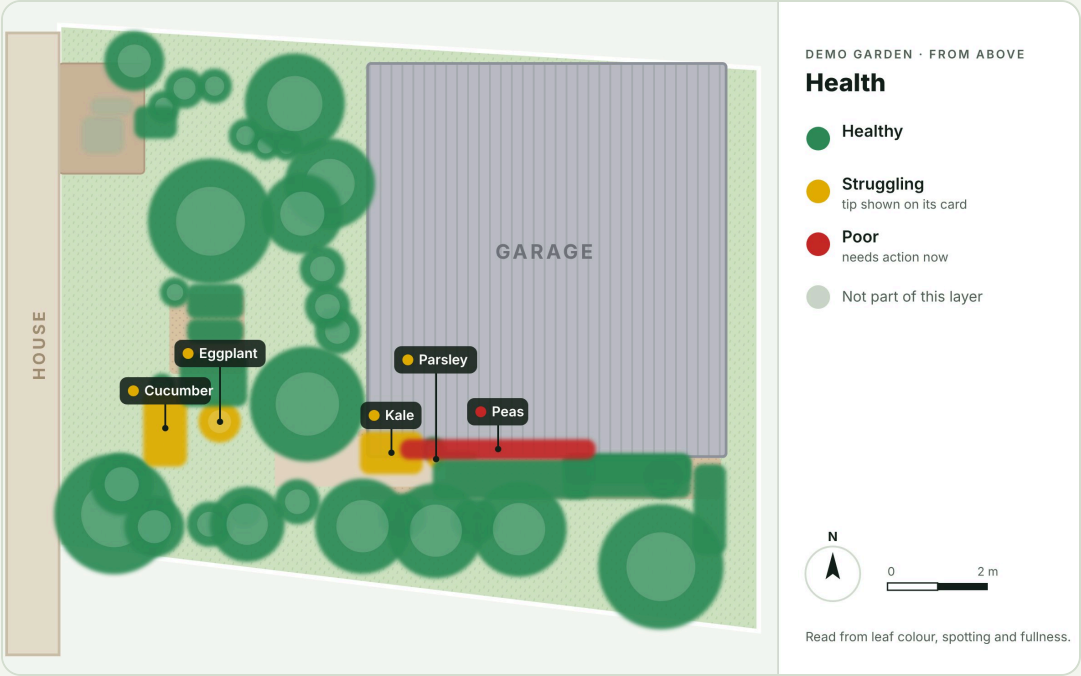
Detailed garden report

Seven layers from the Garden Splats viewer, each drawn as a plan of the demo garden from above, with the problems found and what to do about them. Calgary, 2026 season.

1. Colour the plants by health
2. Weeds
3. Fruit tags and harvest
4. Sun and wrong spot
5. Water needs
6. Night time frost risk
7. Tulip planter

Colour the plants by health

Every plant gets a health level from its leaf colour, spotting and how full it has grown. Any plant that is struggling gets a tip: water, feed, support or pick sooner.



PROBLEMS AND FIXES

1. **Cucumber (struggling)**
   Still flowering and fruiting, but many leaves carry pale yellow spots, an early sign of powdery mildew or spider mites. Pick off the worst spotted leaves and bin them, water at the base in the morning rather than over the leaves, and check the leaf undersides for fine webbing. If it is mites, a strong spray of water under the leaves every few days knocks them back; if it is mildew, a spray of 1 part milk to 9 parts water once a week slows it.
2. **Eggplant (struggling)**
   The big leaves droop and look dull, and no flowers or fruit show this late in the season. Eggplants want steady warmth and water: soak the pot until water runs out the bottom whenever the top 3 cm is dry, feed with a tomato fertiliser every two weeks, and look under the leaves for flea beetle holes or aphids. With cool September nights in Calgary, it will do best moved against a sunny wall.
3. **Peas (poor)**
   The vines on the strings have mostly dried to brown. Peas give up in summer heat, so this is the end of the crop rather than a disease: pull them and compost them. Pull the dried vines, but cut them at soil level and leave the roots: they hold nitrogen that feeds the next crop. Compost the vines, and for next year sow in early May so the crop finishes before the July heat.
4. **Kale (struggling)**
   Tall, bare stems with only a few leaves left at the top, as kale looks after heavy picking or caterpillar damage. Pick only the lower leaves and always leave the top rosette of 5 or 6 leaves so it keeps growing. Check under the leaves for green caterpillars (cabbage worms) and pick them off, or cover the plant with fine netting. A handful of compost or a nitrogen feed brings back new leaves, and kale tastes sweeter after the first frost.
5. **Parsley (struggling)**
   Only a small plant with a few leaves, beside much bigger neighbours. Parsley is slow and sulks when crowded: give it more light by trimming back its neighbours, water when the surface is dry, and feed lightly. Cut outer stems only. It is biennial, so it will come back next spring and then flower; sow fresh seed for a full clump.

