

Vegetable Garden Plans for Square Foot Gardens

Introduction

Planning is an important step in having a successful vegetable garden. Not everyone has the time, energy or desire to do a vegetable garden layout. I have developed designs for several types of vegetable gardening to assist you in having your own fabulous and productive garden.

I have developed a simple and easy to follow plans that tell you when, where and what to plant in various types of garden sites. For each plan there are several different sizes which will provide a variety of vegetables for 1 or 2 persons or a family with vegetables all season. Choose the plan that works best for you and start growing your own vegetables

There is information on crop rotation, a month at a glance to do list and I will provide an exchange list so you will have flexibility if you do not want to grow certain vegetables.

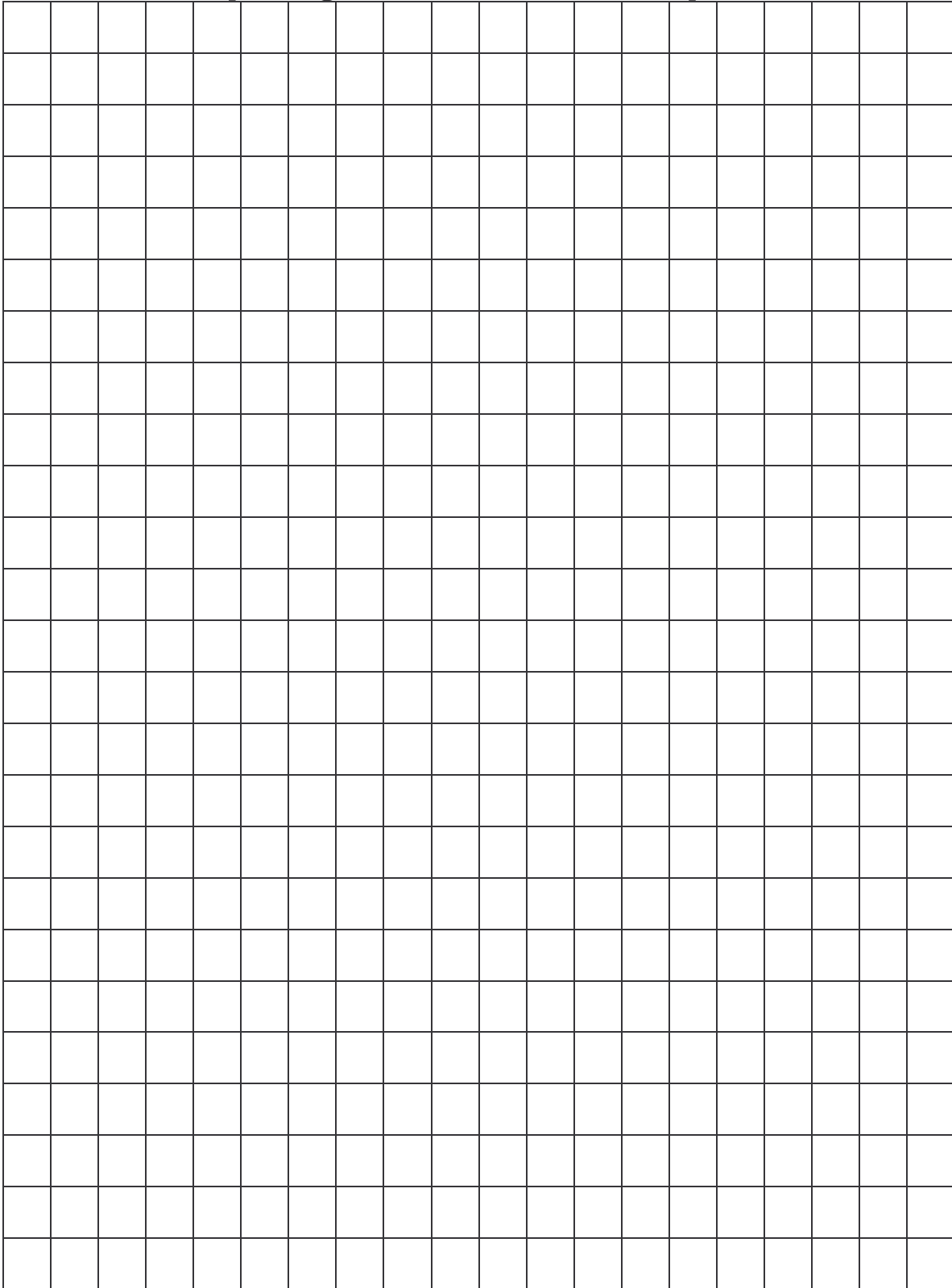
I hope you will find the Vegetable Garden Layouts easy to use and helpful in your own garden planning and record keeping.

