

3 TIPS FOR STARTING A SUSTAINABLE GARDEN AT HOME.

Finally, the school year is coming to an end. Unfortunately, for many Sustag students this means they'll have to say goodbye to their own beds that we nurtured and learned from all year, right before the optimal growing season. At first, it bothered me that I'd miss the best season for growing right after learning so many applicable techniques so I decided to apply what I've learned about sustainable agriculture to my own garden system at home. If you feel like I did and want to set up a garden at home here's a few tips how you can do it sustainably.



Pick a good location:

When deciding on the location for garden, you need to find an area suitable for organic plants. For most summer crops you'll want to find somewhere that gets at least 6 hours of direct sunlight, but more light is typically better. You should also take into account the companion plants and animals around your location. Make sure they aren't high concentrations of invasive weeds or pests. Also, make sure that predators, like deer, can't reach your crops.



I choose my deck to avoid weeds and pests then put my beds on rollers to get maximum sunlight.

Get Good Quality Organic Soil:

Whether you're growing in beds like me, or in the ground, you'll likely need amend your soil to provide your plants nutrients and avoid using unhealthy synthetic chemicals. I recommend starting with a simple organic soil mix and amending it with compost, alfalfa meal and other organic amendments. OSH in San rafael sells, locally made organic compost at a reasonable price.

Pick the right crops:

Make sure to plan what you'll plant before going to buy seeds or seedlings. I recommend drawing out your bed to factor in the plant spacing needs of each species and the nuances of your location. I got my seedling at the College of Marin Indian Valley Farm where they have a large selection of organic species well-adapted to Marin's climate.



Goodluck!
-Lucas Faudman

