

Creating a Sustainable Backyard Food System

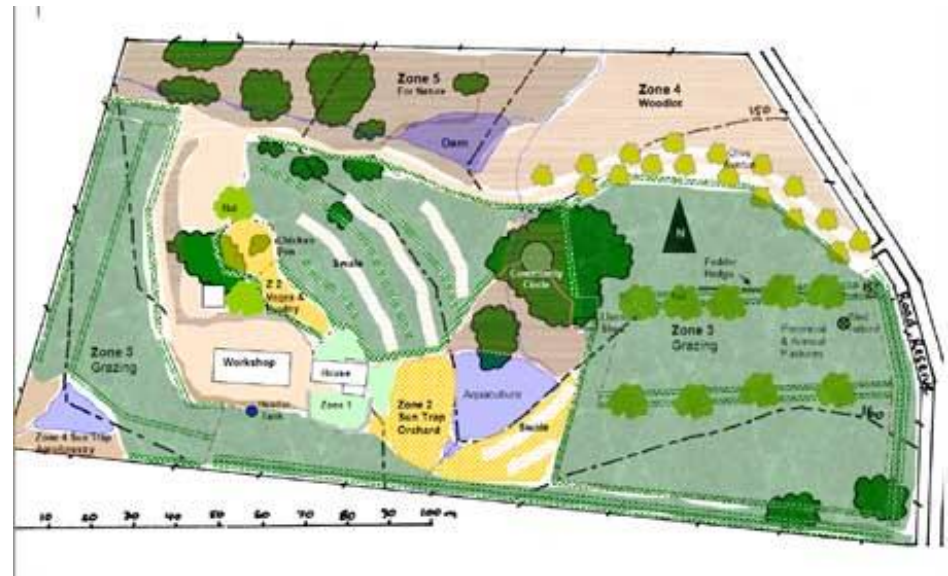
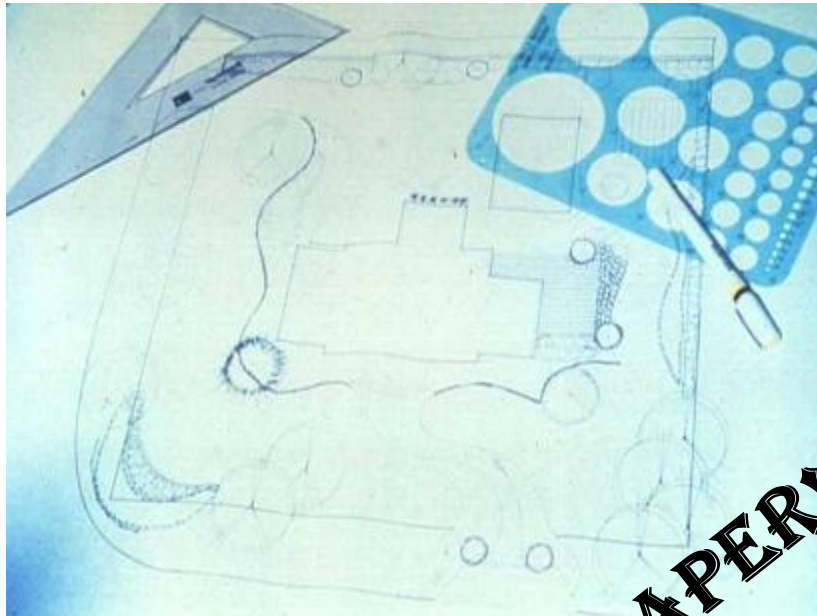


What is YOUR idea of backyard Sustainability?

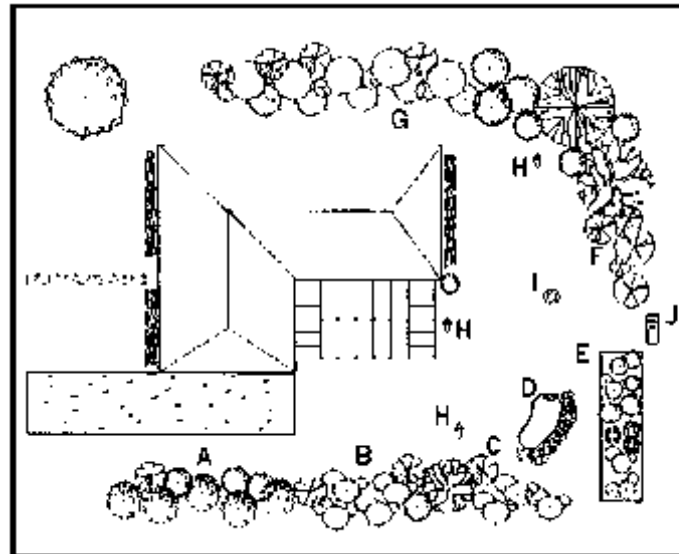
- Food source*
- Reduce costs*
- Create beauty*
- Welcome wildlife*
- Conserve resources*
- Protect environment*



Start with Planning



PUT IT DOWN ON PAPER!

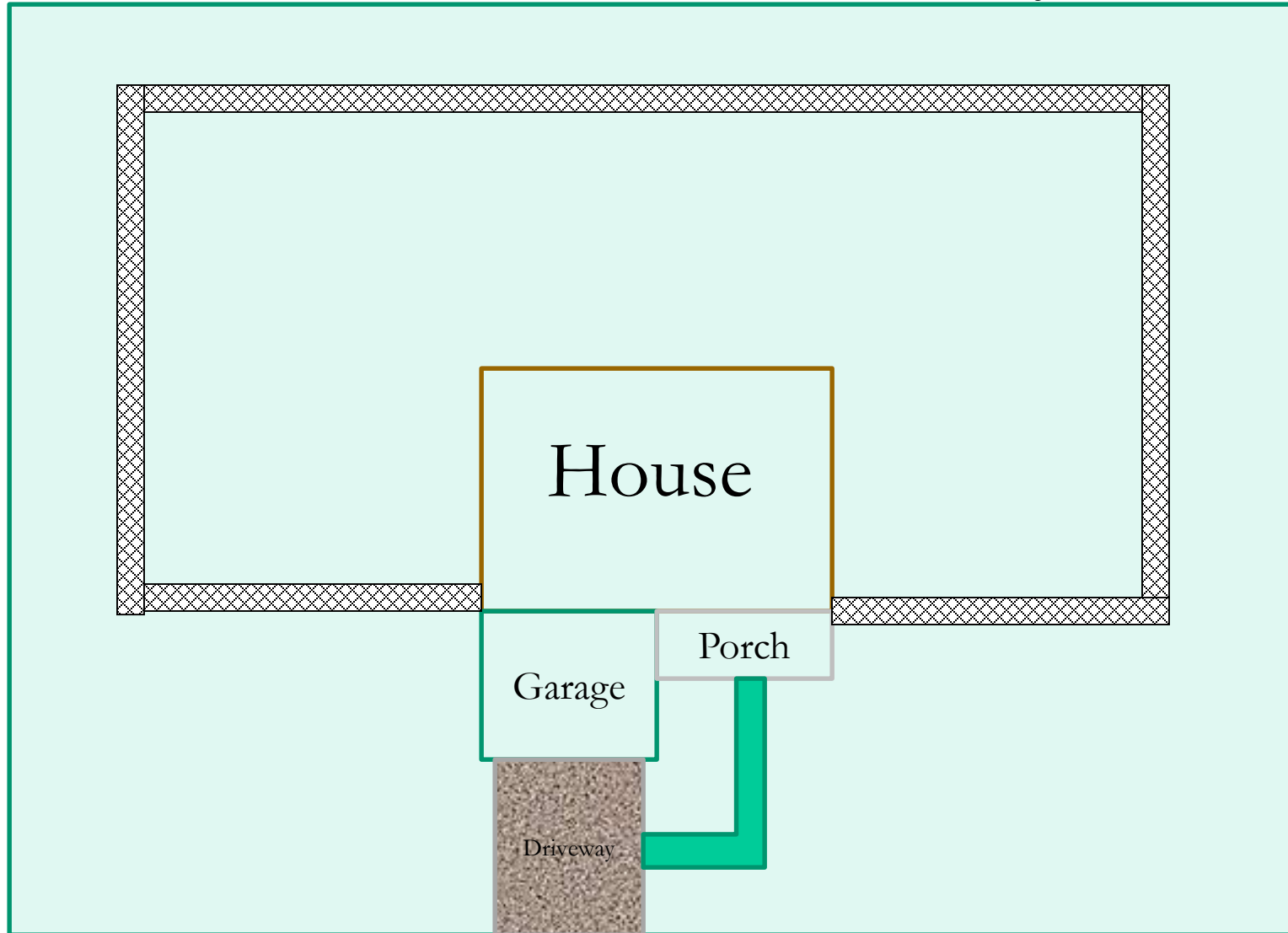


- A Thick evergreen shrubs for cover
- B Deciduous shrubs and small trees
- C More shrubs
- D Backyard pond with rock garden
- E Butterfly (Hummingbird) and garden
- F Small trees
- G Eucalyptus, K. Deciduous shrub trees / shrubs
- H Feeders
- I Bird bath
- J Nest box