Happy gardening,

Catherine Abbott

www.your-vegetable-gardening-helper.com

My Vegetable Garden Layout



The Square Foot Vegetable Garden Layout

The premise to square foot gardening is to grow as many vegetables as nature will allow in 1 square foot. By growing intensively you can produce your own vegetables in a very small space.

More homes and gardens are becoming smaller which is inspiring gardeners to look at different ways to grow vegetables and square foot gardening is a very effective way to grow. The following plans will help you layout your own square foot garden.

Within the 1 square foot you can grow 1 vegetable plant or several depending in their size at maturity. The system also utilizes growing certain vegetables vertically. This takes up less space and often these vegetables grow their best if not lying on the ground. For example tomatoes, cucumbers and pole beans are best grown upright.

By growing intensively the plants are closer together which helps to keep weeds from growing, as well a smaller space takes less time to maintain.

You can plant a square foot garden in any garden space from raised beds, in rows in the backyard or even using the premise in your containers.

In the following pages I have created designs for feeding 1 or 2 people as well as a family. The vegetables in the designs can easily exchanged by using the exchange list provided.

Vegetable Crop Rotation

Vegetable crop rotation is one of the main principles in growing organically. By rotating where you plant your vegetables each year you are enhancing the health of your garden soil by not depleting essential nutrients, by improving the soil structure and this process helps to control pests and diseases.

I have set up an easy 6 year vegetable rotation. Make a note of what type of vegetable you are planting in each square foot, then the next year move it where the next type of vegetable was growing. For example next year grow your tomato plant where you grew peas and beans. You can do a 4 or 5 year rotation as well if you will not be growing 1 of the groups of vegetables. Try not to grow the same vegetable in the same space every year.

Plot 1 – **Heat loving vegetables** (such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cucumbers, basil)

Plot 2 – **Peas and beans**

Plot 3 – **Brassicas** (such as cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, brussel sprouts, kale)

Plot 4 – **Root vegetables** (such as carrots, beets, turnips, and radish)

Plot 5 – **Lettuce and onions**

Plot 6 – **Potatoes or corn or squash**

Grow your perennial vegetables such as asparagus or artichokes and herbs such as thyme, oregano, sage in an area where they can remain without causing problem when you need to do your soil preparation for the rest of your vegetable garden.

Vegetable Exchange List

Vegetable plants need a certain amount of room in order to grow to maturity and in the plans on the following pages I have this figured out for you. However, if you do not want to grow a certain vegetable listed in the plan the chart below can help you decide what to plant instead. The chart is divided by crop rotation as well for your convenience.

Beside each vegetable the number represents the number of plant(s) that can be grown in a 1 square foot area. For example you can plant 1 tomato or 2 cucumbers in a 1 square foot area.

Heat loving vegetables – 1 square foot

Tomato (1)
Peppers (1)
Eggplants (1)
Basil (4)

Brassicas – 1 square foot

Broccoli (1)
Cabbage (1)
Cauliflower (1)
Brussel sprouts (1)
Kale (1)

Root vegetables – 1 square foot

Carrots (16)
Beets (9)
Turnip (9)
Radish (16)
Kohlrabi (9)

Lettuce and Onions – 1 square foot

Lettuce (4)
Oriental greens (4)
Mizuna (4)
Arugula (4)
Spinach (4)
Swiss chard (4)
Onions (16)
Leeks (16)
Garlic (16)
Celery (1)
Salad greens, broadcasted (1)

Potatoes, corn, and squash - 1 square foot

Potato (1)
Corn (1)
Squash – you need 4 square feet for each plant
Asparagus (1)
Artichoke (1)

**Gardens like relationships
will flourish when tended.**

Kerry Boone

Square foot garden layout for 1 or 2 people.

Use 1 – 4 foot by 4 foot area if you want to grow only small plants;
or use twice the area if you want to grow larger crops.

1 Tomato	1 tomato	2 cucumbers	1 pepper
9 green beans	9 yellow beans	8 peas, shelling	8 peas, snow
16 radishes	16 carrots	16 carrots	9 beets
4 lettuce	4 spinach	4 leeks	4 Oriental greens

1 broccoli	1 broccoli	1 cabbage	1 cabbage
1 corn	1 corn	1 corn	1 corn
1 potato	1 potato	1 potato	1 potato
1 tomato	1 tomato	4 basil	1 pepper

Planting Instructions

Square foot garden layout for 1 or 2 people

These dates are guidelines; get to know your own garden site and climate. When starting seedlings I have allowed for extra just in case all the seeds do not germinate. When planting direct you can plant a few extra as well for the same reason. If you choose to purchase your vegetable transplants rather than starting your own follow the setting out seedlings dates. When buying transplants it is important to choose healthy plants with a strong green color and plant them as soon as you can after bringing them home.

