

Square Foot Gardening

Step 1 – Build your box

Basic bottomless boxes are easy to build out of common lumber, bricks or blocks. Place on lawn or mulched area in full sun. Build your box on top of existing soil, rather than digging down. Boxes can also be raised by building a platform or build on top of a skid. Use landscape fabric to line bottom of skid or platform if need. If box is to be placed on patio, it is recommended to build a bottom. The depth of the box should be between 6-12".

Step 2 – Fill Box

Fill with garden soil rich in compost. You can also make your own growing mix by blending 1/3 peat moss + 1/3 vermiculite + 1/3 compost.

Step 3 - Create Grid

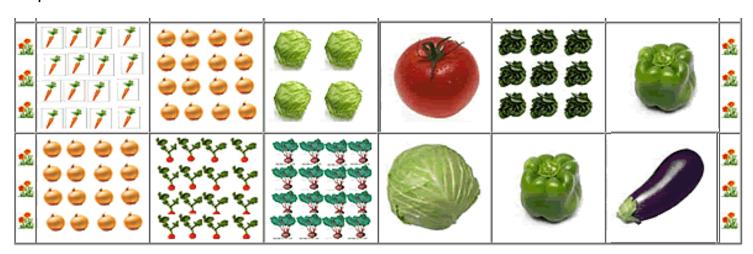
Use thin wood strips to create 12" x12" grid. This gives your garden character.

Step 4 – Plant Your Garden.

Choose your vegetables and herbs. Use chart and list on reverse to determine how many plants to plant in each square foot and when to plant. Tall plants should be planted on the north side of the box so they don't shade shorter plants.

Step 5 – Replenish the Soil.

The secret to maintaining your raised bed year after year is soil renewal. Soil will lose its fertility due to very heavy feeding vegetables at super high density. Vegetables need three macronutrients in generous amounts: nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. If you are not replacing your soil, be sure to add one of the following rich organic fertilizers: Maxicrop Liquid Seaweed, Bonide Fish Fertilizer, Espoma Bio-tone Starter or Natural Alternatives All Purpose Plant Food.



Number of Plants Recommended per 1 Square Foot

Early Spring: March 20 - April 15

Sugar Peas-9

Kale-4

Onions-16

Radishes-16

Lettuce-4

Carrots-16

Red Beets-large 9/ small 16

Early Cabbage-1

Broccoli-1

Brussel Sprouts-1

Cauliflower-1

Garden Peas-9

Spinach-9

Swiss Chard-4

Strawberries-4

Chives from seed -16

Mid-Spring: April 15-30

Early Tomatoes 1

Early Sweet Corn- 4

Cabbage-1

Strawberries-4

Chives from seed-16

Cilantro-1

Parsley-4

Oregano-1

Thyme-1

Sage-1

Late Spring: May 1-15

Lima Beans-9

Tomato (compact variety) -1

Sweet Corn-4

Summer squash-1

Cucumbers (bush/compact variety)-2

Green/Yellow Beans (bush type)-9

Rosemary-1

Early Summer: May 15-June 15

Peppers-1 Eggplants-1

Sweet Corn-4

Tomato (compact variety) -1

Okra-1

Green/Yellow Beans (bush type)-9

Sweet Potatoes-2

Basil-4

Late Summer for Fall Crop-Late July

Broccoli-1

Cabbage-1

Brussel Sprouts-1

Cauliflower-1

Kale-4

Lettuce-4

Spinach-9

Swiss Chard-4

Turnips-9

Green/Yellow Beans (bush type)-9