Weeds

Weeds in the beds and paths are tinted on every scan, with a chart of how much of the bed area was weedy on each visit and which weeds they were.

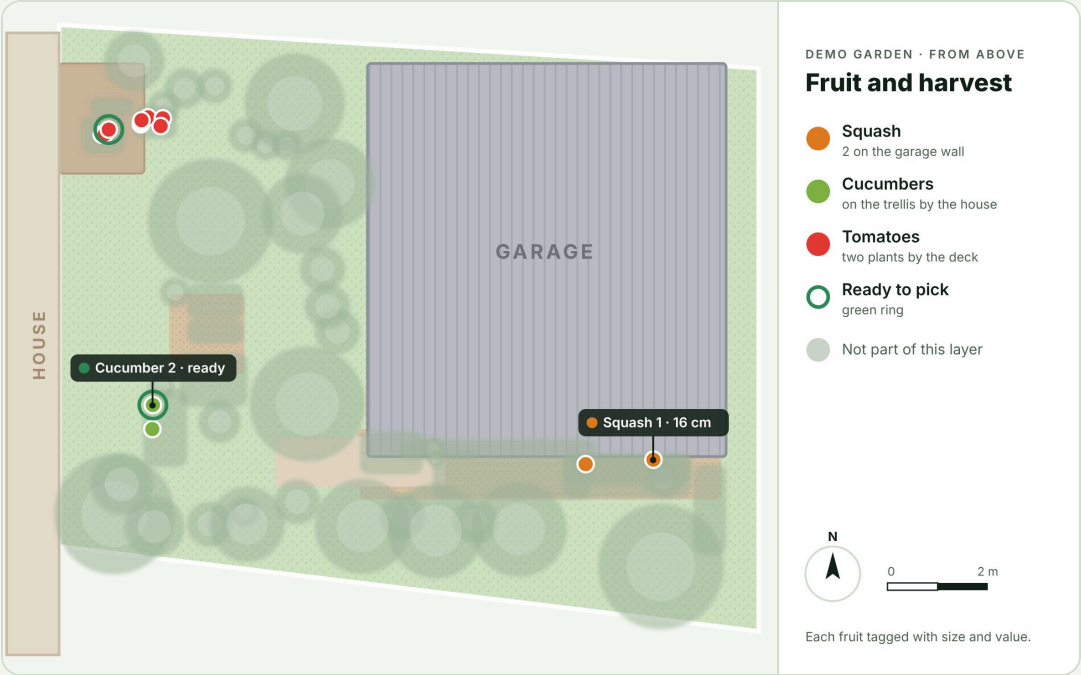


PROBLEMS AND FIXES

1. **Quackgrass**
   Gate corner, path edges and the vegetable bed edge, on every date. Spreads by long white underground runners, so pulled tops grow back. Dig the runners out with a fork; an edging strip along the beds stops most of it.
2. **Common chickweed**
   A low mat along the front of the kale bed, beside the soil path (all four dates, about 0.3 m² by 27 Aug), and in the west border bed in July. A low annual with small paired leaves, tiny white star flowers and shallow roots that forms a carpet in moist, shady soil. Rake or hoe the mat out before it seeds (one plant makes thousands); mulch the bare path to keep it from coming back.
3. **Lady's thumb smartweed**
   Back of the hosta bed against the garage wall, 27 Aug (about 0.4 m²). A fast summer annual with a dark thumbprint on each leaf. Pull it before it seeds in September.
4. **Black medic or yellow wood sorrel**
   A three-leaf mat in the west border bed, 30 July. Both pull easily while young; get them before the seed pods form.
5. **Dandelion**
   West border bed, 27 Aug. Deep taproot: dig the whole root out, or it regrows. Take the flower heads off so it can't seed.