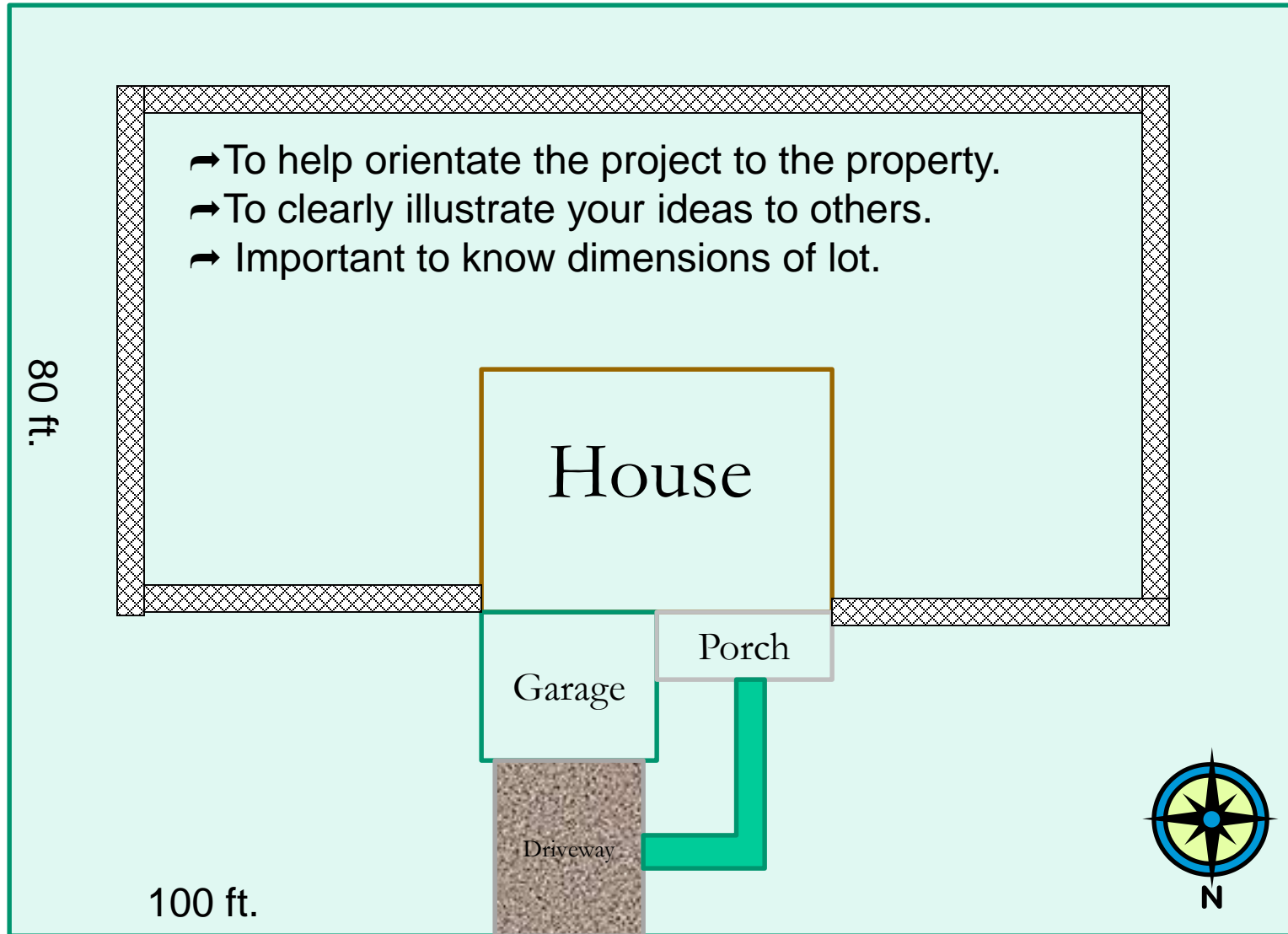
Functionality



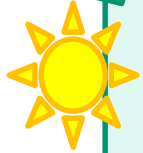
Evolution of a Backyard



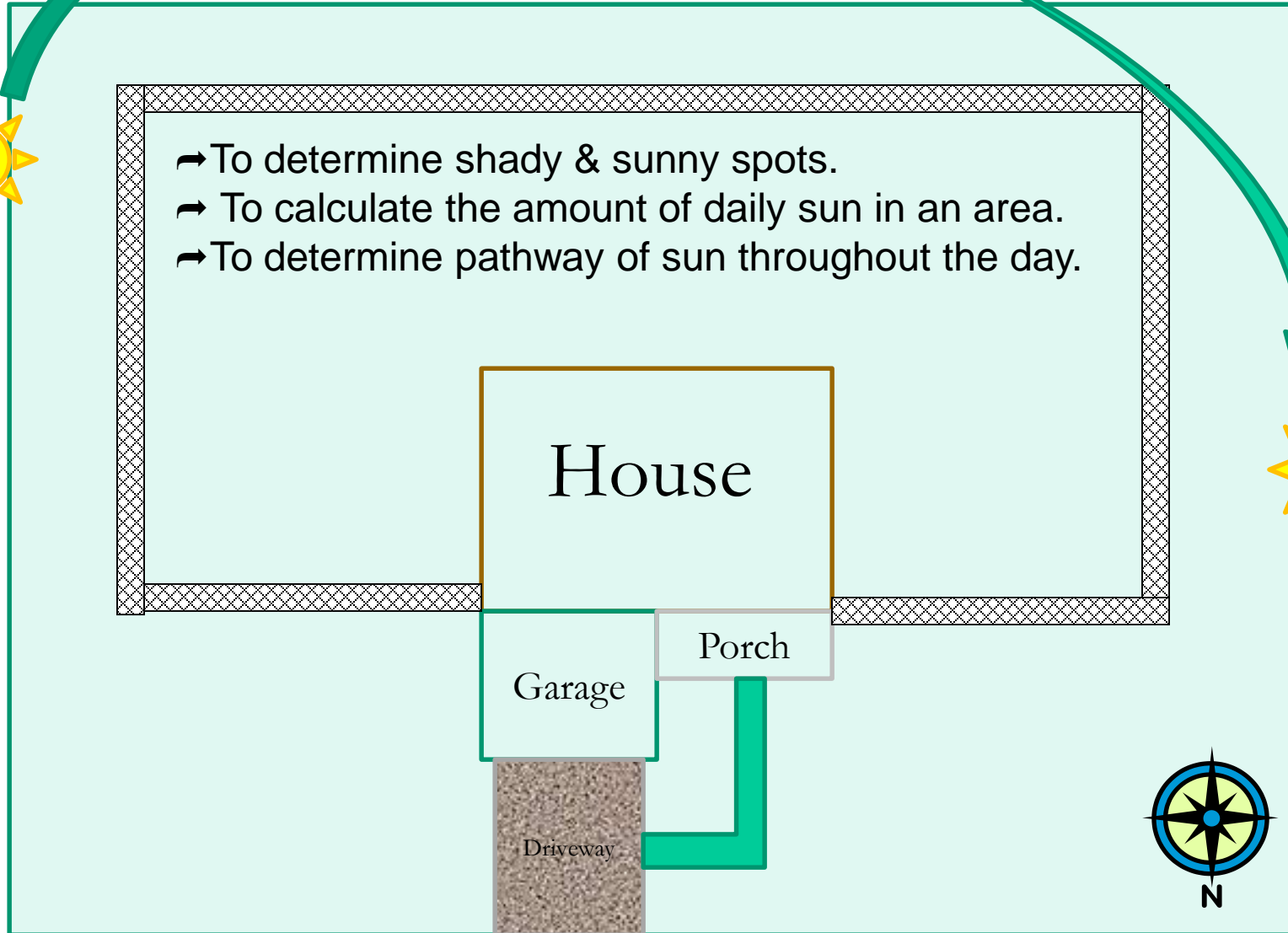
Begin by Identifying the Location



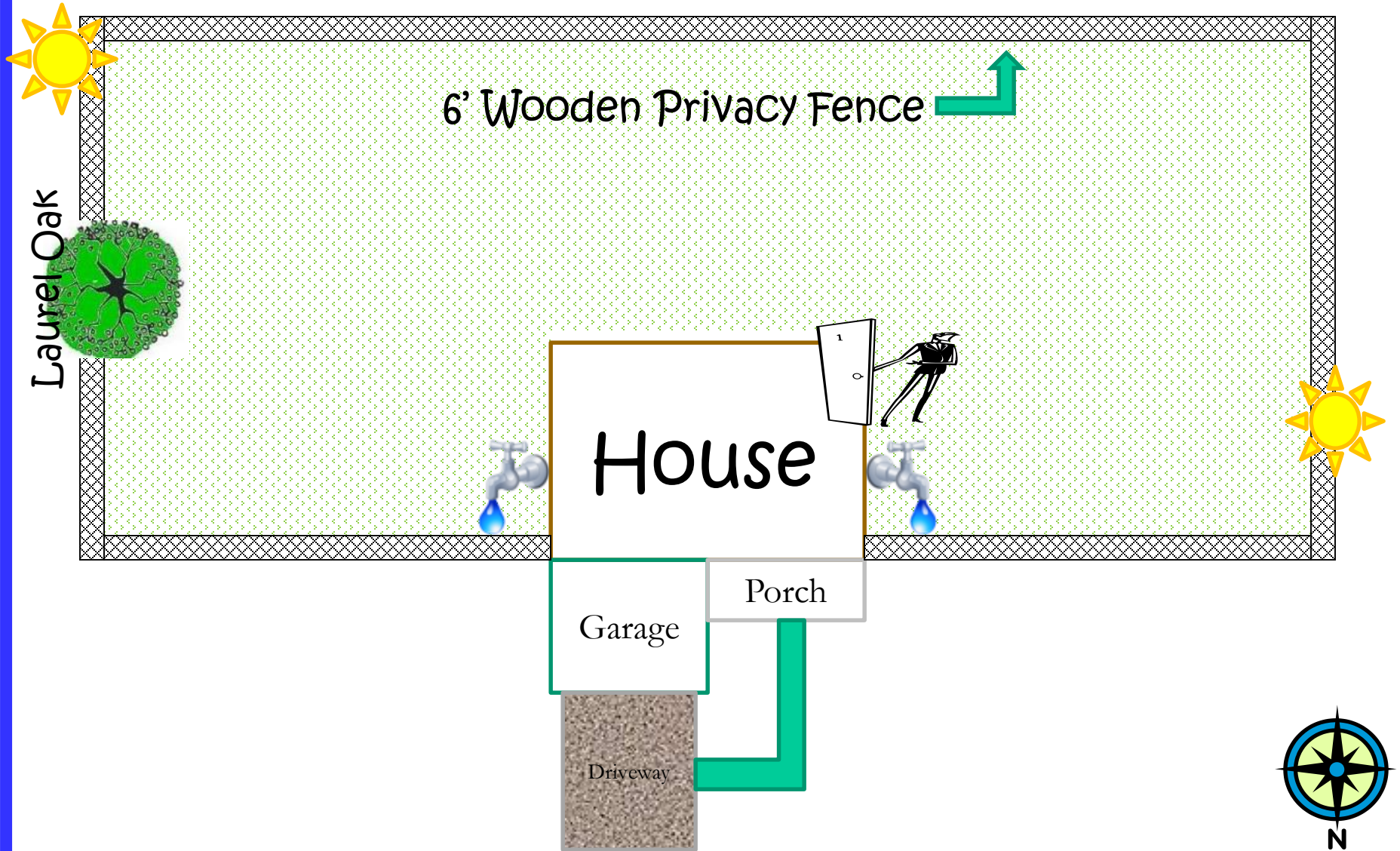
Add Sun's Orientation and Pathway



- ➔ To determine shady & sunny spots.
- ➔ To calculate the amount of daily sun in an area.
- ➔ To determine pathway of sun throughout the day.

