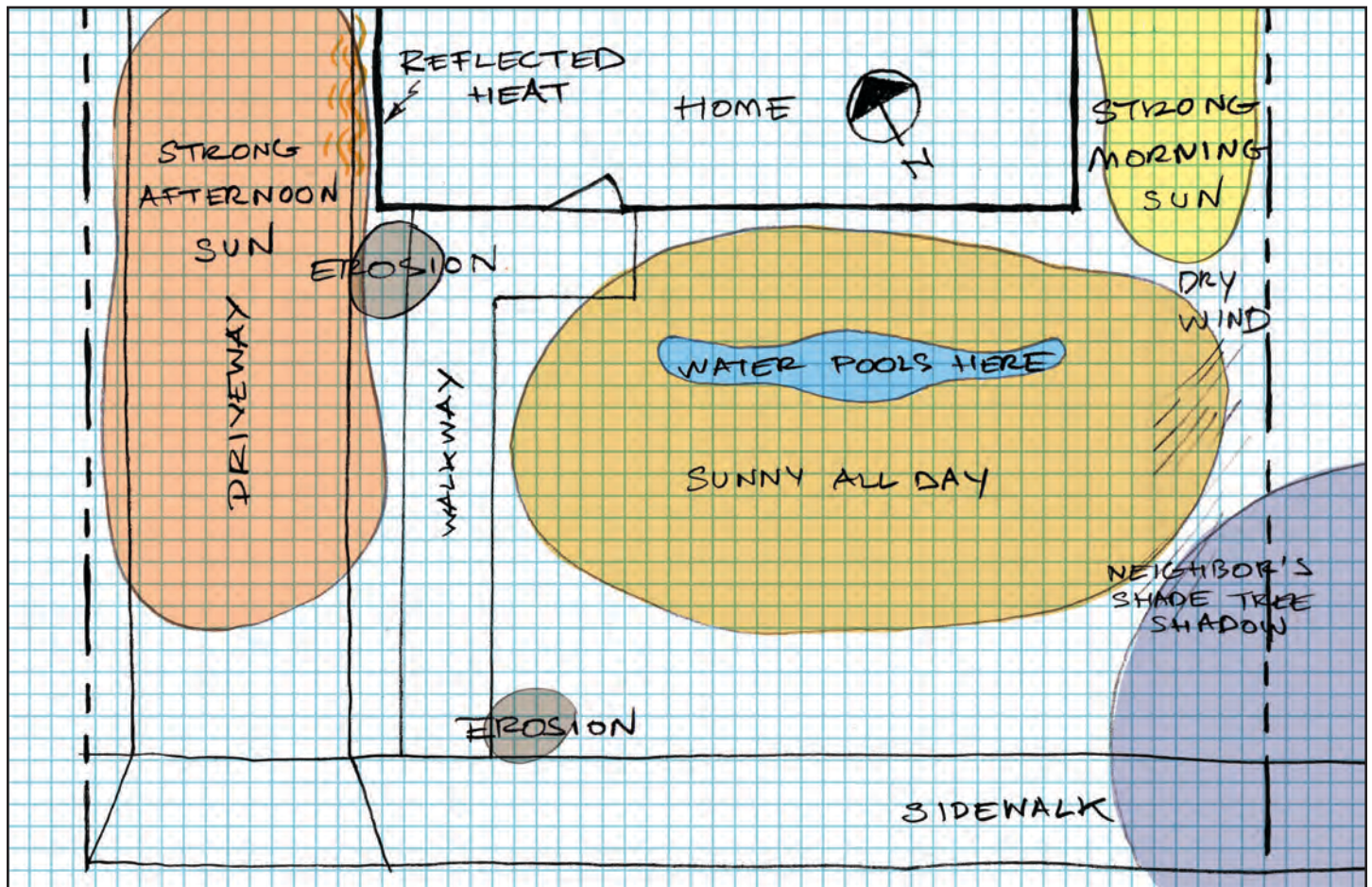


# Consider your Microclimates



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## Microclimates are **Climate** factors **Particular** to your garden.

Every garden has areas where some plants will grow well and others will die. Structures, walls, fences, and other plants all can affect the amount of sun and shade in a garden. And every garden is completely different, even if it is located in the same general climate zone. There will be hills and hollows in your front yard that may collect cold air or, because your property is sloped, you don't get frost when your neighbors do.

Microclimates may differ significantly from the general climate of an area. You need to map these microclimates, and the first step is to walk around your property during the day and observe it more closely. Grab a chair, sit down outside, and start thinking about your design priorities.

### Note Sun and Shade

Mark the areas that receive sun all day and areas that are shaded all or part of the day. Also note which areas receive only partial sun, maybe just a few hours of direct morning sun, mid-day or in late afternoon.

When you start choosing your plants, make sure to select those that are appropriate to your garden's sunlight patterns. Plants marked as "full sun" will not be happy in full shade or vice versa.

Are there other things you observe in your garden? Mark it on your Site Plan!

### Plants Speak Latin

Did you know that many plants have the same common names? If you ask for a plant by their common name, you might end up with something completely different than what you want. The best way to order plants is to use the Latin botanical name; that way there is no miscommunication.

When you go to the nursery asking for plant identification, be sure to walk away with both the Latin name and the common name, so that you can conduct your research and be assured of selecting the right plant for the right place.

### What About Plants You Keep?

Everyone has plants that are next to the grass area they are removing. Now is the time to decide which of these plants will work well in your new garden and which should be removed. If you don't know the name of the plant, take a photo and leaf/flower with a bit of stem attached to a local nursery to get some assistance.

Remember that trees and large shrubs that have been dependent upon the water you have been applying to your grass will now need a bit of extra love and care since you are removing the grass. Consider putting these plants on a separate hydrozone so they can get a little extra water (see p. 35).