Fruit tags and harvest

Squash, cucumbers, tomatoes and peppers get a tag on each fruit, drawn on top so you can spot them through the leaves. Fruit that is ready gets a ‘Ready to pick’ badge and a market value.

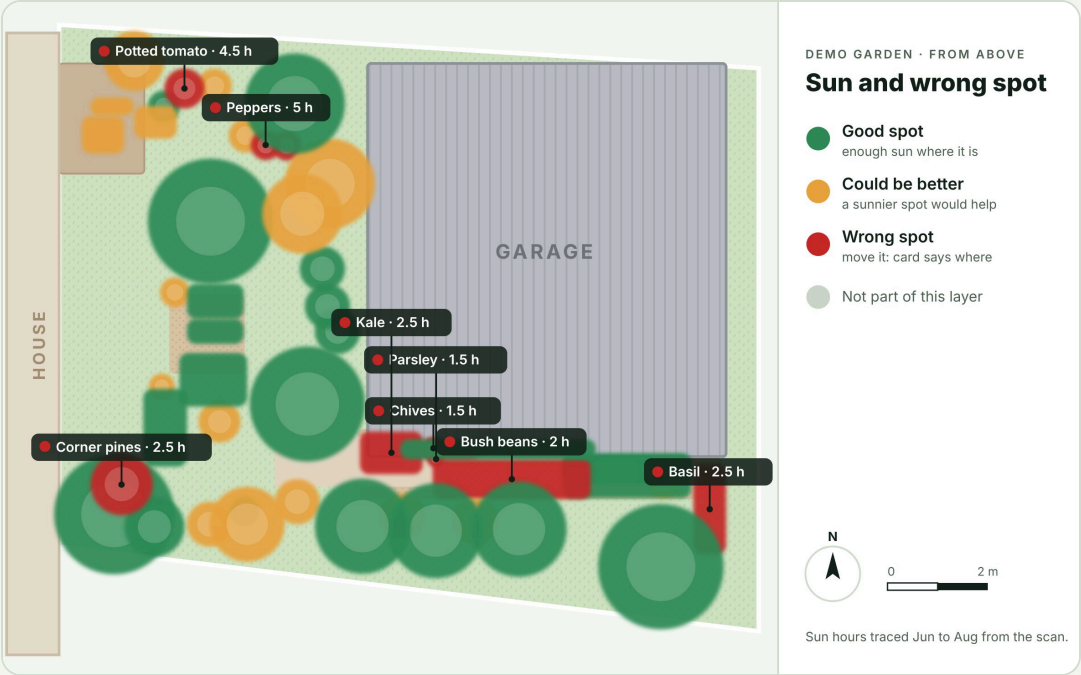


PROBLEMS AND FIXES

1. **Cucumber 2 · ready to pick**
   Dark green, firm and about 10 cm: a good size to pick now, and picking keeps the plant setting more.
2. **Uncaged tomato, fruit 3 · ready to pick**
   Starting to blush: at this breaker stage it can be picked and ripened indoors with no loss of flavour, safe from frost.
3. **Cucumber 1**
   A few more days: pick when it is about 15 cm and an even green.
4. **Squash 1**
   About 4 to 6 weeks: butternut is ripe when the skin turns tan and a fingernail can't dent it.
5. **Squash 2**
   About 4 to 6 weeks: butternut is ripe when the skin turns tan and a fingernail can't dent it.
6. **Pepper 1**
   Still small: green peppers can be picked once firm and full size (about 2 to 3 weeks), or left on to turn red.
7. **Pepper 2**
   Still small: green peppers can be picked once firm and full size (about 2 to 3 weeks), or left on to turn red.

Sun and wrong spot

We trace the sun across your yard for June, July and August, using the scan itself and the houses around it. Plants that get too little or too much sun where they stand are flagged, with a better spot in the garden to move them to.