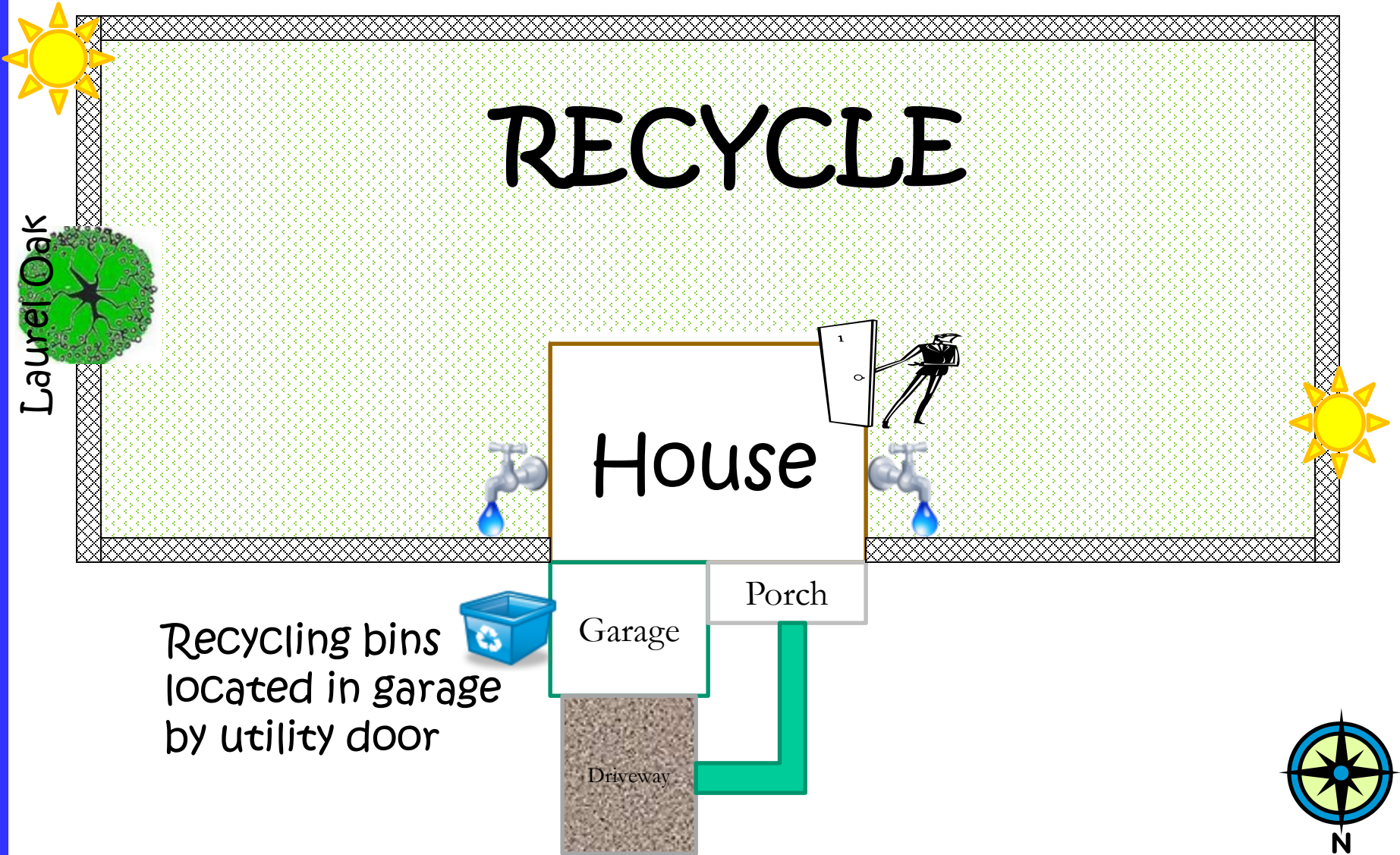


Place and Label Existing Features



Feature #1

RECYCLE



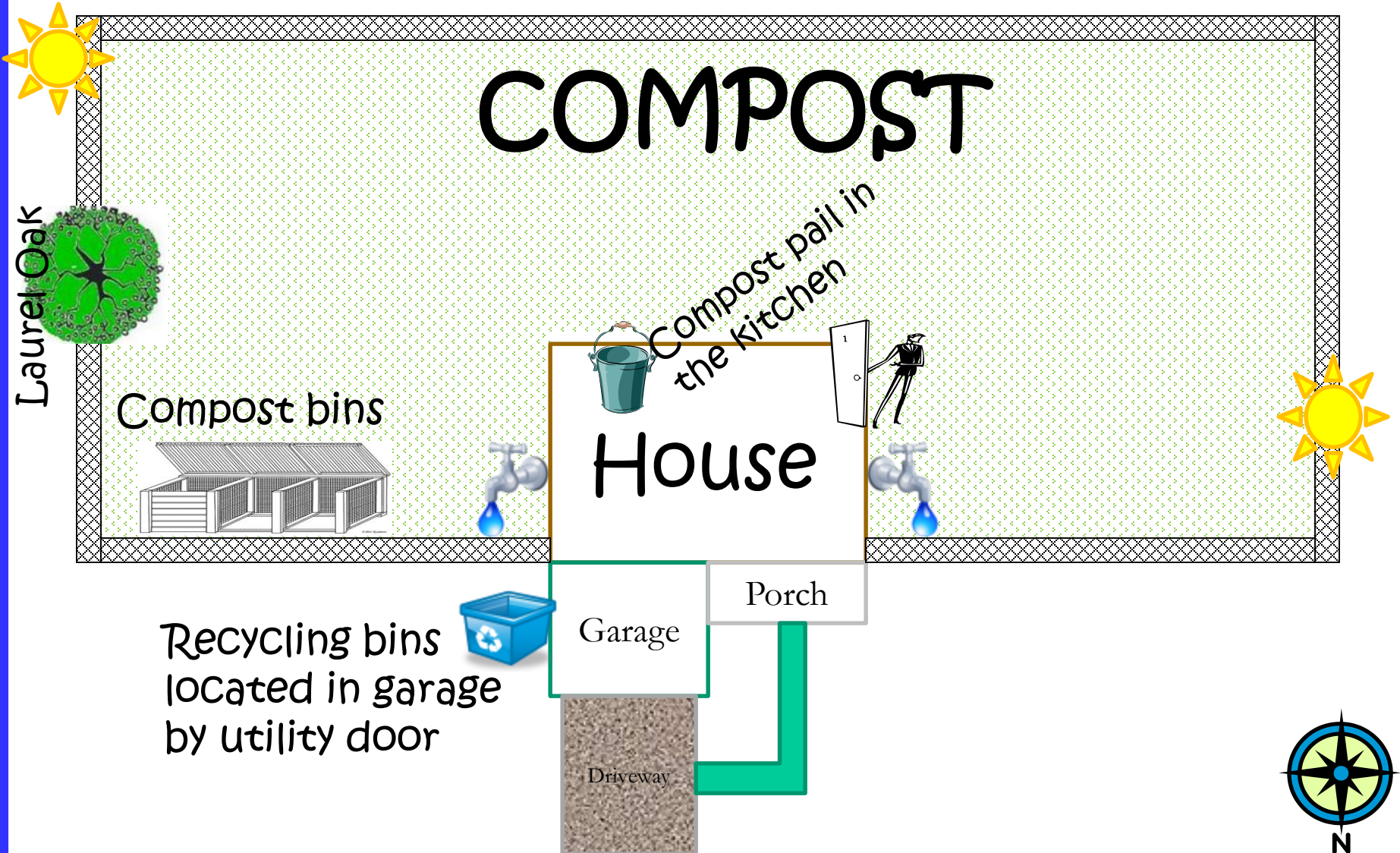
Importance of Recycling

- Helps to reduce the pollution caused by waste.
- Reduces the need for raw materials.
- Requires much less energy and therefore helps to preserve natural resources.
- Reduces demand for landfill space.
- Can produce a usable bio-product.



Feature #2

COMPOST



Importance of Composting

Advantages of Composting

- It's easy
- It's inexpensive
- **Recycles nutrients**
- No equipment needed
- It removes OM from landfill
- You create a N-rich fertilizer
- Improves our sandy soil

