Getting started with Square Foot Gardening

From All-New Square Foot Gardening, 3rd Edition
MORE Projects - NEW Solutions - GROW
Vegetables Anywhere

SAMPLE GARDEN DESIGNS

The following sample Square Foot Garden maps will give you a place to start as you plan your own square foot vegetable garden. Although we've presented these as classic 4 × 4-foot boxes, remember that you can configure your own garden in whatever shape you like as long as it still has 1 × 1-foot squares. In most of these maps, the top row is fitted with a trellis, and this is intended to be the northern edge of the garden.

#1 A BASIC SAMPLER GARDEN

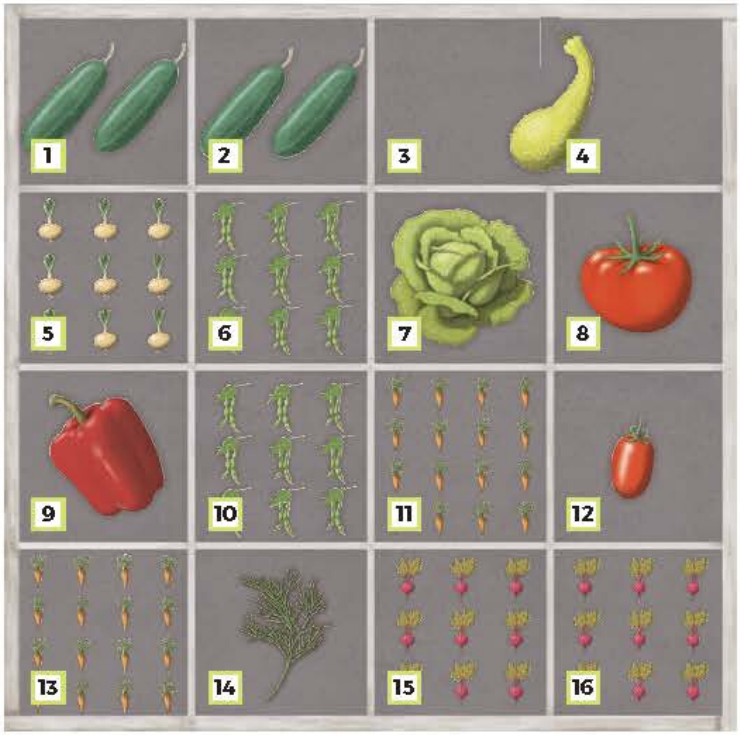
Here is a basic, well-rounded garden that provides the most common vegetables that most people enjoy. If there are some you don't care for, you can of course swap them out for others.

The basic vegetable garden is planted with these vegetables, reading from top left: (1) Beefsteak tomato × 1; (2) Pole bean × 8; (3) (4) Cantaloupe × 1; (5) Cucumber × 2; (6) Broccoli × 1; (7) Cauliflower × 1; (8) Green pepper × 1; (9) Lettuce × 4; (10) White onion × 16; (11) Green onion × 16; (12) Spinach × 9; (13) Carrot × 16; (14) Radish × 16; (15) Beet × 9; (16) Basil × 1.

#2 EASY-TO-GROW GARDEN

If you have concerns about the color of your thumb and prefer to try simple vegetables to start with, here is a garden filled with very easy vegetables.

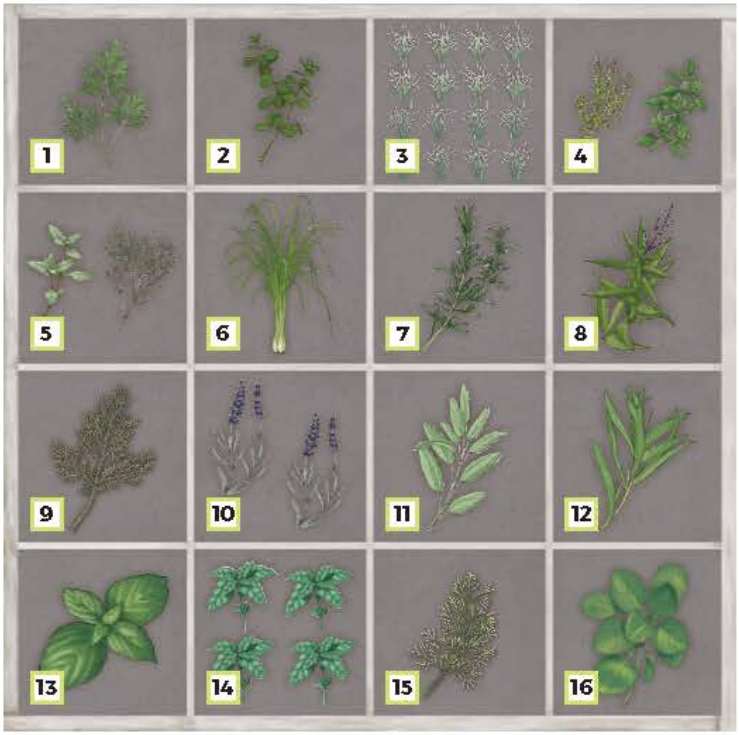
The easy vegetable garden is planted with these vegetables, reading from top left: (1) Tomato × 1; (2) Cucumber × 2; (3) Pole bean × 8; (4) Pole bean × 8; (5) Broccoli × 1; (6) Broccoli × 1; (7) Green pepper × 1; (8) Green pepper × 1; (9) Beet × 9; (10) Cabbage × 1; (11) Spinach × 9; (12) Parsley × 4; (13) Green onion × 16; (14) Leaf lettuce × 4; (15) Carrots × 16; (16) Radishes × 16.



