

Utility Garden

While most gardens are food for the eye, many are also food for the table. And, since every garden requires a certain amount of maintenance – tools, soil, fertilizers, and miscellany that have to be stored somewhere – why not incorporate the vegetable garden and tool storage into your overall garden design.

In any given garden, there will be spaces that are less than inviting to plants; these are the spots to consider for your outdoor storage needs. Cabinetry can be purchased or custom built to protect tools from the elements. With

some modifications, they can be turned into workspaces and potting benches. Overhead trellises can help mitigate the heat; making the work environment more hospitable for a day spent puttering the garden. The

structures can also provide support for fragrant ornamentals, trumpet flowers to attract hummingbirds, or vine crops such as gourds, squash, or grapes. The use of deciduous vines will conversely provide warmth with the coming of cooler weather in the winter.

Vegetable gardens have special requirements for sun, soil, and protection from hungry critters. When locating the vegetable patch, look for optimal sun conditions in the landscape with at

least five to six hours of morning to early afternoon sun per day. Don't rule out areas with too much sun if overhanging trees (think fruit trees) or the use of shade cloth structures can help mitigate the problem. There is little you can do about areas with too little sun.

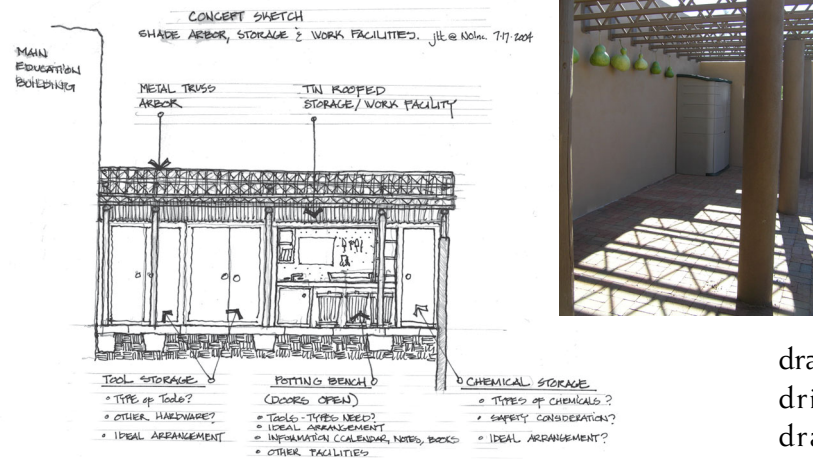
Especially in small spaces, the use of large-sized, elevated containers can solve soil problems and keep out underground predators. When gardening in a larger landscape, planting in the ground is preferable, but requires distancing from competing trees and shrubs, and underground wildlife barriers. Galvanized steel cattle tanks are available

from local feed supply stores, and can be filled with commercial potting mixes. Be sure to remove the drainage plugs, or drill holes if drainage is not provided. It may also be necessary

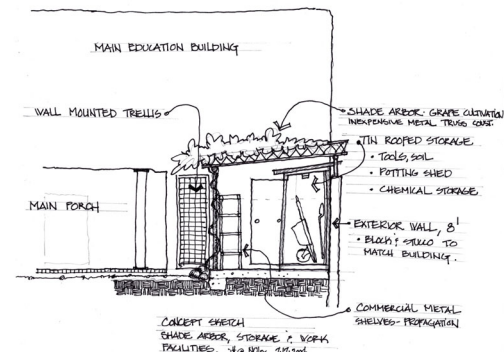
to string netting across planted areas to discourage bird predation. The use of netting requires a certain daily vigilance to remove trapped wildlife such as lizards and snakes. An alternative would be the use of horticultural shade cloth that will also help cut down the sun's intensity.

Empty surfaces, such as surrounding north-, south- or east-facing walls, can be made productive with the addition of trellises to train ornamental vines, vine crops or for espaliered fruit trees.

A simple water-harvesting rain barrel can be set up to collect free water from roof runoff. With the addition of a spigot and hose, the water can be used to irrigate your cattle tank vegetable garden. For mosquito control, keep a lid on the container, and use BT (*bacillus thurengensis*) dunks, a biological mosquito control.



Utilitarian Garden Arbor and Work Facilities-Preliminary Concept Elevation



Utilitarian Garden Arbor and Work Facilities-Preliminary Concept Section

Hardscape

- Wall colors: *Candle* and *Coconut Skin* (Dunn Edwards)
- Custom steel trusses on concrete posts (Bonita Steel)
- Low voltage path lights, overhead lighting (FX Lighting)
- Rain gutters (Roof Ops) and cistern (Earhart Equipment)
- Galvanized steel (Eagle Milling)



Utility Garden Plant List

Map Location	Botanical Name	Common Name(s)	Typical Height x Width	Landscape Use	Secondary Use	Lowest Water Use	Medium Water Use	Highest Water Use	TCP Greenhouse
78	Diospyros texana	Texas persimmon	15 x 15	T	SH	L	M		✓
121	Mascagnia macroptera	Yellow orchid vine	15 x 15	V			M		✓



Key

- A - accent
- B - bulb
- C - cactus
- CN - container
- F - fern
- G - grass
- GC - groundcover
- GT - grass/turf
- P - perennial
- PA - palm
- SU - succulent
- SH - shrub
- T - tree
- V - vine
- WF - wildflower

✓ - generally available in Tohono Chul Park Greenhouse