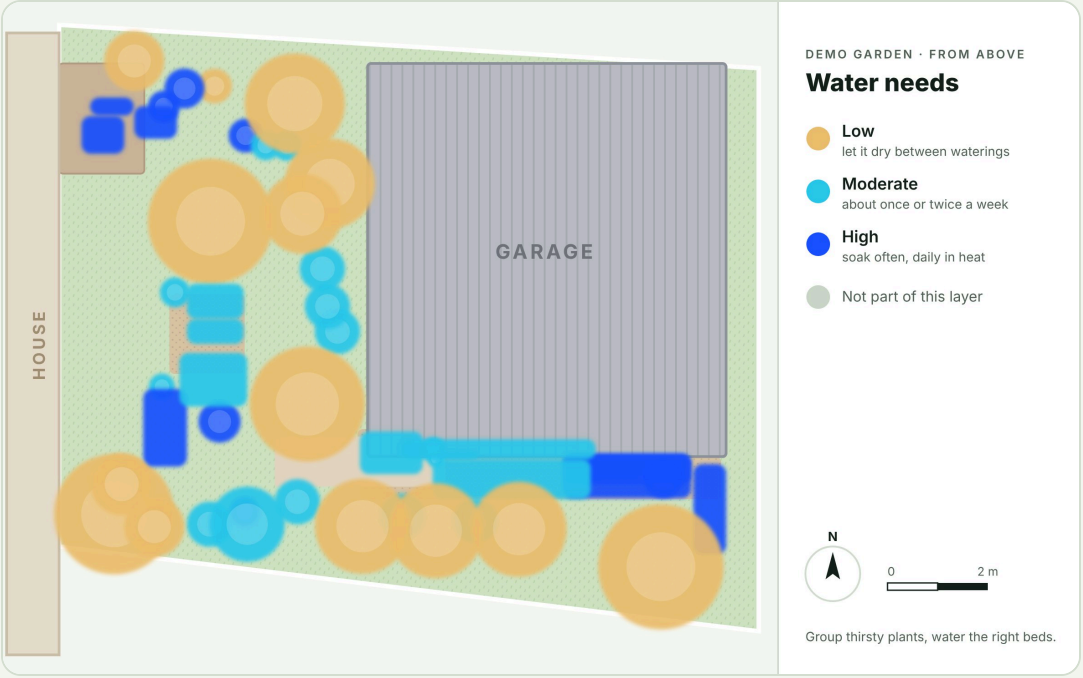


PROBLEMS AND FIXES

1. **Basil · about 2.5 h of sun**
   On the chairs by the gate the gate fence and the lilac block the morning sun, leaving about 2½ hours a day. Basil needs 6 or more. Fix: Move the three pots about two metres, to the fence corner past the gate lilac (8 to 9½ hours), or onto the gravel under the basement window (about 7).
2. **Chives · about 1.5 h of sun**
   Behind the junipers in the garage corner it gets about an hour of direct sun. Chives want at least 3 to 4. Fix: Lift a clump in spring and replant it at the edge of the vegetable bed, or in a pot on the window gravel.
3. **Parsley · about 1.5 h of sun**
   Behind the junipers in the garage corner it gets little more than an hour of direct sun. Parsley wants 3 to 4 hours. Fix: Sow next year's parsley in a pot on the window gravel (about 7 hours) or at the edge of the vegetable bed.
4. **Kale · about 2.5 h of sun**
   The kale bed sits in the garage corner behind the 4 m junipers and gets under 2 hours of direct sun. Kale copes with part shade but wants 3 to 4 hours. Fix: Grow next year's kale in the vegetable bed, and give this corner to shade plants such as hostas, ferns or the mint.
5. **Bush beans · about 2 h of sun**
   The row of blue junipers, about 4 m tall and just over a metre in front, shades this wall through midday, and the pea vines above add more. Bush beans need 6 hours. Fix: Next year sow the beans in the vegetable bed (7 to 8 hours) and keep this wall for the peas, which manage here.
6. **Peppers · about 5 h of sun**
   The pots on the patio slabs only get sun from late morning to mid afternoon. Peppers are the slowest crop to ripen here and need 7 hours or more. Fix: Move both pots to the fence corner at the gate end of the side strip (8 to 9½ hours, and the fence holds the heat).

Water needs

Each plant is coloured by how much water it needs, so you can group thirsty plants together and water the right beds.

