



Sunlight Tracking Sheet

A fillable worksheet to help you observe sun patterns before choosing plants.

Why Track Sunlight?

Sunlight changes through the day and from season to season. Tracking it for even one day can help you choose plants that fit your yard instead of guessing at the garden center.

- ☐ Helps you match plants to the right spot
- ☐ Shows which beds get full sun, part sun, or shade
- ☐ Prevents planting sun lovers in the wrong spot

Sunlight Basics

Light Type	Typical Light	What It Means
Full Sun	6+ hours direct sun	Best for many flowering shrubs and sun-loving plants.
Part Sun / Part Shade	3-6 hours sun	Good for many adaptable shrubs.
Shade	Less than 3 hours direct sun	Best for shade-loving plants.
Morning Sun	Gentle early light	Often ideal in the South.
Afternoon Sun	Hot, intense sun	Important to note in Southern yards.

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Step 1: Describe the Area

Start with the planting spot you want to study.

Planting Area

Area or bed name:

Date observed: Season:

What to Watch

- ☐ Start around 8 AM and check again at noon, 3 PM, and late afternoon.
- ☐ Notice buildings, fences, porches, and trees that create shade.
- ☐ Watch how the light changes in different seasons.
- ☐ Mark areas that stay damp or dry out quickly.
- ☐ Take photos if that helps you remember.

Quick Notes About This Spot

Nearby trees, fences, or buildings:

Soil or moisture notes:

Plants you are considering:

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Step 2: Track the Sun

Use one row for each area or bed you are checking.

My Sunlight Tracking Log

Area / Bed	Morning Sun	Midday Sun	Afternoon Sun	Light Type	Notes

Tip: If the spot gets hot afternoon sun in Georgia or the Southeast, choose plants that can handle heat and water stress.

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Step 3: Plan What Goes Where

Use this page to connect your sunlight notes to plant choices.

Areas I Want to Plant

Area	Plants I am considering	Notes

Plant Shopping Reminders

- ☐ Check plant tags for sun needs before buying.
- ☐ Match mature size to the space you actually have.
- ☐ Ask whether the plant prefers morning sun, afternoon shade, or full sun.
- ☐ Do not rely on one quick glance at sunlight. Track it through the day.

Plants to ask about:

Step 4: Final Notes

Save your observations so shopping and planting are easier later.

My Best Planting Spots

Best full sun spot:

Best part sun / part shade spot:

Best shade spot:

Notes

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