**HOW TO: SQUARE FOOT GARDEN**

Build a Box Fill it with grow mix Add a Grid Start Planting



” x 8” wood

1



4

’



4

’

**4**

**3**

**2**

**1**

**5**

**6**

**7**

**8**

**9**

**10**

**11**

**12**

**13**

**1**

**4**

**15**

**16**

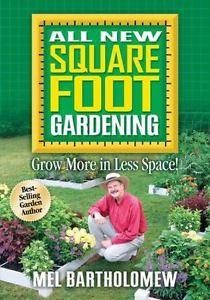
**Plant Spacing in Each Square**

Cabbage Lettuce Spinach Carrots

Pepper Marigold Beans Radishes

1 per sq. 4 per sq. 9 per sq. 16 per sq.

# Square Foot Gardening



FG takes only: 20% of the space

15% of the water

10% of the labor

5% of the seeds

0% of the fertilizer

Yet produces: 100% of the harvest

* Most plants grow plants in only 6 to 8 inches of growing medium.
* Growing medium: 1/3 blended compost, 1/3 peat moss, 1/3 course vermiculite.
* As you harvest, add a trowel full of blended compost to the empty square and plant your next crop.
* SFG needs no fertilizer (compost does it all).
* LITTLE TO NO WEEDS
* NO DIGGING
* NO ROTO-TILLING

**Square Foot Garden courtesy of**:

University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Tulare-Kings Co. Have a gardening question? The UC Master Gardeners offer free information On gardening. Call anytime and we will return your call.



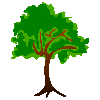
Tulare: (559) 684-3325 & 684-3326 Hanford: (559) 852-2736

**TEN BASICS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Layout** | Arrange garden in squares, not rows. Layout 4’ x 4’ planting areas. For higher yield production, try some 4’ x 8’ or 12’ boxes. |
| **2. Boxes** | Build bottomless boxes to hold new soil mix. Add plywood bottoms for tabletop gardens. |
| **3. Aisles** | Space boxes 3’ apart to form walking aisles. |
| **4. Soil** | Fill boxes with special “Soil” mix: 1/3 blended compost, 1/3 peat moss, and 1/3 course vermiculite. |
| **5. Grid** | Make a square foot grid for the top of each box. **A MUST!** |
| **6. Care** | NEVER WALK ON YOUR GROWING SOIL. Tend your garden from the aisles. |
| **7. Select** | Plant a different flower, vegetable, or herb crop in each square foot; using 1, 4, 9, or 16 plants per square foot. |
| **8. Plant** | Conserve seeds. Plant only a pinch (2 or 3 seeds) per hole. Transplants are planted in a slight saucer-shaped depression. |
| **9. Water** | Water by hand or drip irrigation system. |
| **10. Harvest** | When you finish harvesting a square foot, add compost and replant it with a new different crop. |

**LOCATION**

**Pick an area that gets 6 – 8 hours of sunshine daily.** (Most plants need this.)



**Be sure it is not near trees and shrubs.** (Watch for roots and shade.)

**Have it as close as possible to the house.** (For convenience, and protection.)



**Existing soil is not really important.** (Since you won’t be using it.)

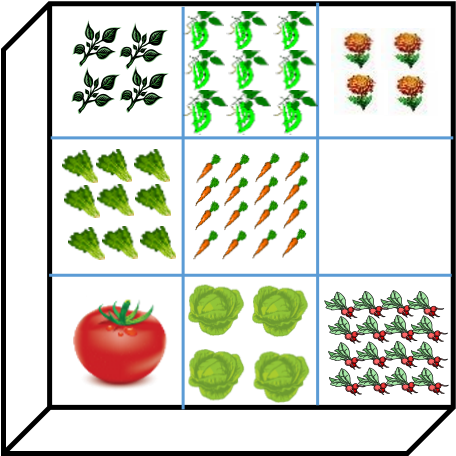
**Area has no puddles after a heavy rain.** (Drainage is important.)

