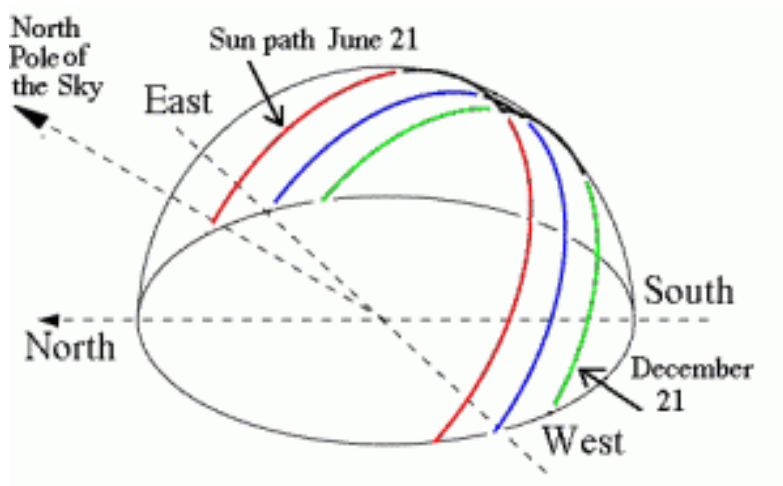


# Planting By The Sun

How bright and sunny is your garden? Do you get full sun in all corners? Do you have trees or buildings nearby? What about fences? Are there trees to the east and or the west? Evergreen or do they lose their leaves in the winter?

All these things affect your garden and the plants in it and probably you too.



Through the year the position, where the sun rises, its path across the sky, the angle of sunshine on your garden, and where the sun sets, changes, A LOT! That bright sun on your pole beans now may be shade in two months. Right now my whole garden gets good sun a good part of the day. But I know in two months from now the southern quarter will get little sun at all.

As the sun's arch across the sky shifts to the south, becoming gradually lower (rather than high overhead), trees, buildings and fences will

shadow your space in different ways.

On the south side the shadows will ebb and flow into your garden as the seasons flow from summer to autumn to winter to spring and back to summer.

On the east and west sides the shadow will move north as we move into winter then south as we move into summer.

Also as we move into winter and the days get shorter, sun will shine into your garden later in the morning and leave earlier in the afternoon.

If your garden gets shaded deciduous trees, then for a period of time you might have a reprieve and get some unexpected sunshine when they drop their leaves. Take my patio for instance. It is shaded by maples and ear trees and is not a good place to grow things. But, in winter, the trees drop their leaves leaving the patio a perfect sunny place to grow and over winter plants - protected from frost and freeze.

My point being, when you are planting your fall garden, take note of the sun patterns on your garden beds and predict how they will change over the next few months. That sunny place that looks perfect for your tomatoes could be in shade before the fruit even begins to ripen.

I plan my garden work by the path of the shadows. I know where the shade is and when. I arrange my work so that I move with the shadow of the trees -- in the morning while it's cool I start on the west side while the whole garden is shaded. As the sun rises and the shade creeps

east, so do I. If the sun catches up with me, I quit.

Go into your garden, look around, see what you can see. Locate north, south, east, and west. Check exactly where the sun comes up and where it goes down. Do some watching through the day, maybe even stick some sticks in the ground to get an idea of where and when shadows fall and how they move... then plan and plant accordingly.