Disadvantages of Composting

- Can be smelly
- Can attract pests
- Might not be eye-pleasing for everyone
- Chemical process can be difficult to control
- Can be time-consuming
- **Probably will still have to add soil amendments**

Examples of Kitchen Compost Pails



bamboo



metal



copper



plastic



ceramic



Under the counter

Examples of Composters



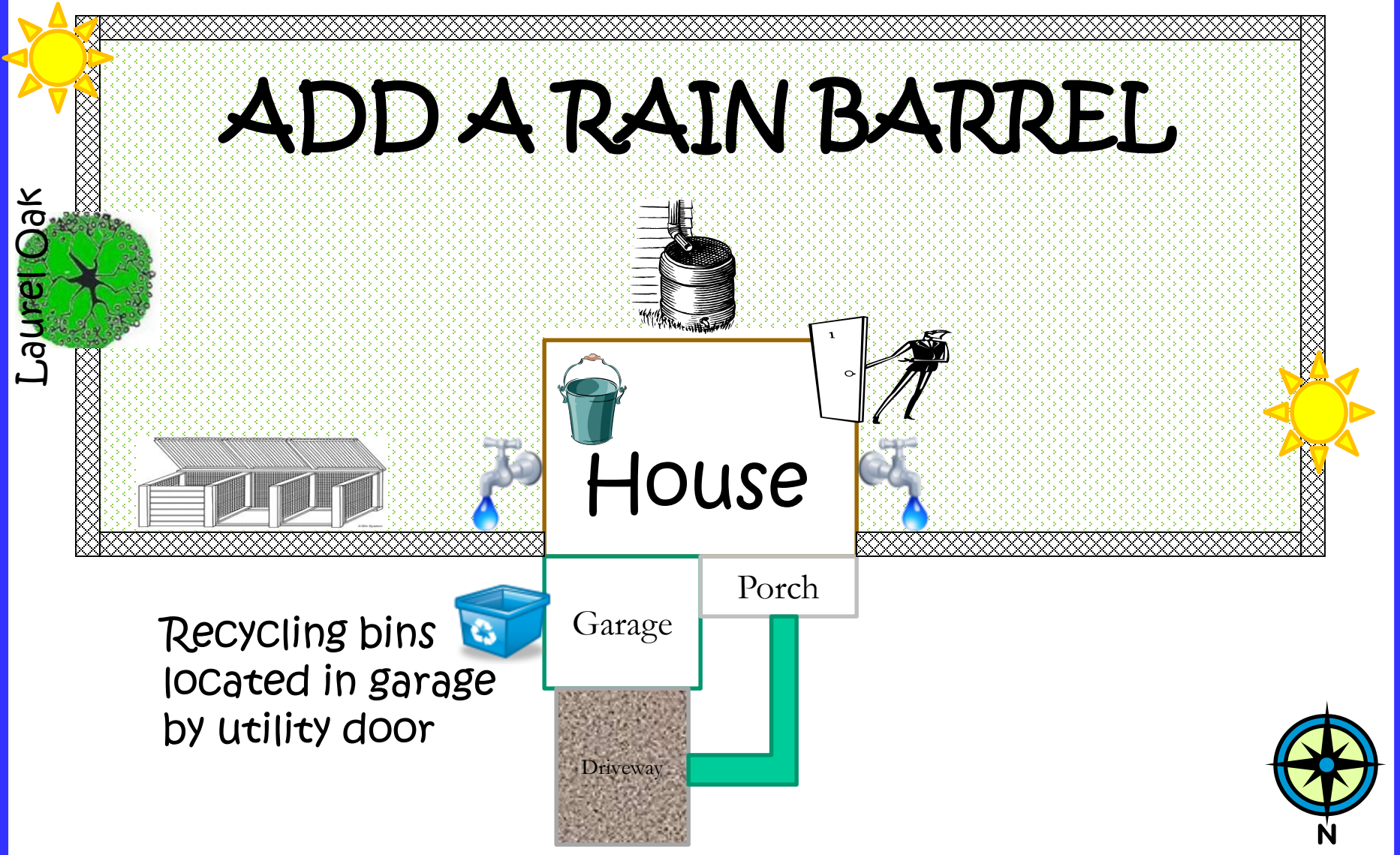
What To Do with Your Luscious Compost



- Mix into your garden for humus
 - Water retention
 - Improves soil structure
- Use as a mulch around plants
- Use as potting soil
- Can be a fertilizer
 - Will still need to add more based upon test results

