Garden Weather Station Checklist

Identify the capabilities you would like your garden weather station to have.

Temperature
        Current Temperature
        High/Low
        Time of day for high and low
        Periodic reading throughout the day
        Temperature readings from multiple locations. List them

Rain
        Current amount
        Rain rate
        Cumulative amount per storm
        Cumulative amount per month/year (water year or calendar year)
        Periodic readings throughout the day

Wind
        Current speed
        High sustained speed
        High gust
        Meteorological speed or garden speed
        Direction
        Dominant Direction
        Periodic readings throughout the day

Humidity
        Current Humidity
        High daily humidity
        Low daily humidity
        Periodic reading throughout the day

Barometric Pressure
        Current barometric pressure
        Direction of change
        Rate of change
        Periodic readings throughout the day

Solar Radiation
        Current amount
        Periodic readings throughout the day

Evapotranspiration (calculated from wind, temperature, humidity, solar radiation)
        Current amount
        Periodic readings throughout the day
        Amount per day, month, year

UV Radiation
        Current amount
        Daily cumulative amount

Other measurements to consider
- Soil Temperature
- Soil Moisture
- Leaf Wetness

Data Logging
- Manual daily record keeping
- Automated data logging (requires a station with a communication port)
- Periodic computer connection for data logging
- Dedicated computer for data logging
- Archive Interval

Data Sharing
- Citizens Weather Observer Program
- Wunderground or similar service
- Personal weather station data published on your own website

Software
- Understand the capabilities of the software that came with the weather station.
- Is third party software available for station?
- Does the software generate graphs and web pages?
- Is open source software available for the station you select?
- Does the software supports the feature set defined above

Weather Station sensor communication
- Do you want or need more than one console?
- Wired
- Wireless
- Hybrid

Alarms
- Does the console have audible alarms?
- List sensors and conditions for which you want alarms.
    - Example: Greenhouse temp exceeding 95 degrees

Power Source
- Power source for console Example: AC with battery backup
- Power source for sensors
    - Powered from console
    - Battery only
    - Solar with battery backup
- Will the sensors be located in an easy place to service?
- Do I want a heater for the rain gauge in winter

Documentation
- Is the manufacturer documentation well written and easy to understand?
- Is the documentation available on the manufacturer's website?