Early March

Start seedlings in flats indoors:

Tomato	6 seeds
Basil	6 seeds
Peppers	3 seeds
Cabbage	2 seeds
Broccoli	2 seeds
Lettuce	3 seeds
Spinach	3 seeds
Oriental greens	3 seeds
Leeks	4 seeds

Late March

Plant seeds directly in your garden

(Make sure your soil is not too wet or cold; if it is not ready plant these in early April.)

Peas, shelling	8 seed; seeds 3 inches apart
Peas, snow	8 seed; seeds 3 inches apart
Potato	2 seed potatoes

Early April

Start seedlings in flats indoors:

Cabbage	2 seeds
Broccoli	2 seeds
Lettuce	3 seeds
Spinach	3 seeds
Oriental greens	3 seeds

Plant seeds directly in your garden (Make sure your soil is not too wet or cold.)

Carrot	16 seed; seeds 2 inches apart
Beet	9 seeds; seeds 3 inches apart
Radish	16 seeds; seeds 2 inches apart

Late April

Set out seedlings to your garden

(Choose your healthiest transplant from early March seeding and give the other one away.)

Cabbage	1 plant
Broccoli	1 plant
Lettuce	2 plants
Spinach	2 plants
Oriental greens	2 plants

Early May

Plant seeds directly in your garden (make sure your soil is not too wet or cold)

Carrot	16 seed; seeds 2 inches apart
Radish	16 seeds; seeds 2 inches apart (second planting)
Potato	2 seed potatoes

Late May

Set out seedlings to your garden

(Choose your healthiest transplant from early March seeding and give the other one away.)

Tomato	4 plants
Basil	4 plants
Peppers	2 plants
Broccoli	1 plant
Cauliflower	1 plant
Lettuce	2 plants
Spinach	2 plants
Oriental greens	2 plants
Leeks	4 plants

Plant seeds directly in your garden (Make sure your soil is not too wet or cold.)

Beans, green	9 seeds; seeds 3 inches apart
Corn	2 seeds

Early June

Plant seeds directly in your garden (Make sure your soil is not too wet or cold.)

Beans, yellow	9 seeds; seeds 3 inches apart
Corn	2 seeds

I used to visit and revisit it a dozen times a day, and stand in deep contemplation over my vegetable progeny with a love that nobody could share or conceive of who had never taken part in the process of creation. It was one of the most bewitching sights in the world to observe a hill of beans thrusting aside the soil, or a rose of early peas just peeping forth sufficiently to trace a line of delicate green.
~*Nathaniel Hawthorne, Mosses from an Old Manse*

Square foot garden layout for a 2 or 3 people.

Use 2 – 4 foot by 4 foot areas if you want to grow only small plants;
or use 3 - 4 foot by 4 foot areas if you want to grow larger crops.

1 tomato	1 tomato	2 cucumber	2 cucumber
8 peas, shelling	8 peas snow	9 beans, green	9 beans, green
16 carrots	16 carrots	16 radish	16 radish
4 lettuce	4 lettuce	4 spinach	4 Oriental greens

1 tomato	1 tomato	8 pole beans	8 pole beans
1 pepper	1 pepper	8 peas, snow	8 peas, shelling
1 broccoli	1 broccoli	16 carrots	16 carrots
1 cauliflower	1 cauliflower	9 beets	9 beets

1 potato	1 potato	1 potato	1 potato
1 potato	1 potato	1 potato	1 potato
1 squash		1 corn	1 corn
		1 corn	1 corn

Planting Instructions

Square foot garden layout for 2 or 3 people

These dates are guidelines; get to know your own garden site and climate. When starting seedlings I have allowed for extra just in case all the seeds do not germinate. When planting direct you can plant a few extra as well for the same reason. If you choose to purchase your vegetable transplants rather than starting your own follow the setting out seedlings dates. When buying transplants it is important to choose healthy plants with a strong green color and plant them as soon as you can after bringing them home.

Early March

Start seedlings in flats indoors:

Tomato	6 seeds
Peppers	6 seeds
Cauliflower	2 seeds
Broccoli	2 seeds
Lettuce	6 seeds
Spinach	6 seeds
Oriental greens	3 seeds

Late March

Plant seeds directly in your garden

(Make sure your soil is not too wet or cold; if it is not ready plant these in early April.)