Feature #3

ADD A RAIN BARREL



Laurel Oak

Recycling bins located in garage by utility door

Garage

Porch

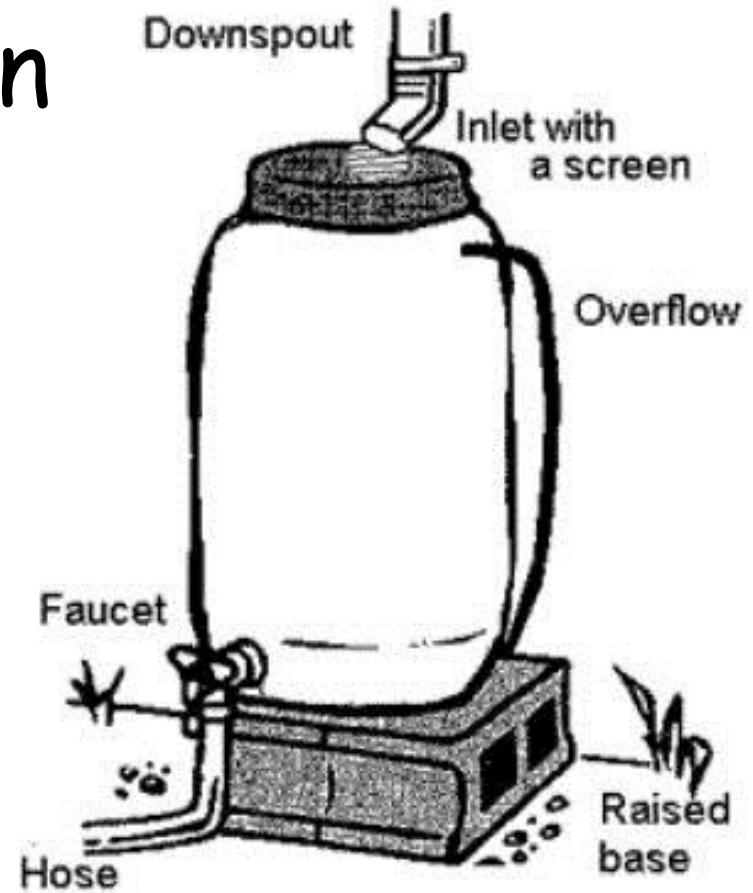
Driveway

House

N

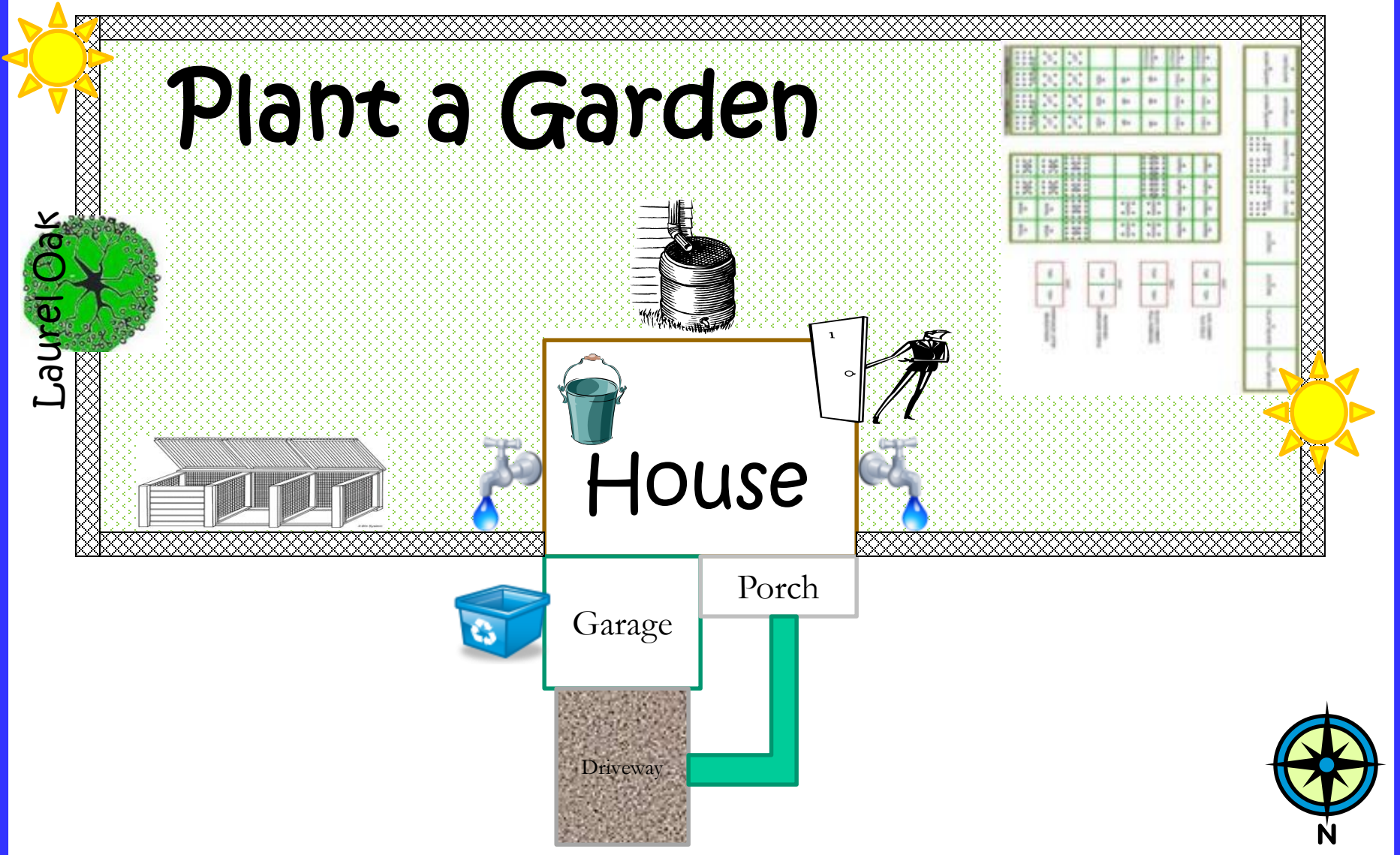
Benefits of a Rain Barrel

- Water conservation
- Water storage
- Reduce runoff
- Reduce erosion
- Can save money
- Chlorine-free H₂O



Feature #4

Plant a Garden



Advantages of a Vegetable Garden

- 🍎 Fresh vegetables
- 🍎 Reduce food bill
- 🍎 Sustainable land use
- 🍎 Teaches responsibility
- 🍎 Know what is applied
 - pesticides & herbicides
- 🍎 Health benefits
 - relaxing; exercise
- 🍎 Enhances quality of life



Location of the Garden

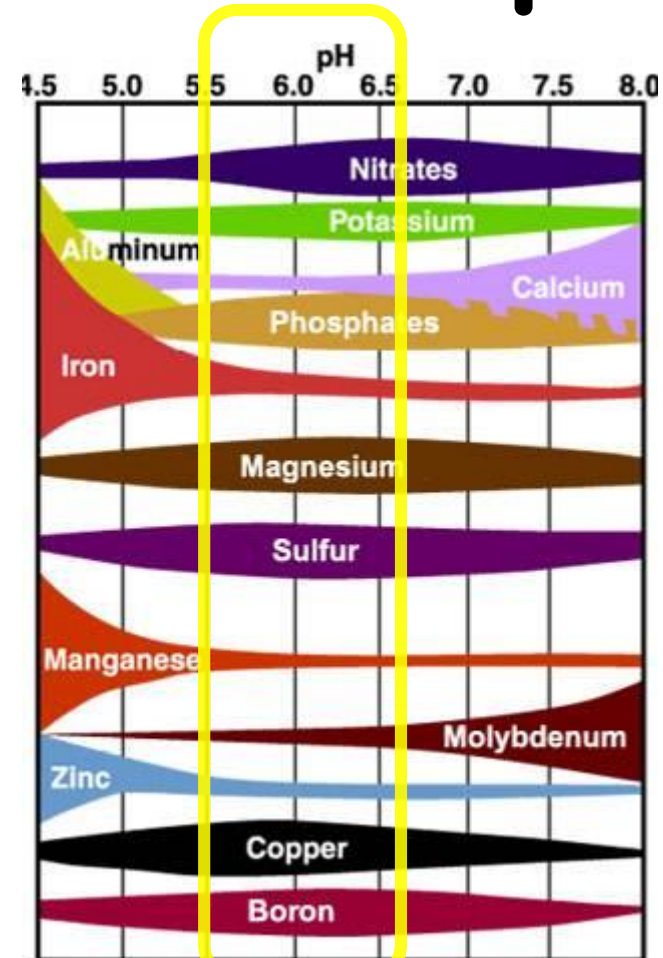
- Near a source of water
- Well-drained, fertile soil
 - Soil sample
- Use existing features for support
 - Privacy fence as a trellis
- Needs at least 6 hours of sunlight
- Has to be in a convenient location





Importance of Soil Samples

- Indicates the pH
 - Allows you to select adapted plants
 - Allows you to amend the soil
- Can indicate the level of certain nutrients in the soil
- Gives a fertilizer recommendation
 - Computer-generated guide based on models



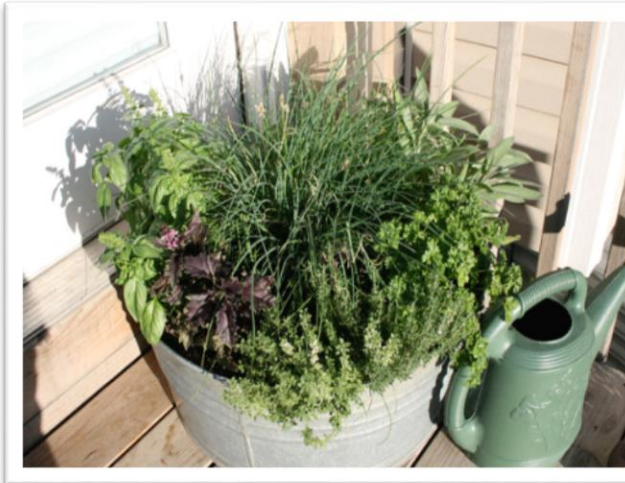
pH range for most plants

What to grow?

