



SQUARE FOOT GARDENING

Many people would love to grow their own fresh veggies and herbs but they are deterred thinking that they don't have the space or the time. They must not know about Square Foot Gardening! Square Foot Gardening was developed by Mel Bartholomew. The following information was gathered from his website, www.squarefootgardening.com.

The square-foot gardening concept is simple: Build a raised bed, divide the space into sections of one square-foot each, and then plant vegetables (and/or flowers) in just the amount of space they need. The advantages of this system include reduced workload, less watering, *easy* weeding (and not much of it), and easy access to your crops. This is a great way to learn to grow some of your own food.

The Ten Basics of Square Foot Gardening:

1 - LAYOUT

Arrange you garden in squares, not rows. Lay it out in 4' by 4' areas.

2 - BOXES

Build boxes to hold a new soil mix above ground.

3 - AISLES

Space boxes 3' apart to form walking aisles.

4 - SOIL

Fill boxes with Mel's special soil mix: 1/3 compost. 1/3 peat moss, and 1/3 coarse 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. Depending on the mature size of the plant, grow 1, 4, 9, or 16 equally spaced plants per square foot. If the seed packet recommends plant spacing be 12 inches apart, plant one plant per square foot. If 6 inch spacing; 4 per square foot. If 4 inch spacing; 9 per square foot. If 3 inch spacing; 16 per square foot.





8 - PLANT

Conserve seeds. Plant only a pinch (2 or 3 seeds) per hole. Place transplants in a slight saucer-shaped depression.

9 - WATER

Water by hand from a bucket of sun-warmed water.

10 - HARVEST

When you finish harvesting a square foot, add compost and replant it with a new and different crop.

Location:

- Pick an area that gets 6-8 hours of sunshine daily.
- Stay clear of trees and shrubs where roots and shade may interfere.
- Have it close to the house for convenience and protection.
- Existing soil is not really important. You won't be using it.
- Area must not puddle after a heavy rain.

EXAMPLE 4'x4' GARDEN

Shows how many seeds/plants per square foot

16 radish	1 tomato	4 parsley	1 broccoli
1 eggplant	1 basil	4 snap peas	4 bush beans
16 carrots	1 tomato	1 cucumber burpless	4 lettuce
1 pepper	9 marigolds	1 cucumber pickling	1 squash tumble outside

Get creative, add flowers and herbs, try new things. Plant large squash plants on the edge and train to climb out of the box. Grow cucumbers on a trellis to utilize vertical space. Have fun and enjoy a fresh harvest!

