

SELECTING THE GARDEN SITE

Introduction

The location and physical characteristics of a garden directly influence its use and success. Locating the garden next to a canyon or open field will invite wildlife to dine on the crops. A shade garden may provide a restful spot for outdoor classes and reading, but is a poor choice for growing vegetables.

When selecting a location, carefully consider the needs of the plants, which will be grown in the garden, as well as the needs of the people who will learn and teach in the garden. A garden will get more attention and be easier to use if it is located close to classrooms.

Gardens are difficult to relocate once installed and a poor location can severely limit plant performance and the garden's contribution to the learning process. Involve as many people as possible in the selection process. Include administrators, teachers, grounds maintenance staff, students, and volunteers.

To create a garden that will flourish, evaluate the following elements before determining location.