- Possibilities are endless
 - What is easy
 - What you like to eat
 - Costly in the market
- Fruits & Veggies
- Quantity vs Need
- Try something new
- Check your seasons
 - Be careful during hot & humid

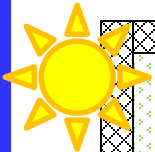


Porch Containers for Herbs

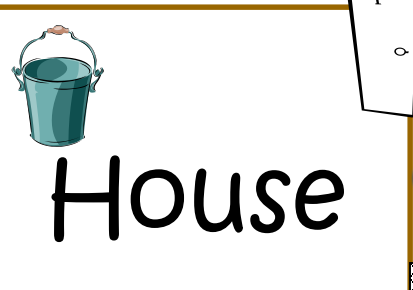
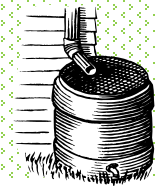
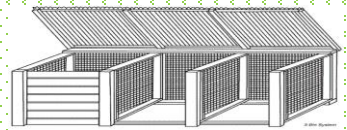
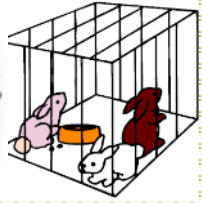
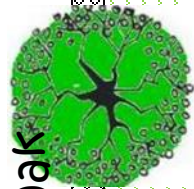


Feature #5

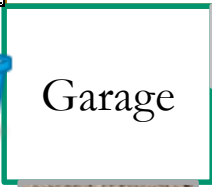
Add a Few Rabbits



Laurel Oak



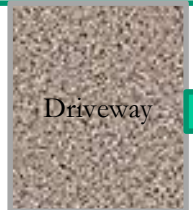
House



Garage



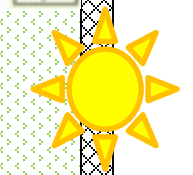
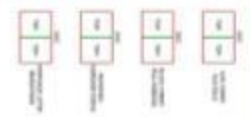
Porch



Driveway

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60



Advantages to Having Rabbits

- Quiet; they should not disturb your neighbors
- Produce rabbit manure = high quality fertilizer
- Can 'pasture' animals to control lawn
- Can be used for meat
- Teach responsibility



Pasturing Rabbits



- Healthier animal
- Reduces feed cost
- Plant-ready compost & fertilizer
- Meat at 8-10 weeks for your family
- Maintain grass lawns

Location of the Rabbit Hutch



- Under shade or some sort of protection
Away from garden area (just in case!)
- Near water and food source

The Art of Worm Farming

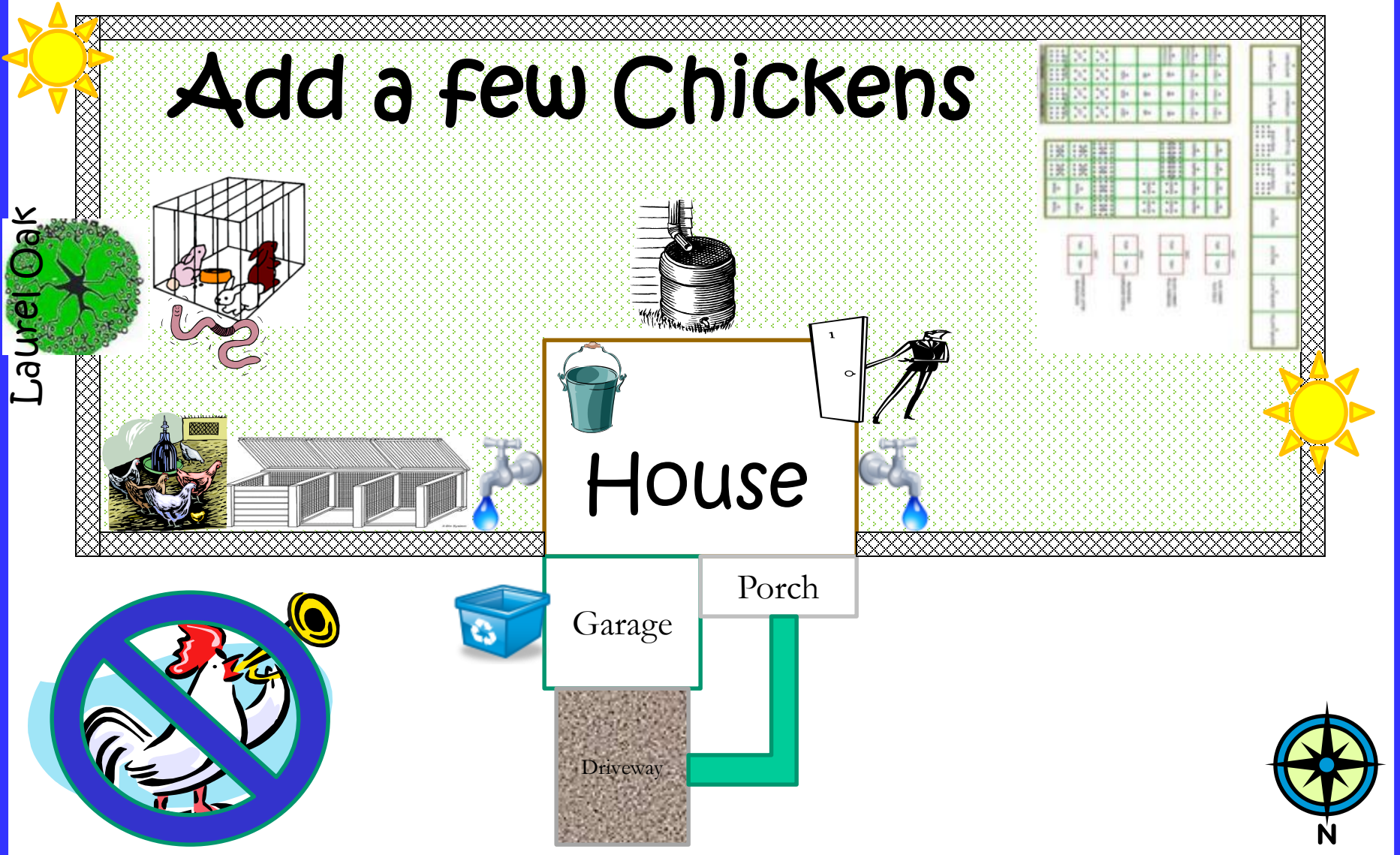


- Reduces food waste
- Recycles nutrients
- Organic process
- Saves \$\$ on fertilizer & pesticides
- Improves soil (castings)



Feature #7

Add a few Chickens



Laurel Oak

House

Garage

Porch

Driveway



Best Backyard Chickens

❖ Australorp

- Gentle, great egg layers, light brown, speckled eggs



❖ Wyandotte

- Docile, dual purpose, brown eggs



❖ Orpington

- Affectionate, good with children, brown eggs



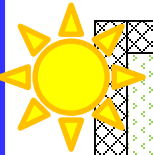
❖ Ameraucana

- Quiet, calm, blue & green eggs

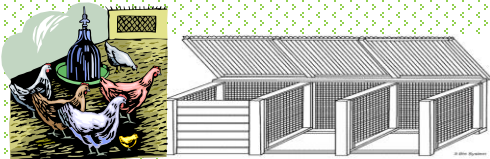
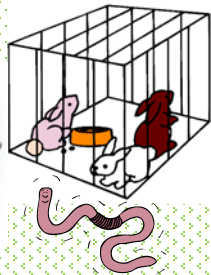


Feature #8

Edible Landscapes

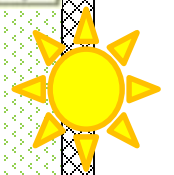


Laurel Oak

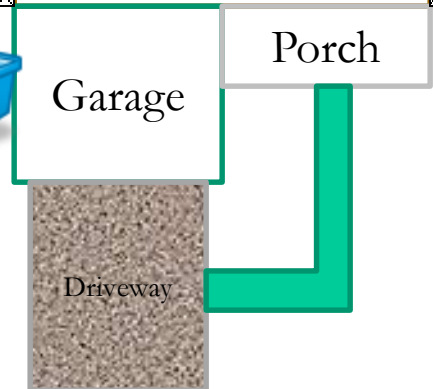


Plant Name	Color	Height	Flowering	Fruit	Notes
Apple	Red	Medium	Spring	Red	Edible
Banana	Yellow	Medium	Spring	Yellow	Edible
Cherry	Red	Medium	Spring	Red	Edible
Orange	Orange	Medium	Spring	Orange	Edible
Peach	Pink	Medium	Spring	Pink	Edible
Pineapple	Yellow	Medium	Spring	Yellow	Edible
Strawberry	Red	Low	Spring	Red	Edible
Watermelon	Red	Medium	Spring	Red	Edible

