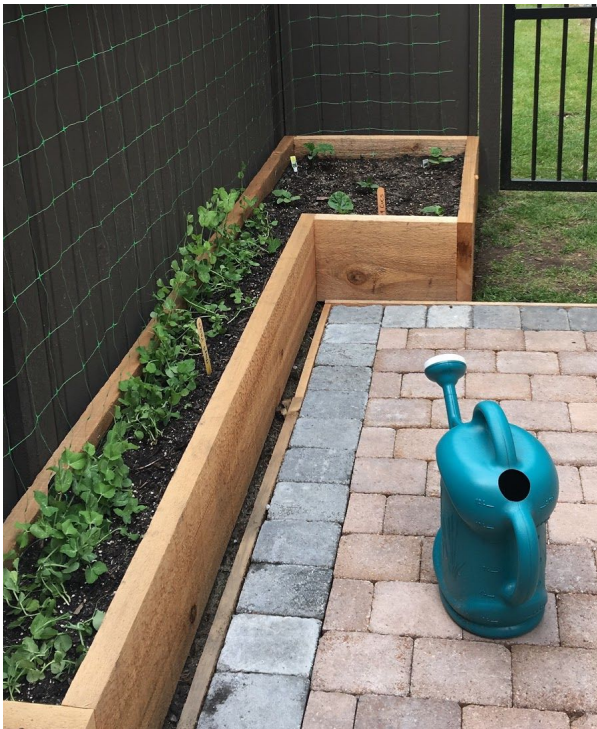


SOLscapes Shares 5 Things to Consider When Planning a Garden

Steph and Jordie, co-owners of [SOLscapes](#), an ecologically sustainable edible landscaping company based in Squamish, share 5 things to consider before you put any plants in the ground.

1. What am I working with? Take some time to evaluate your site:



- How much direct and indirect sun exposure do you get? Many edible plants (veggies, herbs, fruits, and flowers) require at least 6 hrs of sun per day.

-Is it windy? If you're in Squamish, the answer is probably yes! Consider finding a sheltered spot. Or creating shelter.

-Is it level? This will impact your drainage capacity.

-Is it far away? The closer the better. If your doorstep, front/backyard, balcony or window ledge isn't an option, don't get discouraged. Work garden visits into your routine, call it a date.

-Is it close to water? Your newly installed plants will get thirsty. Make sure you're near a water source by either using a garden hose or watering cans.

2. Reuse!

Divert waste, get creative! What existing structures/ containers do you have access to? And can they contain soil? Think: pots, rubbermaids, raised beds (choose untreated wood), buckets, trellises, old bathtubs. Give them a good scrub first so that you reduce the risk of introducing any disease into your soil. Reach out your free community resources and local social media pages. * Thinking of an in-ground garden? Run it by your landlord or homeowner, and make sure you inform yourself if there are any underground pipes, cables or conduits. Make a BC 1 call.



