



First Lady Michelle Obama and White House Horticulturist Dale Haney work with kids from Washington's Bancroft Elementary School to break ground for a White House garden.  
Photo: The White House / Joyce N. Boghosian



## Organize your yard and garden: make it happen

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You've pictured it and planned it. Now you're ready to make it happen - move your yard and garden ideas from concept to reality. Use these tips to create an environment you and your family will enjoy for years to come:

**Estimate your budget and timeline.** So much of your yard or garden transformation depends on your budget! Visit local nurseries and gardening centers to locate what you want and compare prices. Try some [alternative locations](#) to find plants, tools, and other materials you might need. [Discount warehouses](#) and [hardware stores](#) often have gardening departments and may offer high-quality products at very competitive prices. If there are other gardeners in your neighborhood, consider forming an [exchange or co-op](#) in which you trade plants from each other's yards, or pool your funds to buy garden materials in bulk, then split them among you. Your timeline is very dependent on your budget as well. If your budget is modest, you may choose to phase in your changes over several seasons or several years.

**Choose to do it yourself or hire a professional.** This choice depends on your time, confidence, energy, and, of course, budget. If you'd like to enjoy the results but don't care to be involved in the digging, planting, and other tasks to create your new yard or garden, then by all means, [hire someone](#) from your local nursery or garden center to do the work. If part of the fun for you is getting your hands dirty long before you see the results of your efforts, then you're a candidate for a do-it-yourself project. If you can recruit family and friends to join you during the transformation, all the better. All of you will have stories to tell about bulbs planted upside down, shade-loving shrubs planted in bright sunlight, and stepping stones laid and re-laid to get the spacing just right. Take before and after pictures to record your progress; they'll make your stories even more vivid!

**Personalize with garden accents.** In addition to the plantings and structures that comprise your new yard or garden landscape, consider adding some special touches with [accent pieces](#) that attract your eye and make your space unique. From gazing balls, whirligigs, and sculptures to birdhouses, feeders, and baths, a few strategically placed accents can make your garden "pop."

Share here how you made the vision for your yard or garden happen, and move on to the final step: maintain it. Click on "subscribe" to be notified of future Get Organized articles.

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