Plant Name	Color	Height	Flowering	Fruit	Notes
Apple	Red	Medium	Spring	Red	Edible
Banana	Yellow	Medium	Spring	Yellow	Edible
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Pineapple	Yellow	Medium	Spring	Yellow	Edible
Strawberry	Red	Low	Spring	Red	Edible
Watermelon	Red	Medium	Spring	Red	Edible

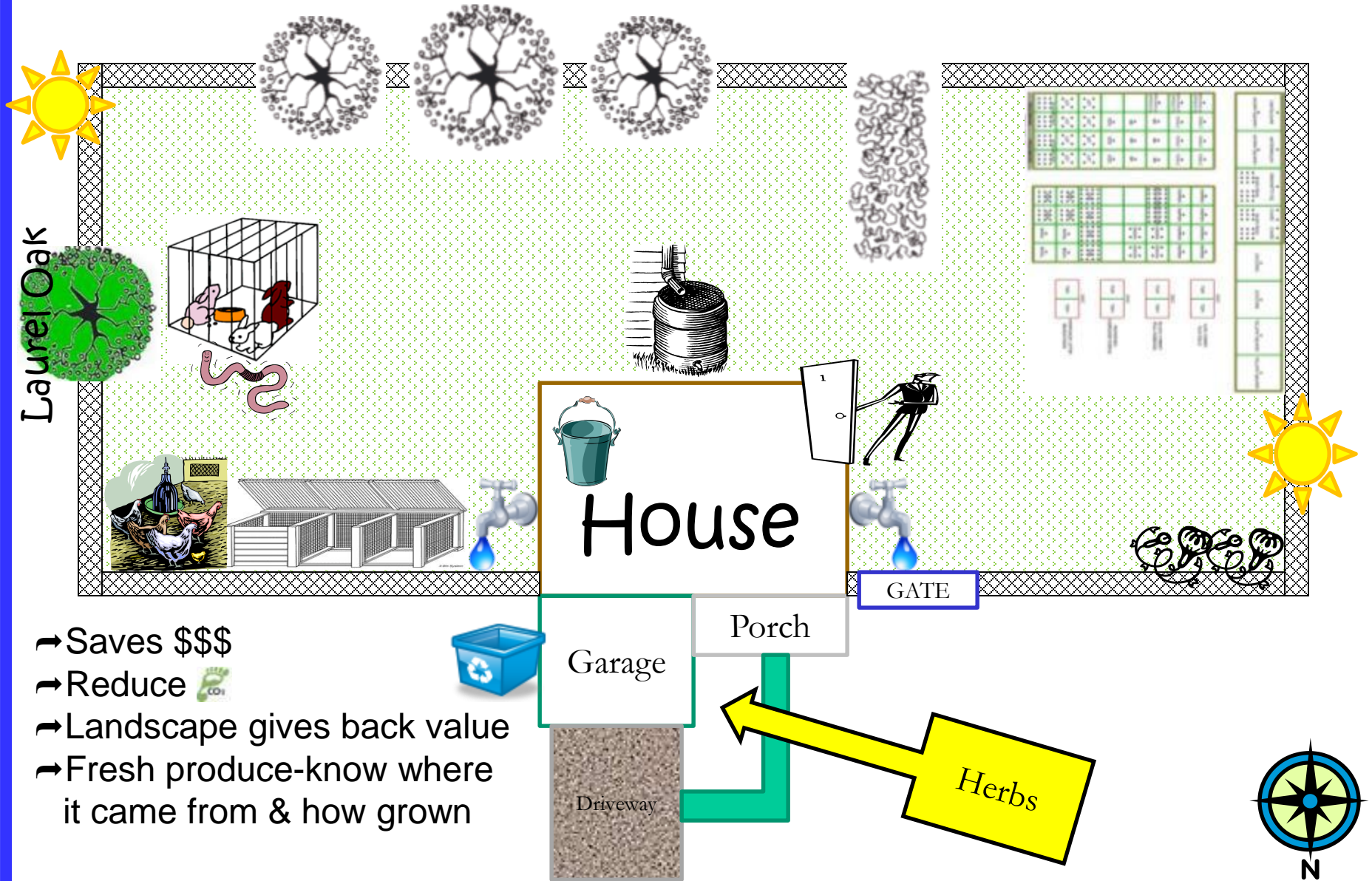


DEFINITION: Adding and or substituting fruiting trees and shrubs for ornamentals.




CRITERIA: Trees and/or shrubs that offer an fruit/nut that your family will eat and enjoy.

Edible Landscapes



Laurel Oak

- Saves \$\$\$
- Reduce 
- Landscape gives back value
- Fresh produce-know where it came from & how grown

House

GATE

Porch

Garage

Driveway

Herbs

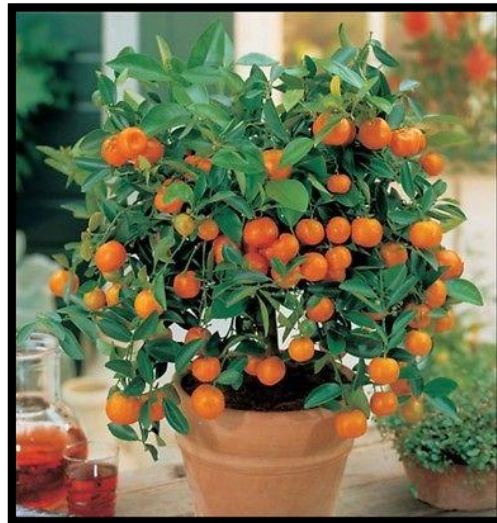
N

Suggestions for Edible Landscapes

Smaller Trees (<20')



- Guava
- ~~Citrus~~
- Lychee
- Carambola
- Dwarf varieties
 - Papaya, banana



Larger Trees (>20')



