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|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Physical Structure |
| Affordability (a) | Far too expensive a design and or uses little to no repurposed materials. | Exceeds $25/or uses little to no repurposed materials. | Stays within $25. Uses some repurposed materials. | Stays within$25. Ingenious use of repurposed materials. |
| Water efficiency (b) | A great deal of water intended for plants/soil is wasted. A great deal of spillage. | Watering system leads a fair amount of water spillage and water intended for plants/soil being wasted.  | Efficient use of water. Almost all water used for plants/soil with very little spillage or waste. | Extremely efficient use of water. All water used for plants/soil with no spillage or waste whatsoever. |
| Mobility (c) | Design does not allow for mobility or mobility is extremely cumbersome. | Design allows for mobility of both plants and entire unit in the case of users moving. May be somewhat cumbersome, however. | Efficient design allows for some ease of mobility of both plants and entire unit in the case of users moving. | Extremely efficient design allows for great ease of mobility of both plants and entire unit in the case of users moving. |
| Organic (d) | Design is not organic and relies on chemical fertilizers and/or pesticides. | Design allows a mostly-organic system to function with minimal use of chemical fertilizers and/or pesticides. | Design allows an organic system to function without the use of chemical fertilizers and/or pesticides. | Thoughtful design allows fully organic garden system to flourish. May include plants and/or insects that help control pests/diseases. |
| Space efficiency (e) | Inefficient use of space. Much too large for a typical patio. Does not take into consideration things like plant height, root depth, space needed to grow, and access to sun. | Not very space efficient. Makes it difficult for patio space to be used for activities other than gardening. Design may not take into consideration things like plant height, root depth, space needed to grow, and access to sun. | Somewhat space efficient allowing patio space to be used for activities other than gardening. Takes into consideration things like plant height, root depth, space needed to grow, and access to sun. | Extremely space efficient allowing patio space to be used for activities other than gardening. Ingeniously takes into consideration things like plant height, root depth, space needed to grow, and access to sun. |
| Plant variety (f) | Only one food-producing plant with no pest- deterring plants. | Only one food-producing plant type with some pest-deterring plants. | Some variety food-producing plants. (Minimum of 2 not including pest-deterring plants.) | Several varieties of food-producing plants. (Minimum 3, not including pest-deterring plants.) |
| Time efficiency or ease of maintenance(g) | Not a time efficient system. Addresses few if any of the challenges related to watering and water filtration, weeding, fertilizing, soil replacement and retention, and planting. | Somewhat time efficient system. May Address a few of the challenges related to watering and water filtration, weeding, fertilizing, soil replacement and retention, and planting. | Time efficient system. Addresses some of the challenges related to watering and water filtration, weeding, fertilizing, soil replacement and retention, and planting. | Extremely time efficient system. Addresses challenges related to watering and water filtration, weeding, fertilizing, soil replacement and retention, and planting. |
| Plan for sun access (h) | Does not accommodate for the sun requirement(s) of the plants in your garden. | Attempts unsuccessfully to accommodate for the sun requirement(s) of the plants in your garden. | Thoughtfully takes into consideration one sun-requirement for the plants in your garden.  | Ingeniously takes into consideration sun-requirements for each plant in your garden. Design allows for plants with varying sun requirements in an elegant/thoughtful fashion. |
| User’s Guide |
| Expository essays  | All essays not present |  |  | All essays present |
| Overview * Materials
* Selling points
* instructions
 | Overview missing or very poorly written. Key components missing, such as: materials used, selling points of your system and/or instructions on how to use your system. | Overview that includes all or most of the materials used, the selling points of your system, and instructions of how to use your system.  | Somewhat detailed well-written overview that includes all or most of the materials used, the selling points of your system, and step by step instructions of how to use your system.  | ADetailed and very well-written overview that includes all the materials used, the selling points of your system, and step by step instructions of how to use your system.  |
| Planting Schedule  | Plants listed but does not specify when or where to plant | Planting schedule is not easy to follow and/or does not clearly specify when and where to plant.  | Planting schedule is somewhat easy to follow. Specifies both when and where to plant.  | Planting schedule is very easy to follow. Clearly specifies both when and where to plant.  |
| Dichotomous Key | No dichotomous key is present. | A dichotomous key is included but is either unattractive or not useful, or oth. | A somewhat detailed dichotomous key that is somewhat attractive and/or useful. | A thoroughly detailed dichotomous key that is both attractive and useful. |