Plan your garden

Describe your garden's sunny and shady spots, and use AI to plan what to grow where, and when.



By the end, you'll be able to:

- describe a garden: size, sun, shade and soil
- use AI to plan what to grow, and a sowing calendar
- check AI's ideas suit the spot and the season

Warm-up What would you grow?

Talk about it with your group. Flowers, vegetables, herbs, fruit? A garden, an allotment, a balcony or a windowsill?

1 Describe the space

Fill this in for a garden, yard, balcony or windowsill you know.

	Your garden
Roughly how big?	
Which parts are sunny, and which are shady?	
What's the soil like? (clay, sandy, pots only)	
How much time do you have?	
What would you like? (colour, food, wildlife, easy care)	

2 Ask AI for a plan

If you have a device, try this prompt, or write your own using Part 1.

TRY THIS PROMPT

I have a small back garden in the north of England. One border gets sun all afternoon; the other is shady under a tree. I'd like easy-care flowers for bees, and a few vegetables in pots. Please suggest what to grow where, and give me a simple month-by-month calendar for sowing and planting.

3 Check the plan

An AI suggested these. Tick whether each makes sense.

	Makes sense	Doubtful
Lavender for the sunny border		
Lavender for the deep shade under the tree		
Ferns and hostas for the shady border		
Plant tomato plants outside in February		
Sow salad leaves in pots in spring		

For each doubtful idea, write what you'd do instead.

4 Ask about where you live

When things can be planted depends on where you live. Write a follow-up question to ask AI about your area.

5 Good habits

- Tell AI roughly where you live: the right time to plant varies.
- Check plant labels for sun, shade and size.
- Ask at a local garden centre or allotment: local knowledge is gold.

> **No device?** In small groups, draw a simple garden plan on paper. Mark the sunny and shady parts, and agree what to grow in each.

Find out more: read the free step-by-step guide, with a 10-second video, at **nosebleed.si/ideas/plan-your-garden**

Teacher notes: Plan your garden

Time: 45 to 60 minutes

Group: any size; works well in pairs

Level: beginners; no AI experience needed

You'll need: a copy per learner; seed packets or plant labels (optional); phones or tablets with an AI chat app (optional)

Before the session

Try the prompt yourself. Seed packets or plant labels make good props: they show sun, shade and sowing times.

Running order

5 min	**Warm-up.** What we'd grow.
10 min	**Part 1.** Describe the space.
20 min	**Parts 2 and 3.** Try the prompt, then check the plan.
10 min	**Parts 4 and 5.** Local timing; good habits.
5 min	**Wrap-up.** Right plant, right place, right time.

Answers: Part 3

Makes sense: lavender in sun; ferns and hostas in shade; salad leaves in spring.
Doubtful: lavender loves sun and won't thrive in deep shade. Tomatoes outside in February would be killed by frost: in most of the UK, they go outside from late May or early June.

Discussion points

- "Right plant, right place" saves time and money.
- Frost dates vary: later in the north and on high ground.
- Bees love open, simple flowers, like lavender, foxgloves and herbs in flower.

© FirstM Ltd 2026