- ~~Avocado~~
- Mango
- Pecan
- Loquat
- Low chill stone



Suggestions for Edible Landscapes



Vines

- Passion Fruit
- Peas, legumes
- cucumbers
- Muscadine Grapes

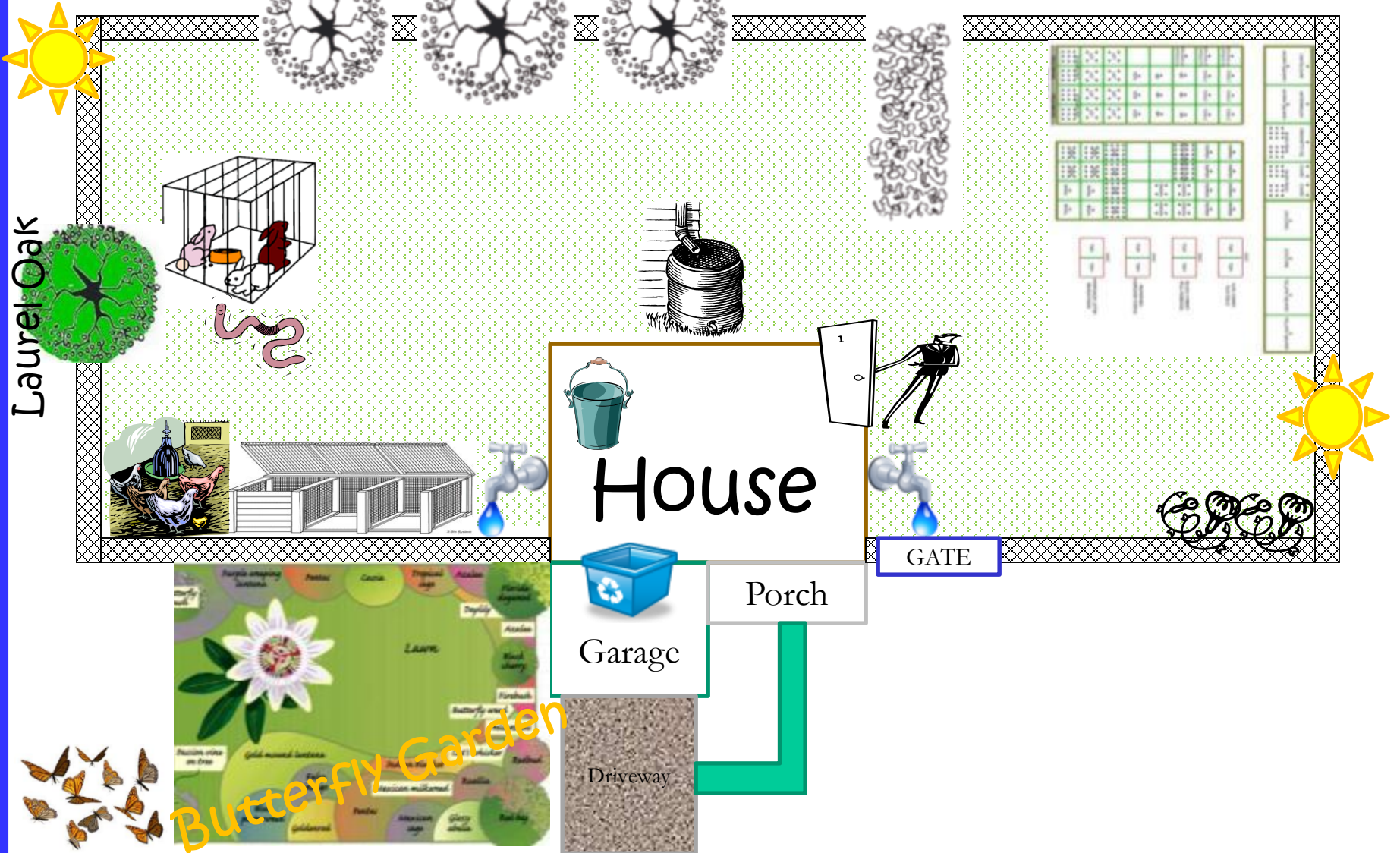


Shrub-like

- Blueberries
- Blackberries
- Natal plum
- Roselle



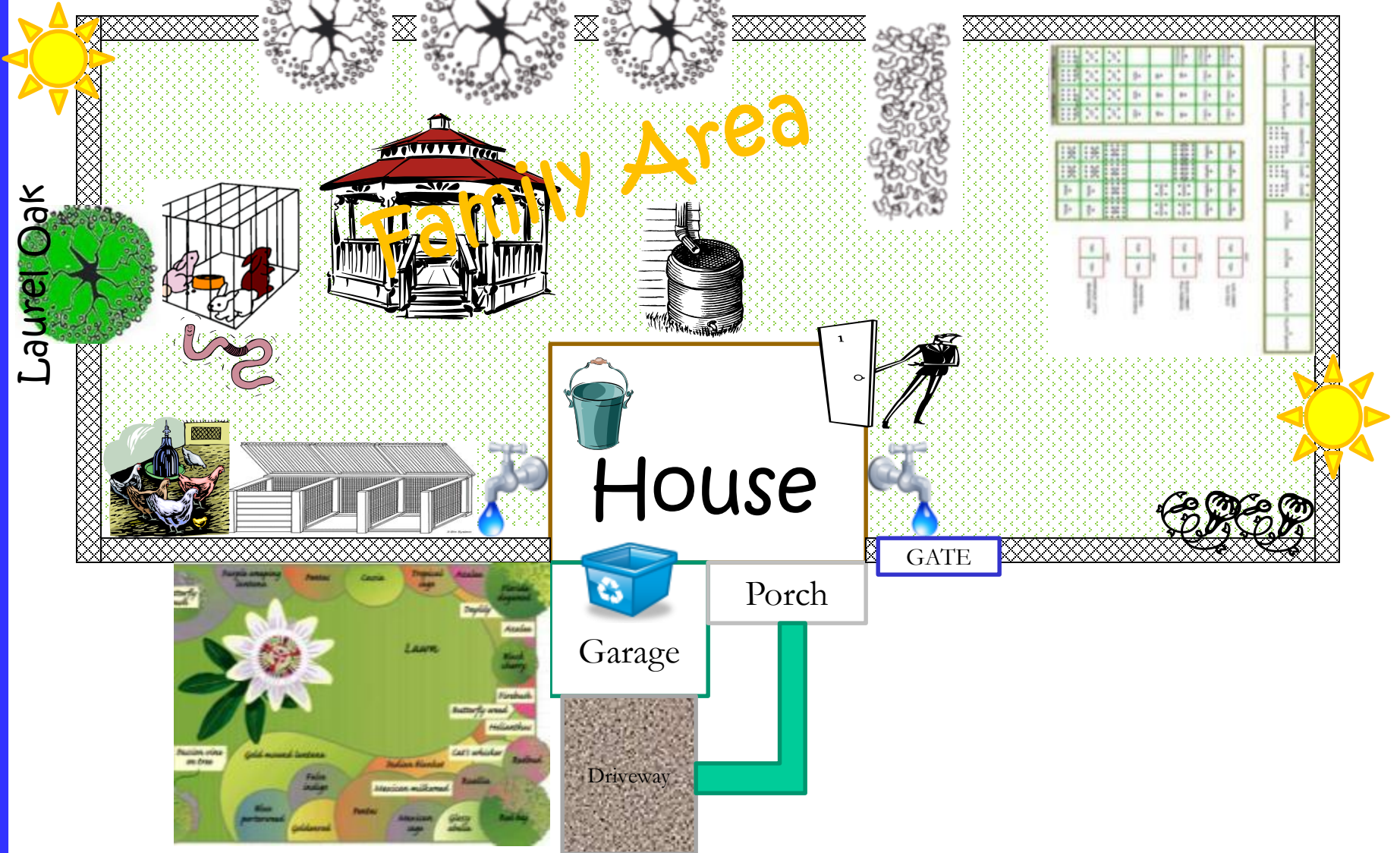
Feature #9



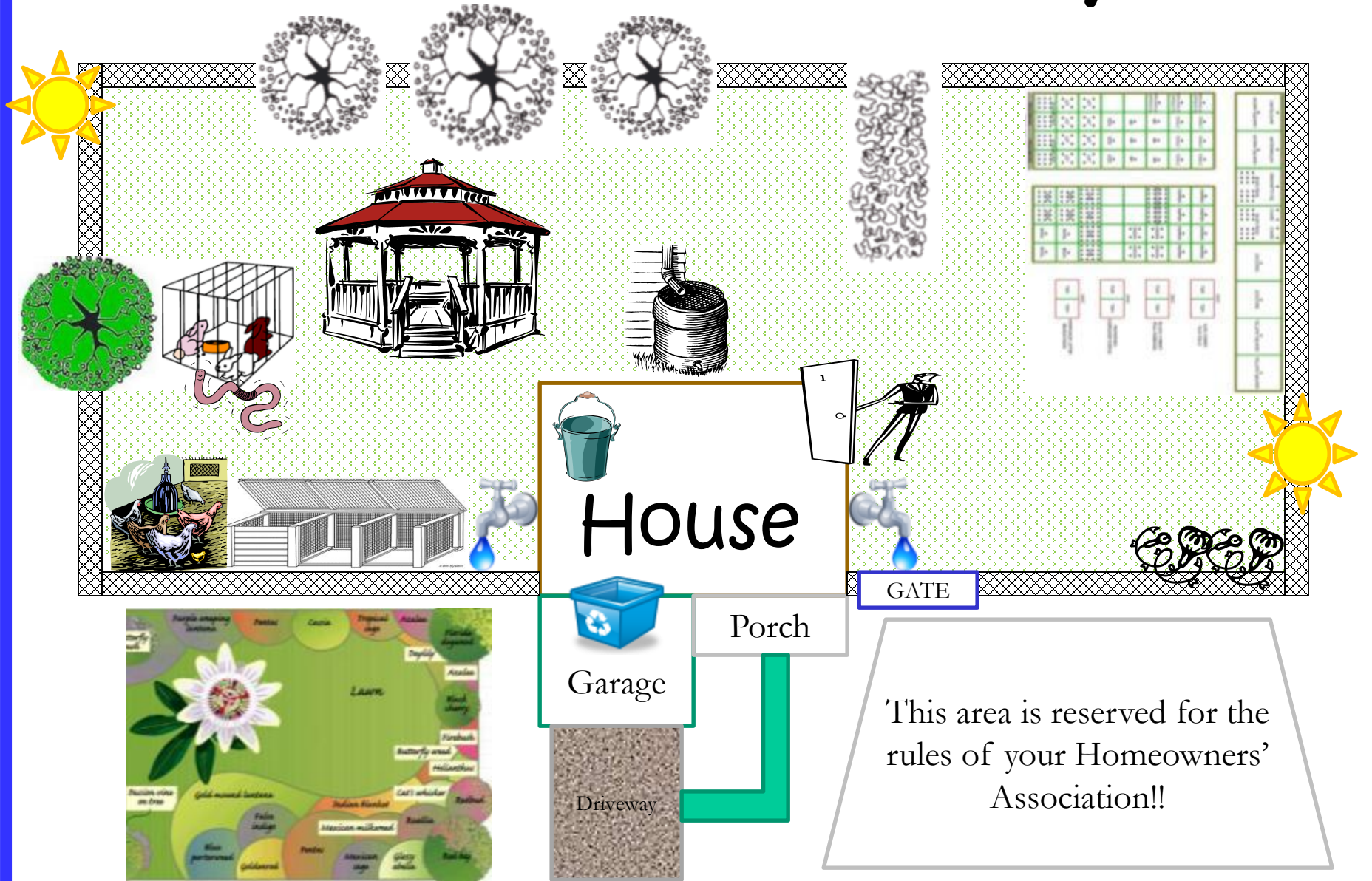
Laurel Oak

Butterfly Garden

Feature #10



Your Sustainable Backyard





- <http://www.edis.ufl.edu>
- <http://extension.ifas.ufl.edu>
- <http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>