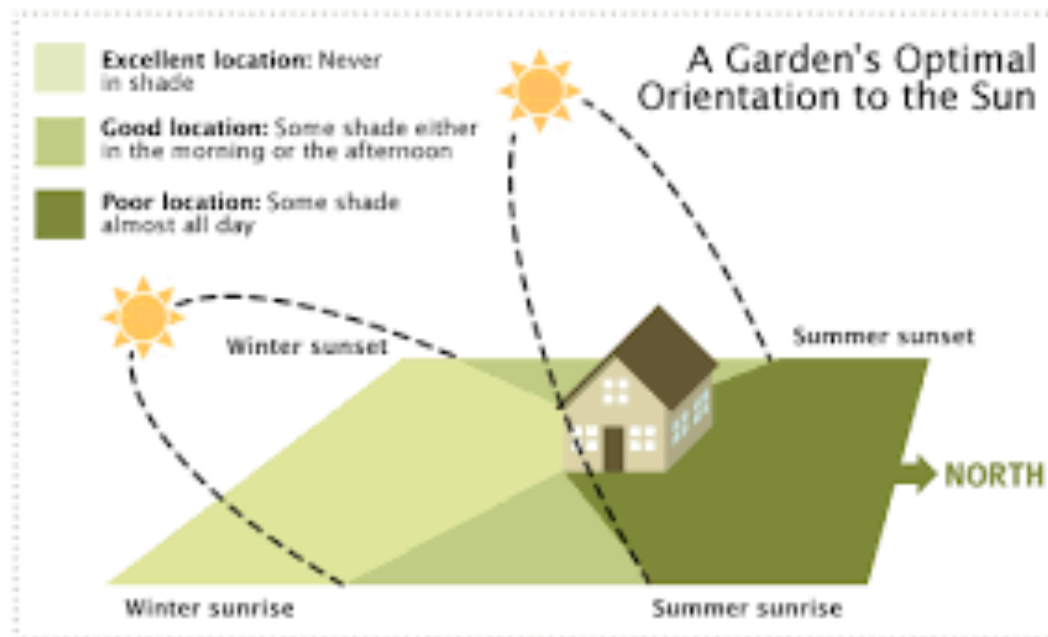

SUN/SHADE ORIENTATION- I have always struggled to figure this out.

- in Northern Hemisphere, sun always shines from south.
- has effect on sunlight intensity, temperature, moisture/humidity around sit
- NORTHERN EXPOSURE: full shade, moist, cool
- SOUTHERN EXPOSURE: full sun, hot, dry- snow melts off south side hill first
- EASTERN EXPOSURE- full sun in cooler morning, comfortable afternoon shade.
- WESTERN EXPOSURE: morning shade, hot afternoon sun, drier
- SOUTHWESTERN EXPOSURE: screen house from this angle with deciduous trees—keeps hot sun off house in summer, but with leaf drop warms house in winter
- <http://suncalc.net/#/35.1212,-89.99,21/2015.11.15/17:33> sun calculation for yard



