

# Growing Audit

## CHECKLIST

### Budget Details:

Utilities: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Water: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Supplies: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Hay: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Audit Time Frame: \_\_\_\_\_

Rent of Land: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Feed/ Grain: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Projects: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Others: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Step #1- Preparing For An Audit

- Garden plan drawing
- List of start dates
- List of seeds that you started this year with
- List of seeds you still have leftover
- List of harvest dates you grew in your garden
- List of all veggies currently in the ground
- List of any perennial veggies and fruits you planted this spring
- List of other perennials on your property
- List of your spring crops with harvest amounts
- List of your summer crops with harvest amounts

### Gather Every Part Of Your Growing Plan

- List of your fall crops with harvest amounts
- Soil test results
- List of all soil amendments you have already added
- List of future amendments you plan to add this fall
- List of Animals you purchased this year
- List of Animals sold this year
- List of Animals still on the homestead
- Calendar or Planner with Growing Dates
- Inventory of Preserved Produce
- Inventory of Freezers
- Financial Documents

## Step #2 Conduct Your Audit

Now that you have all of your paperwork gathered, go over everything and see if it all matches. Fix any issues that don't align with your plan or goals. Here is an few example.

Garden drawing: is everything on your garden plan drawing correct? When you built your beds this spring, are they where you plan to put them? Are the things you plan to plant in each bed currently growing there or have you pulled them and replaced them? If you replaced them make a note about what is currently growing there and does it match your plan?

List of seeds you planted this spring: did you plant all of these seed packets or do you have some left over? If you planted a seed type, how did it grow? Were there any problems with germination? Did the harvest taste good? How much did you get from your harvest in pounds? Was this variety worth growing again?

List of current seeds: does this match what you have in your seed storage? Are any of these included on your spring, summer, or fall list? Can any be added to your summer, and fall list?

List of harvest dates: did you harvest close to these estimated dates? If you didn't, estimate these dates, do you have an accurate date when you harvested your veggies?

List of current veggies in the ground: here is when you assess how your veggies are currently growing. Are they handling heat like their seed packets stated? Are you getting any pest problems? (I am dealing with lots of Cabbage Moths) Are your veggies the size they should be at their current growing stage? This may help with future soil amendments.

List of new perennials you planted this spring: Are they growing well? Did you remember that you planted them and watered them regularly? (My asparagus patch and I have a long relationship of neglect) Is the variety you picked living up to its claim to fame?

## Step #2 Conduct Your Audit Cont.

List of other perennials: How are they dealing with the heat? Did they enjoy that added fertilizer you gave them in the spring? Are they ready to harvest? Did they get frosted back? (My apple trees did this year)

List of spring crops with harvest amounts: Your spring veggies like peas, potatoes, or carrots are probably done and you harvested them last week. Now is the time to write down the results of your harvest. How much did the variety give you? Did it taste good? Did it can or freeze well? Are you going to grow it again next year, or maybe this fall?

List of summer crops: This is what I call my direct seeded veggies like lettuce, cucumbers, zucchini, and the like. Things my seed packets said they need to be started after the last frost and not transplanted. How are they doing? Are they close to harvest? Has my lettuce bolted and can I plant some more?

List of fall crops: This is a list of seeds I plan to start Midsummer to harvest later in the fall, like a second batch of peas, kale, broccoli or spinach. Now is the time to see if the veggies you plan to replace them with was the right choice. Also, to reassess if you'll even need more peas, maybe you got plenty from your spring harvest.

List of amendments you added this spring: Are the amendments you added fixing the problem they said they would? Have you replenished your soil after pulling your spring crops? For example, if your soil test said you were low in nitrogen and you just pulled a heavy nitrogen feeding plant like broccoli, you may need to add more nitrogen. Especially, if your broccoli crop looks like it was lacking.

List of soil amendments you have on hand: You're going to need to add more amendments during the summer and fall so if you have a list of what you have you can buy only more of what you need.

### Step #3 Create A Report

Now is the time to take all of your notes and make a beautiful summarization of what needs fixed or even better a list of your wins! It will feel good to see all you have accomplished this year. Also remember that any failure you find can be fixed now so that next year will be even better.

### Step #4 Go Over Your Results and Take Action

This step is self-explanatory. But I want to remind you, no matter what the results you get you still have time to fix any issues before they become a problem. Don't be hard on yourself, like I always say Pray, Just Plant! When it comes to growing a garden, a homestead, a healthy family, and closer to our Lord the only thing we can control is our prayers to God and planting. After that, all we can do is care for and fix any issues as quickly as we can. A plant can't grow and come to harvest if you never sow the seed!

### Step #5 Publish Results

Growing is a family affair. Share your results with all involved even if all they do is eat your harvest. This is going to show them how much work that delicious healthy food takes to put on their plates this next February!

## Learn More

Performing a growing audit is going to give your growing journey clarity and purpose. Use this audit to help you make your goals and plans for you next growing season.

I pray that you find encouragement through out this process. I would love to hear how your year went or better yet help you by answering any questions you may have. Go to the contact page on my website or on social media. I will put all my handles below.

[www.redridgefarm.org](http://www.redridgefarm.org)

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