Peas, shelling	8 seed; seeds 3 inches apart
Peas, snow	8 seed; seeds 3 inches apart
Potato	4 seed potatoes

Early April

Start seedlings in flats indoors:

Cauliflower	2 seeds
Broccoli	2 seeds
Lettuce	6 seeds
Oriental greens	3 seeds
Squash	2 seeds
Cucumber	3 seeds

Plant seeds directly in your garden (Make sure your soil is not too wet or cold.)

Carrot	32 seed; seeds 2 inches apart
Beet	9 seeds; seeds 3 inches apart
Radish	16 seeds; seeds 2 inches apart
Peas, shelling	8 seed; seeds 3 inches apart
Peas, snow	8 seed; seeds 3 inches apart
Potato	4 seed potatoes

Late April

Set out seedlings to your garden

(Choose your healthiest transplant from early March seeding and give the other one away.)

Cauliflower	1 plant
Broccoli	1 plant
Lettuce	4 plants
Spinach	4 plants
Oriental greens	2 plants

Early May

Plant seeds directly in your garden (make sure your soil is not too wet or cold)

Carrot	32 seed; seeds 2 inches apart
Beet	9 seeds; seeds 3 inches apart
Radish	16 seeds; seeds 2 inches apart (second planting)
Potato	2 seed potatoes

Late May

Set out seedlings to your garden

(Choose your healthiest transplant from early March seeding and give the other one away.)

Tomato	4 plants
Squash	1 plant
Peppers	2 plants
Broccoli	1 plant
Cauliflower	1 plant
Lettuce	4 plants
Oriental greens	2 plants

Plant seeds directly in your garden (Make sure your soil is not too wet or cold.)

Beans, green	9 seeds; seeds 3 inches apart
Beans, pole	8 seeds; seeds 3 inches apart
Corn	2 seeds
Cucumber	2 seeds

Early June

Plant seeds directly in your garden (Make sure your soil is not too wet or cold.)

Beans, green	9 seeds; seeds 3 inches apart
Beans, pole	8 seeds; seeds 3 inches apart
Corn	2 seeds

**"There are no gardening mistakes,
only experiments."**

-- Janet Kilburn Phillips

Square foot garden layout for a family.

Use 4 – 4 foot by 4 foot areas if you want to grow only small plants;
or use 6 - 4 foot by 4 foot areas if you want to grow larger crops.

1 Tomato	1 Tomato	2 cucumber	2 cucumber
9 Beans	9 Beans	8 Beans	8 Beans
16 Carrots	16 Carrots	16 Radish	16 Radish
4 Lettuce	4 Lettuce	4 Spinach	4 Spinach

1 Tomato	1 Tomato	2 cucumber	2 cucumber
8 peas, Shelling	8 peas, Shelling	8 peas, snow	8 peas, snow
9 Beets	9 Beets	16 Carrots	16 Carrots
4 Mizuna	4 Arugula	4 Lettuce	4 lettuce

1 Tomato	1 Tomato	1 pepper	1 pepper
1 broccoli	1 broccoli	1 broccoli	1 broccoli
16 Onions	16 leeks	8 peas, shelling	8 peas, shelling
1 potato	1 potato	1 potato	1 potato

1 Tomato	1 Tomato	1 eggplant	1 eggplant
1 cabbage	1 cabbage	1 cabbage	1 cabbage
4 Swiss chard	4 Swiss chard	4 Lettuce	4 lettuce
1 corn	1 corn	1 corn	1 corn

1 Brussel sprouts	1 Brussel sprouts	1 cauliflower	1 cauliflower
1 broccoli	1 broccoli	1 cabbage	1 cabbage
1 potato	1 potato	1 potato	1 potato
1 potato	1 potato	1 potato	1 potato

1 squash		1 squash	
1 corn	1 corn	1 corn	1 corn
1 corn	1 corn	1 corn	1 corn

Planting Instructions

Square foot garden layout for a family

These dates are guidelines; get to know your own garden site and climate. When starting seedlings I have allowed for extra just in case all the seeds do not germinate. When planting direct you can plant a few extra as well for the same reason. If you choose to purchase your vegetable transplants rather than starting your own follow the setting out seedlings dates. When buying transplants it is important to choose healthy plants with a strong green color and plant them as soon as you can after bringing them home.

Early March

Start seedlings in flats indoors:

Tomato	10 seeds
Peppers	4 seeds
Eggplants	4 seeds
Brussel sprouts	4 seeds
Cabbage	6 seeds
Broccoli	6 seeds
Lettuce	10 seeds
Spinach	6 seeds
Oriental greens	6 seeds
Mizuna	3 seeds
Arugula	3 seeds
Onions	18 seeds
Leeks	18 seeds
Swiss chard	6 seeds

Late March

Plant seeds directly in your garden

(Make sure your soil is not too wet or cold; if it is not ready plant these in early April.)