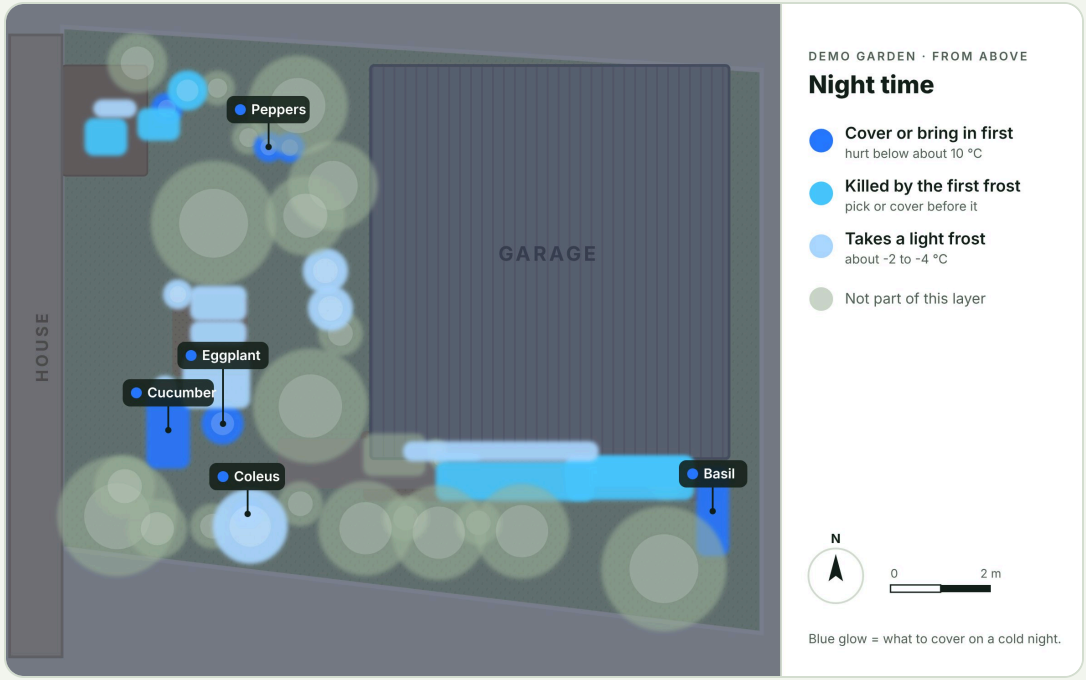


PROBLEMS AND FIXES

1. **Butternut squash**
   Big leaves lose a lot of water: soak deeply 2 to 3 times a week, daily in heat waves.
2. **Cucumber**
   In a grow bag it dries fast: water daily in summer, keeping the soil evenly moist so the fruit isn't bitter.
3. **Caged tomato**
   Water deeply and evenly, every 1 to 2 days in heat; uneven watering causes blossom-end rot.
4. **Uncaged tomato**
   A potted tomato: water daily in summer, twice on hot days.
5. **Potted tomato**
   A potted tomato: water daily in summer, twice on hot days.
6. **Eggplant**
   Keep evenly moist: soak the pot whenever the top 3 cm is dry, often daily in July.
7. **Low-water plants**
   Junipers, spruces, pines, lilac and hosta are on the low side: water them deeply every week or two in dry spells and leave them be otherwise.

Night time frost risk

The garden goes dark and the plants most at risk from a cold night glow blue, so you know what to cover when frost is forecast.

