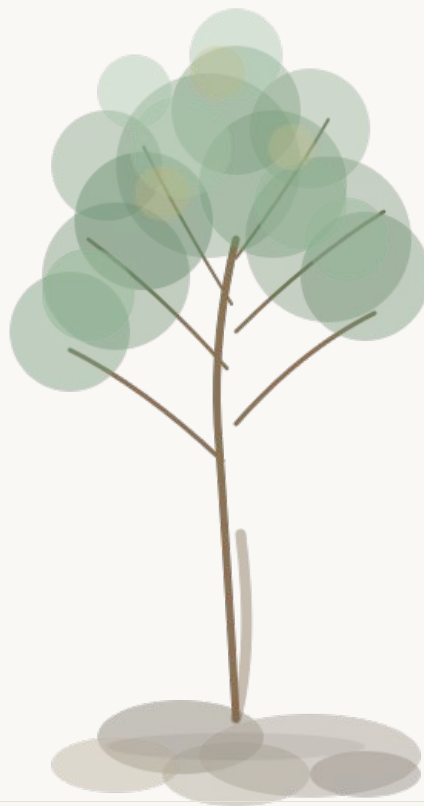





# Garden of Ideas

*Cultivating ideas together through seasons  
of growth, care, and pruning*

a facilitation tool for workshops and residentials





*Over the next two days, we're going to be growing a garden together.*

*Some seeds you bring with you. Some we'll discover along the way.*

*By the end, we'll know what to plant now, what to save for later, and what to let go.*

# How the garden works



## Your garden

Each person has their own garden to tend throughout the session. Capture seeds as they come — ideas you arrived with, thoughts that emerge, questions worth holding.

*Write, draw, sketch — whatever helps you hold your thinking.*



## The seed bank

When ideas surface that we can't explore right now, they go to the seed bank — not a parking lot where things get forgotten, but a place where seeds are kept safe for later.

*We'll return to the seed bank at key moments.*



## Our garden

At the end, we bring seeds from individual gardens into a shared space. Together we decide: what do we plant now, save for later, or compost?

*The collective garden becomes our shared commitment.*

# The garden elements



## Seeds

Your ideas. Each one is a seed with potential — some will grow quickly, others need time underground before they're ready to sprout.



## Soil & Conditions

What does each idea need to grow? Resources, people, time, skills? Not all ideas need the same conditions — some thrive in shade, others need full sun.



## Seasons

When is the right time? Some ideas are ready to plant now. Others are seeds to save for a future season when conditions are better.



## Pruning

Some ideas aren't right for this garden, this time. Removing them isn't failure — it's making space for what can truly flourish here.

# Your Individual Garden

*Print one per person. Use throughout the session to capture seeds as they emerge.*

## My seeds

*Ideas, questions, thoughts worth holding*

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## Drawing prompts

-  Needs visibility or profile
-  Needs resources or funding
-  Needs skills or people
-  Needs protection or shelter
-  Needs time to develop

## Seed shapes

*Draw your seeds to show their nature: small or big?  
Quick win or long-term? Contained or sprawling?  
How deep does it need planting?*

# The seed bank

When ideas surface that we can't explore right now, they go to the seed bank — not a parking lot where things get forgotten.

*A seed bank is different. Seeds are preserved with care. They're catalogued. They're returned to when the conditions are right.*

## Language to use

"Let's bank that seed for later"

"That's one for the seed bank"

"We'll come back to the seed bank at [time]"

## Seed Bank

*Ideas preserved for the right moment*

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We'll revisit this at: \_\_\_\_\_

# Our Collective Garden

*Use at the end of the session. Bring seeds from individual gardens into our shared space.*



## Plant Now

*Ideas we commit to cultivating this season*



## Seed Bank

*Preserved for future seasons*



## Compost

*Letting go with grace*

# Bringing it together

*At the end of the session, harvest from individual gardens into the collective space.*



## **Review individual gardens**

Each person looks at their garden and selects 2–3 seeds to bring to the collective. (5 mins)



## **Share and cluster**

Go round the group. Place seeds on the collective garden, clustering similar ideas. (10 mins)



## **Sort together**

Discuss each cluster. Ask: "Plant now, seed bank, or compost?" Move seeds to their areas. (15 mins)



## **Name conditions and gardeners**

For "Plant Now" seeds: What do they need? Who will tend them? (10 mins)



## **Set a date for the seed bank**

When will you revisit the seed bank? Schedule your garden check-in now. (5 mins)



# Facilitator notes

## Throughout the session

Keep the seed bank visible. When ideas surface that aren't for now, use the language: "Let's bank that seed." Return to it at natural breaks.

## Encouraging drawing

Some people think visually. Encourage them to sketch their seeds — show size, shape, what conditions they need. No artistic skill required.

## Watch out for

Hoarders who can't compost anything. Eager planters who want everything now. Remind both: the garden can only hold so much.

## The power of the metaphor

"Composting" feels kinder than rejecting. "Banking seeds" is strategic, not procrastination. The language gives people permission to let go and wait.

### Helpful questions

*"What would this idea need to grow?"*

*"Is this the right season for this seed?"*

*"Who might tend this idea?"*

*"What would it free up if we composted this?"*



# What will you plant today?

*The garden is yours to tend.*

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