are small. Those with permanent gardens installed may have to cut down trees and bushes or remove sun-loving plants and replace with shade-loving plants.