#3 CANNING GARDEN

Consider a garden like this one if you like to can vegetables to put away for the winter or to give away as gifts. All the vegetables in this garden are suitable for canning or pickling. Note that tomatoes will need a trellis or other form of vertical support and should be placed on the north side of your garden so as not to block out the light.

> The canning garden is planted with these vegetables, reading from top left: (1) Large cucumber × 2; (2) Large cucumber × 2; (3) (4) Summer squash × 1; (5) White globe onion × 9; (6) Bush bean × 9; (7) Cabbage × 1; (8) Large tomato × 1; (9) Sweet pepper × 1; (10) Bush bean × 9; (11) Carrot × 16; (12) Plum tomato × 1; (13) Carrot × 16; (14) Dill × 1; (15) Beet × 9; (16) Beet × 9.



#4 CULINARY HERB GARDEN

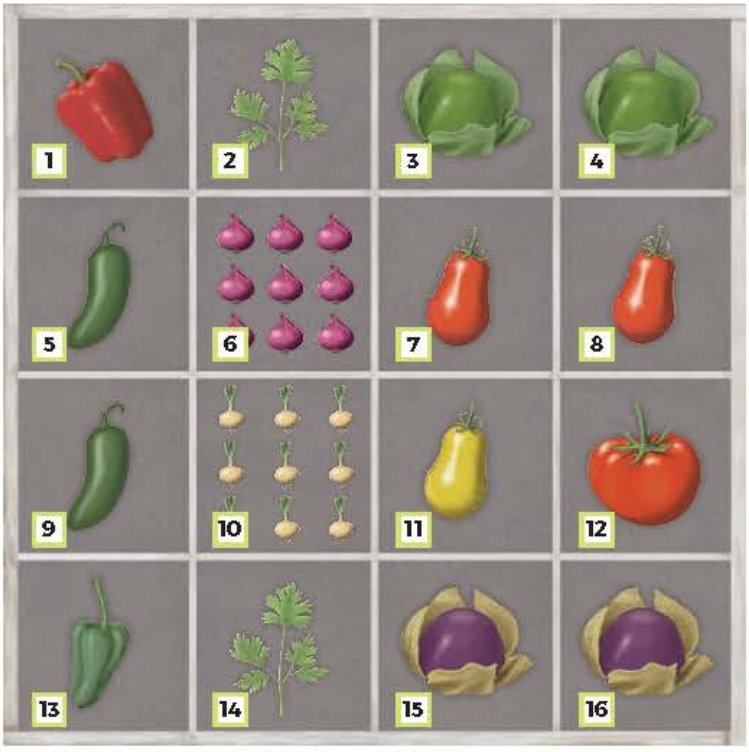
Consider a garden like this one if you enjoy cooking with herbs or drying them for craft use. Note that some squares contain two different herbs. This garden does not require a trellis. With judicious pruning, rosemary and lavender can be grown in one grid square. Lemongrass should be grown as an annual.

> The culinary herb garden is planted with these vegetables, reading from top left: (1) Italian parsley × 1; (2) Sweet marjoram × 1; (3) Common chives × 8 and garlic chives × 8; (4) Lemon thyme × 1 and lime thyme × 1; (5) English thyme × 1 and French thyme × 1; (6) Lemongrass × 1; (7) Blue rosemary × 1; (8) Lemon verbena × 1; (9) Fernleaf dill × 1; (10) Provence lavender × 2; (11) Sage × 1; (12) Tarragon × 1; (13) Lemon basil × 1; (14) Large-leaf basil × 4; (15) Sweet fennel × 1; (16) Italian oregano × 1.

#5 SALAD GARDEN

Here is a basic Square Foot Garden for salad lovers. This garden does not require a trellis.

> The salad garden is planted with these vegetables, reading from top left: (1) Bibb lettuce × 4; (2) Red romaine lettuce × 4; (3) Beet × 9; (4) Arugula × 4; (5) Freckled lettuce × 4; (6) Broccoli rabe × 9; (7) Cauliflower × 1; (8) Sugar snap peas × 8; (9) Leaf lettuce × 4; (10) Cauliflower × 1; (11) Broccoli rabe × 9; (12) Sugar snap peas × 8; (13) Arugula × 4; (14) Red romaine lettuce × 4; (15) Radishes × 16; (16) Bibb lettuce × 4.



#6 SALSA GARDEN

Here's a perfect garden collection if you like to make large batches of delicious salsa. If you have trouble finding any of these varieties, you can substitute others. They key to good salsa is using a variety of peppers and tomatoes. Note that, again, tomatoes will need a vertical support in this garden and should be grown on the north side to avoid shading the other plants.

> The salsa garden is planted with these vegetables, reading from top left: (1) Red bell pepper × 1; (2) Cilantro × 1; (3) Green tomatillo × 1; (4) Green tomatillo × 1; (5) Jalapeno pepper × 1; (6) Purple onion × 9; (7) Pear tomato × 1; (8) Pear tomato × 1; (9) Jalapeno pepper × 1; (10) White onion × 9; (11) Yellow pear tomato × 1; (12) Beefsteak tomato × 1; (13) Ancho pepper × 1; (14) Cilantro × 1; (15) Purple tomatillo × 1; (16) Purple tomatillo × 1.