

Site and Greenhouse Planning Worksheet

Area and Location Considerations

- Regulations, zoning, land use, business development

- Transportation and accessibility

- Security and safety of general location, neighborhood, crime issues, preventions

- Market visibility, proximity to customers, retail presence

- Relative cost of land and building

- Personal residence or business location

- Temperature and seasonal factors impacting structure

- Does the location fulfill the business mission?

Site Selection Criteria

- Zoning – Is commercial greenhouse allowed?

- City or county entitlement process, are they interested and willing to permit?

- Utility availability, water quality

- Distance to customer base, distribution methods

- Size, setbacks, right of ways, sight lines

- Space designated for greenhouse or building

- Orientation, solar access, slope, drainage, soil quality

- Roads and physical access for trucks and equipment

- Security of site and building

Personal Considerations

- What are your goals and objectives for the greenhouse/indoor growing space?

- How are you financing the project?

- How much time and energy will you be able to commit?

- What do you envision your greenhouse space looks like?

- Is your farm a reasonable distance from your home to respond to issues?

- Do you want to open the doors to people or stay private?

Functional Considerations

- In addition to the farm what else are you trying to accomplish with the space?

- Education and training center? How often? How many people?

- Farmers Market?

- On-site restaurant, event center, farm to table meals?

- Research and Development?

Physical Considerations

- What space do you have available?

- Is this a pre-existing building or a new building? Are you incorporating other buildings or functions?

- Will this be in a greenhouse or enclosed structure?

- Will the site require grading and foundation work?

- Do you have access to power, water, sewer/septic, gas?

- Is the location accessible by vehicles?

Environmental Considerations

- What is your water source, flow rate and quality?

- Will the environment have adequate ventilation and environmental controls?

- Do you have a source for heat if needed?

- Will you have adequate natural sunlight available or will you need artificial lights?

- What is your target temperature and humidity for the crops you intend to grow?

Production Considerations

- What produce and fish do you intend to grow?

- How much do you need to produce to meet your goals?

- How are you packaging and distributing the products?

- What other products do you intend to produce?

- How and where are you producing them?