Creating a budget before you get started will let you know your expenses before you begin. A budget is a plan that helps you keep track of income, expenses, and the money you earn or receive. As you plan your budget, be a savvy shopper and shop around to find the best deals to buy the tools you need for your community garden.

Identifying your tools

1. Watering can: helps create a fine stream of water that is gentle that won’t wash the seeds away
2. Garden trowel: a small hand tool with a flat metal blade used for scooping dirt and helping to get plants into the soil
3. Cultivator: hand fork helps cultivate and chop up clumps of soil
4. Garden hoe: a long-handled tool with a thin metal blade used to keep the weeds away
5. Hand pruners (pruning shears): scissors strong enough to trim plants and cut small diameters
6. Garden gloves: keep your hands and fingernails clean
7. Wheelbarrow: allows you to haul (carry) soil, plants, mulch, hoses, tools, or anything you need for your garden
8. Garden fork: a tool that helps you dig and divide your plants
9. Garden shovel: helps you dig holes in the ground and move soil
10. Water hose: helps you transport water fast

Can you think of any other tools you might need?

1. ________________________________
2. ________________________________
3. ________________________________
Directions for Planning Your Budget

Your budget is $200 to get your community garden up and running. You are going on a scavenger hunt to find the best deals on tools you can find online. First, search two online stores and compare the price for each tool from each store. You are going to shop at a small local garden store and a large garden store to find which one has the better price for each tool. Make sure to find the best price for each tool.

Step 1: To locate the price, go to each store’s website and type in the name of the tool in the search box

Step 2: Click on the magnifying glass for the list items to pop up

Step 3: Enter the best price for each item you need using the chart provided below

Hint: Remember try to find the best price possible. Prices may change from week to week if an item is on sale.

A small local garden store is a neighborhood store that sells a selective number of items. Small garden stores don’t have much to choose from and sometimes prices can be a little more expensive.

A large national garden store is a store that sells a variety of garden tools, usually has more items to choose from, and prices can be a little less expensive than small local stores.

Analyze Your Budget

Answer the following questions to find how successful you were with your budget.

1. What was the most expensive item on your list from each store?
   A. Small local garden store__________________________
   B. Large national garden store_______________________

2. How much money do you have left over if any from your $200 budget?
   A. Small local garden store__________________________
   B. Large national garden store_______________________

3. Which store offers the best prices for the tools you need to start your community garden?
   ________________________________

4. How can you adjust/change your budget if you shop at a large garden store?
   ________________________________

5. Are there any tools you can eliminate to help save money?
   ________________________________

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOOLS</th>
<th>SMALL LOCAL GARDEN CENTER</th>
<th>LARGE NATIONAL GARDEN CENTER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watering can</td>
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<td>Trowel</td>
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<td>Cultivator</td>
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<td>Garden hoe</td>
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<td>Hand pruners (pruning shears)</td>
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<td>Garden gloves</td>
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<td>Wheelbarrow</td>
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<td>Garden shovel</td>
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<td>Water hose – 100 ft.</td>
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