

## Set-up & Safety

# Your Garden Location

*There are several safety and logistical considerations when choosing a location for your indoor garden site.*

Before setting up your garden equipment, be sure to discuss your LGT garden with your school custodian and address any concerns they may have about safety or cleanliness. Ask their advice for the best location, so as not to cause inconvenience during regular cleaning.



A benefit of growing with indoor grow lights is that you do not need to consider natural light when you are placing your garden. This means that your garden does not need to be placed near a window.

Even if you have a window, this is not always the best location for your LGT garden. Consider if there is a draft coming from your window, or whether it is a cooler temperature near your window. **Gardens grow best in temperatures of 18 degrees to 24 degrees Celsius.** Additional sunlight from a window won't hurt your plants but if a window location subjects your plants to extreme cold or heat, your garden may suffer.

When choosing a location for your indoor plants, consider accessibility. Students will need room to water and monitor plants, and custodians will need space to clean around your indoor garden. Make sure your garden area is dedicated to growing, to minimize the risk of plants being bumped or knocked onto the floor.

**Choose a location with a dedicated power outlet that can handle 10 amps. If you do not have access to a dedicated power outlet without the use of an extension cord (surge protectors are ok), please talk with your custodian or facilities manager about the proper procedure. In some cases, a dedicated power outlet may need to be installed.**

**Note: Some classrooms may opt to use their window light for some seed starting or growing low-light crops.**

The amount of light you have in your window depends on the direction it faces. Because light comes from only one direction, plants will often lean towards the light. This is because of the phenomenon known as photo-tropism, the movement of a plant towards a light source. You will need to rotate your plants every few days. You could even investigate plant's movement towards the light as a class!



2-4hrs

### **Eastern Windows**

receive two to four hours of morning sun. You may try growing lettuce, radishes, other leafy vegetables and low to medium light houseplants.



### **Southern Windows**

receive full sun light during the day and are the best windows for trying to grow edible crops.



8hrs

### **Western Windows**

receive good light exposure for about eight hours a day. You might try lettuce and leafy vegetables, radishes or other root vegetables.



### **Northern windows**

receive only diffused light. Most vegetables will not grow well with this exposure, but you might try low-light houseplants.