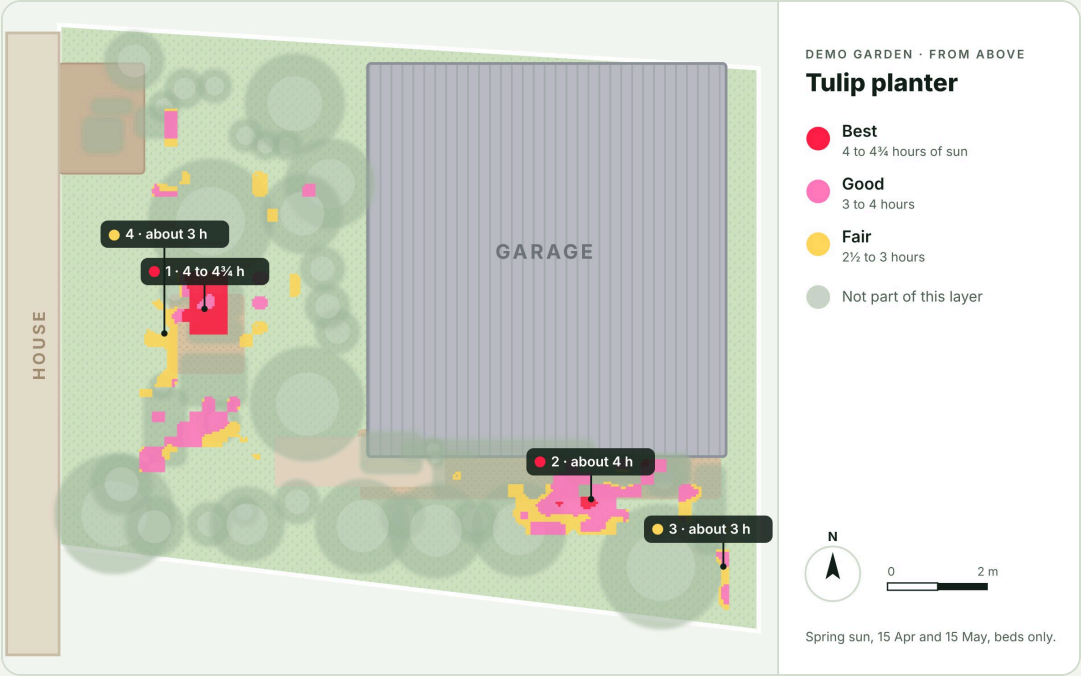


PROBLEMS AND FIXES

1. **Basil · bring in first**
   Basil blackens after a few nights below 10 °C, which in Calgary can come in late August. Pick it all or bring the pots in before the first cold night.
2. **Coleus · bring in first**
   Coleus drops its leaves and goes soft below 5 to 10 °C. Take cuttings or bring the pots in by early September.
3. **Golden pothos · bring in first**
   A tropical houseplant, hurt below about 10 °C. Bring it in once nights head toward 10 °C.
4. **Cucumber · bring in first**
   Cucumber leaves pit and yellow below 10 °C and any frost kills the vine. Pick everything before the forecast reaches 2 °C.
5. **Peppers · bring in first**
   Peppers stall below about 12 °C and frost kills them. Move the pots into the garage on cold nights to ripen the last fruit.
6. **Eggplant · bring in first**
   The most cold-tender crop here: chilled below about 10 °C and killed by frost. Move the pot into the garage on cold nights.
7. **Caged tomato · killed by frost**
   Frost kills the vine at 0 °C. Before the first frost, pick fruit that's full size or blushing and ripen it indoors; a frost cloth buys a few nights.

Tulip planter

The spring sun is traced in 25 cm squares of your ground to show the best spots for tulip bulbs in fall, from the April and May sun before the trees and crops leaf out.



PROBLEMS AND FIXES

1. **Spot 1: The vegetable bed, the beet and chard half · 4 to 4¾ hours**
   The sunniest open ground in the yard in spring: clear to the south over the fence and the window spruces, with nothing tall to the east until the house. Plant along the bed's front edge so the bulbs are done by mid-June, or give them the whole west half and sow the beets after the tulip leaves yellow.
2. **Spot 2: The side strip by the gate, in front of the beans and squash · about 4 hours**
   Just south of the garage wall, which soaks up the spring sun and keeps the soil warm, and far enough from the south fence to miss most of its shadow. Plant a drift 30 to 60 cm out from the wall, in front of the bean row. The beans can go in around the tulips in late May.
3. **Spot 3: The gate-end fence corner · about 3 hours (3¾ by mid-May)**
   The corner at the lane end of the side strip catches the late-spring sun as it climbs over the fence. A short row along the fence; pick early tulips (Kaufmanniana or Greigii types) so they bloom before the lilac leafs out.
4. **Spot 4: The gravel under the basement window · about 3 hours**
   The strip in front of the window between the two dwarf spruces gets the midday sun, and the house wall behind it keeps it warm and dry, which bulbs like. Pull the gravel aside and plant 15 cm deep; the dry spot by the foundation suits species tulips that come back year after year.