**Doomsday Garden Activity!**

When this Covid-19 pandemic began shutting down communities across the US and world, many had some predictable (and not-so-predictable) responses. Panic buying groceries and, curiously, toilet paper began and is still occurring. Also, many people began thinking ahead to prepping for uncertain times. As in other troubling times gun sales have predictably spiked, but less predictably Americans have been stocking up on gardening products! Garden centers and online seed stores are having trouble maintaining inventory. Many are prepping for any future unforeseen interruptions or shortages in the nation’s food supply.. “doomsday gardening!” Read through these couple of articles to see for yourself:

Articles About the Boom/Panic:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/03/27/822514756/fearing-shortages-people-are-planting-more-vegetable-gardens>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/28/style/seed-panic-buying-coronavirus.html>

Of course this got me thinking about our class. Naturally, I saw a project in it for us to engage and expand our gardening skills and knowledge. Here it is: I want you to PLAN and DESIGN your own “doomsday prepper” garden. This kind of garden is all about **FOOD**! …**volume/amount, calories/nutrition, ease, speed, simplicity**… these are YOUR prepper garden goals.

The links you see below are articles put out to aid and advise all these amateur gardeners about gardening for food. These articles will help you think about what to grow and how, which will make both the Planning and Designing aspects of this assignment much easier. (Bonus, it’ll give you added insight that can help you succeed in your ongoing Planter Garden project ..hopefully, you’ve been logging your activity and outcomes!)

Articles About Gardening Advice and “How-To” for this uncertain time:

(BTW, there’s lots of good info in these that’d help you with your ongoing planter garden project)

<https://www.latimes.com/lifestyle/story/2020-03-26/10-things-you-can-do-in-your-garden-now-despite-coronavirus>

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/03/20/plant-a-victory-garden-to-combat-coronavirus-fears-and-isolation/>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/2020/03/31/coronavirus-quarantine-tips-garden-indoors-while-stuck-inside/2928016001/>

See next page for Project parameters:

**Project Paremeters:**

**The Plan:**

Before you begin planning and designing your garden, research the subject. The links that I included previously are a good place to start, but there’s lots of good info and resources out there. Research: crop varieties, mulching and composting, increasing yield, pest control methods, saving seeds from produce, how to grow enough for sustaining you, methods and techniques, etc…

**You will write a plan that details:**

1. What to grow and **WHY** (remember your garden goals (in bold on previous page) Explain your plant choices. What qualities make each desireable?
2. How much to grow of *each* in order for your garden to feed you for 1 year.
3. What materials and resources you will need.? List
4. Watering and feeding your garden
5. Protecting your garden (animals and pest control)

**The Design:**

**You will write a “Design Rationale”** where you explain your ‘vision/concept’ of your garden plan. Describe how your plan lends itself to good yield, good soil health, easy protection, sustainability, variety, and any other advantage you can design into your project.. remember, its YOUR project; get creative and have a little fun with it. Include in your rationale an explanation of the layout of your garden. Why have you placed everything where you did?.. what advantages come with your choices?

**Then, draw/map and label your Doomsday garden**!

Last part.. **write a ‘reflection’** on this whole experience of planning a garden for sustainability. What concerns or challenges would you have if you actually had to try it? What did you find to be the most important or interesting skill, tip, or detail did you learn or discover? Give me your thoughts on the subject now that you’ve researched and thought it all through.