**What could be easier than this? And start planting!**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Build a box | Fill with “Soil” Mix | Add a grid |

# Square Foot Gardening Plant & Seed Spacing

**Looking at the back of the seed packet…if instructions indicate “thin to”**

12” spacing = 1 plant / square foot (tomato)

6” spacing = 4 plants / square foot (lettuce)

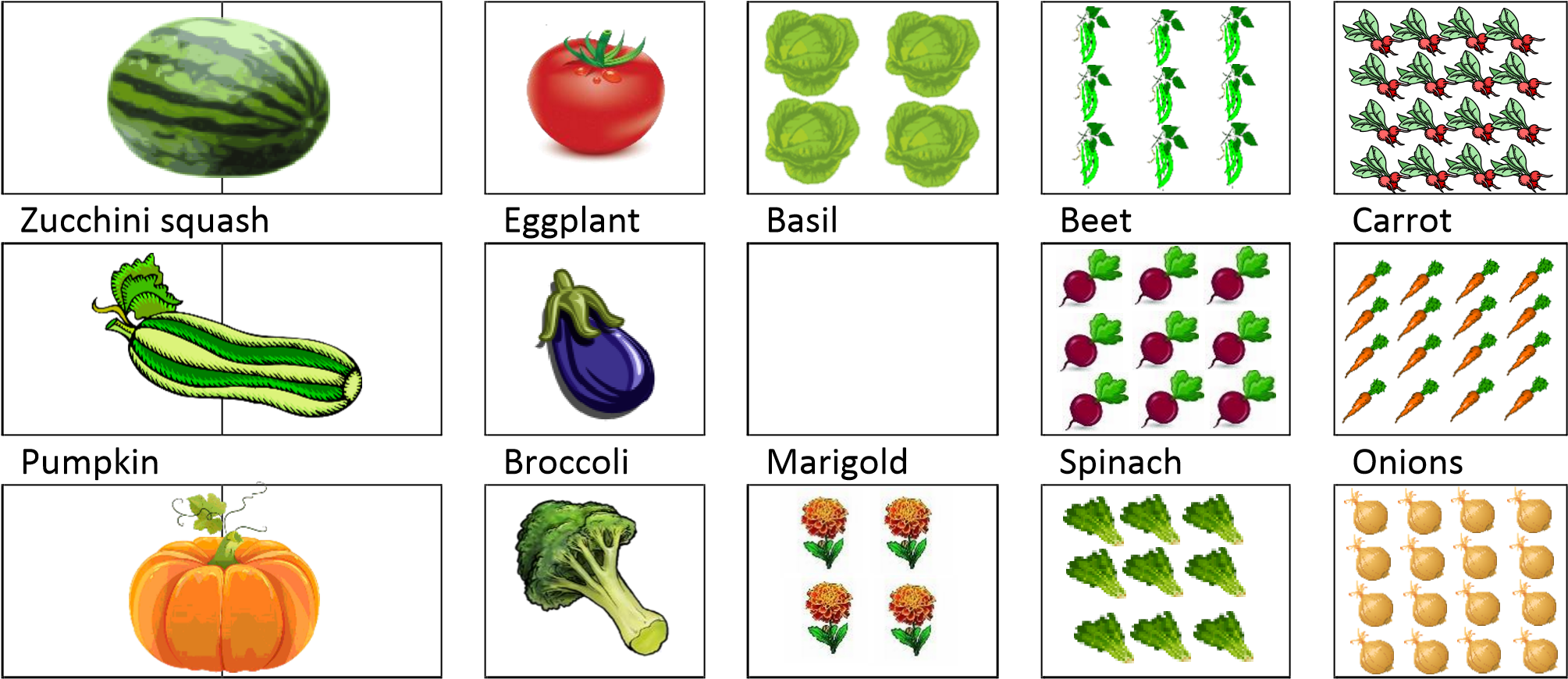
4” spacing = 9 plants / square foot (spinach, onions)

3” spacing = 16 plants / square foot (radish, carrot)

**XL** **L** **M** **S** **XS**

*1 plant per 2 square feet 1 plant 4 plants 9 plants 16 plants*

Watermelon Tomato Lettuce Bush bean Radish



Melon Cabbage Corn

Winter squash Cauliflower Parsley

Summer squash Cucumber Potato

Okra Strawberry

Pepper Turnip