Peas, shelling	16 seed; seeds 3 inches apart
Peas, snow	16 seed; seeds 3 inches apart
Potato	12 seed potatoes

Early April

Start seedlings in flats indoors:

Broccoli	3 seeds
Cabbage	3 seeds
Brussel sprouts	4 seeds
Lettuce	10 seeds
Spinach	6 seeds
Oriental greens	6 seeds
Mizuna	3 seeds
Arugula	3 seeds
Swiss chard	6 seeds
Squash	4 seeds
Cucumber	6 seeds

Early April

Plant seeds directly in your garden (Make sure your soil is not too wet or cold.)

Carrot	32 seed; seeds 2 inches apart
Beet	18 seeds; seeds 3 inches apart
Radish	16 seeds; seeds 2 inches apart
Peas, shelling	16 seed; seeds 3 inches apart

Late April

Set out seedlings to your garden

(Choose your healthiest transplant from early March seeding and give the other one away.)

Brussel sprouts	2 plants
Cabbage	4 plants
Broccoli	4 plants
Lettuce	8 plants
Spinach	8 plants
Oriental greens	4 plants
Mizuna	2 plants
Arugula	2 plants
Swiss chard	4 plants

Early May

Plant seeds directly in your garden (make sure your soil is not too wet or cold)

Carrot	32 seed; seeds 2 inches apart
Radish	16 seeds; seeds 2 inches apart (second planting)

Set out seedlings to your garden

(Choose your healthiest transplant from early March seeding and give the other one away.)

Onions	16 plants
Leeks	16 plants

Late May

Set out seedlings to your garden

(Choose your healthiest transplant from early March seeding and give the other one away.)

Tomato	8 plants	Lettuce	8 plants
Squash	2 plants	Oriental greens	4 plants
Peppers	2 plants	Mizuna	2 plants
Cauliflower	1 plant	Arugula	2 plants
Broccoli	2 plants	Swiss chard	4 plants
Cabbage	2 plants	Cucumber	4 plants
Brussel sprouts	1 plant		

Plant seeds directly in your garden (Make sure your soil is not too wet or cold.)

Beans, green	36 seeds; seeds 3 inches apart
Corn	12 seeds
Cucumber	4 seeds

Monthly Planning at a Glance

January:

- Start planning for the new season in your journal.
- Plan your garden layout; remember to rotate your vegetables.
- List the vegetables you want to grow.
- Go to the library and take out gardening books for inspiration.
- Order your seed catalogs

February:

- Read seed catalogs and other gardening books for information.
- Order your seeds.
- Start tomato, lettuce and spinach seedlings indoors.
- Do a soil test to find out what nutrients your garden soil may need.
- Check and clean your garden tools and equipment.

March:

- Visit garden centers.
- Start your garden soil preparation.
- Read your seed packets before planting.
- Start planting potatoes and peas outdoors.
- Start tomato, onion, leeks and basil seedlings indoors.

April:

- Start planting your lettuce, spinach, radishes, brassica, leeks outdoors.
- Start cucumber, squash, eggplant, and pepper seedlings indoors.
- Start weeding your garden beds.
- Start mulching to suppress weeds.
- Start a new compost pile.

May:

- Harvest lettuce, spinach, radishes that were planted early in April.
- Continue to successive sow lettuce, spinach, carrots, and radishes.
- Start winter crops of brassicas in seedling trays.
- Sow corn, beans, cucumber and squash towards the end of the month.
- Plant out tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, squash at the end of the month.

June:

- Keep your garden weeded.
- Watch for signs of pests, insects and diseases.
- Stake your tomatoes and nip out the side shoots.
- Fertilize your vegetable plants.
- Make sure your vegetable garden is getting sufficient water.

Monthly Planning at a Glance

July:

- Enjoy your harvest.
- Continue to water, weed and fertilize your garden.
- Watch for signs of tomato leaf roll, blossom drop and virus diseases.
- Continue to succession sow and set out winter crops.
- Mark certain vegetable plants that you want to keep for seeds.

August:

- Harvest your vegetables regularly so they continue to produce more.
- Continue to succession sow lettuce, Chinese greens, and radishes.
- Mexican bean beetles, Colorado potato beetles, squash vine borer, clubroot, and blossom end rot can show up this month.
- Keep vegetable plants well watered and weeded.

September:

- Keep harvesting.
- Plant green manures on any bare soil in your garden beds.
- Pull your tomato plants and allow green fruit to ripen indoors.
- