

GARDEN & GATHER



A Leaf Refuge Map: Make Autumn Garden Care Specific to Your Yard



A PRACTICAL COMPANION TO THE GUIDE

Map paths, planting beds, drains, and a small leaf refuge so autumn cleanup supports a usable yard without clearing every corner.

HOW TO USE THESE PAGES

- 01 Read the guide and choose one manageable starting point.
- 02 Complete the six exercises with details from your own home.
- 03 Return to the record and keep the adjustment that helped.

Small enough to begin. Specific enough to use again.

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EXERCISE 01

Draw the four zones

Sketch circulation routes, water movement, active planting, and a proposed refuge. Mark doors, steps, bins, drains, and structures. Use clear symbols rather than a decorative drawing. The map should be understandable to another person who needs to maintain or use the yard.

YOUR WORKING RECORD

DECISION / NEXT ACTION / CHECK DATE

EXERCISE 02

Set the clear-path routine

List the routes that need attention after rain and wind. Record who checks them and where the tools live. Note hazards such as slippery steps or concealed uneven paving. Define a small maintenance action that can happen routinely rather than relying on one large seasonal cleanup.

YOUR WORKING RECORD

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EXERCISE 03

Check drainage and local constraints

Mark downspout outlets, surface drains, and low spots. Record local fire guidance or property restrictions that affect refuge placement. Identify any concern requiring qualified help. Keep the refuge away from drainage obstructions and do not turn a habitat project into hazardous roof or gutter work.

YOUR WORKING RECORD

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EXERCISE 04

Record plant-specific decisions

For each bed, note healthy stems to retain, delicate crowns to protect, and debris needing disease identification. Write the source of any removal recommendation. Keep uncertain material separate. A plant-health record should name the actual problem or the unresolved question rather than label all debris good or bad.

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EXERCISE 05

Define the refuge boundary

Choose one location, mark its edges, and describe what will remain there. Record traffic, drainage, and maintenance concerns. Tell household members or garden helpers the plan. Include what would justify changing it, such as water accumulation, access problems, or a diagnosed plant-health issue.

YOUR WORKING RECORD

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EXERCISE 06

Schedule an observation return

Choose a safe viewing point and take a dated photograph. Record changes after storms and at seasonal transitions without digging through the refuge. Note spring questions for local guidance. The observation should help you decide what to maintain, not become a demand to document every organism.

YOUR WORKING RECORD

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