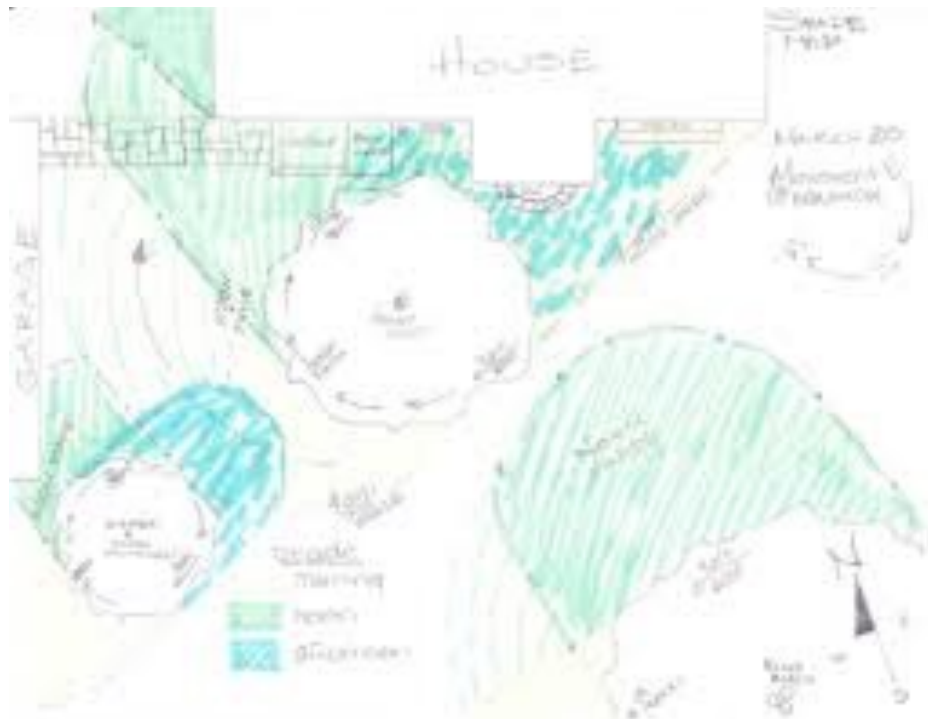
By creating a simple map of your shade you will get a clearer picture of the true level of sun exposure in your garden. To do this right, you need to do it at least twice in the year – once in the summer and once in the spring or fall. If you really want to understand your exposure, map in all four seasons at the equinox and solstice.

How to map your shade:

Using graph paper layout the buildings and large trees on your property. Don't worry about being totally exact, but be mindful with spacing and relative sizes.

With your map in hand visually watch and map the shade pattern by checking the yard at 9am, noon, and 3pm. This will give you three points to connect to make the arch of shade movement.

Remember these things when interpreting your map



Shade moves clockwise (sun-wise) (north east interpretation)

The more objects, the more shade – note the overlapping that occurs

The denser the object, the denser the shade – house shade is totally dense, trees with big leaves have denser shade than trees with small leaves.

Evergreens cast shade year round

Deciduous plants (ones that lose their leaves) cast a denser shade when they are in full leaf and a light shade when they are leafless. Notice leaf size too!

My map here shows morning sun in yellow, noon sun in green, and afternoon sun in blue. You can see that there is considerable overlap between tree shade and house shade. As much as I want a sunny back yard, this map proves I have a part shade to full shade environment. At best, I have a few small pockets of part sun. Now I know that eliminating lawn and moving toward more shade tolerant plant choices is the way to go.

Now with the shade in your yard mapped you are ready to determine whether you have:

Full sun – 6 plus hours

Part sun – 4-5 hours of sun

Part shade – 2-3 hours of sun

Full shade – less than 1 hour of sun, place under mature trees, where no sun hits ground directly

Heavy shade—cool, dim, constantly shaded by dense forest, building, tall evergreens—worst place for plants

In sunny climates, use vivid colors since bright light washes out pale colors.

Sun is inviting in a garden. The light attracts the eye. The interplay of sun and shade can provide so much interest in a very small space.

South-facing gardens

Gardens that face south are very desirable in cooler climates, since they receive the sun all day, and are light and bright. This can be a real bonus in spring and fall, but in the height of summer, a south-facing garden can be unbearably hot. Counter the heat by including shaded areas, using either tall plantings or, for instant results, pergolas, arbors, walls, and screens.

North-facing gardens

Sunlight is in short supply in a north-facing garden, and in winter you may get no sun at all. The problem is not so bad in long gardens, since the far end will be sunny because it is beyond the shadow made by the house. In small yards, avoid tall boundaries that cast even more shade; also take note of when the sun falls throughout the day and use these areas for seating.

East-facing gardens

Breakfasting al fresco is one of the joys of life, and in an east-facing patio, sheltered by the house, you can take full advantage of the early-morning sun. Evenings are cool, however, so find a spot for a seat at the far end of the garden that traps the last rays of sun. Also, avoid growing plants that are susceptible to frost damage, such as camellias, in direct morning sun.

West-facing gardens

You'll have to find an area at the end of a west-facing garden to drink your morning coffee, but afternoons and evenings will be warm and sunny. A garden that faces west is perfect for party animals, with plenty of scope for a dance floor or dining area drenched in warm evening light. Morning shade is also good for those feeling delicate the day after!

Morning



Midday



Evening

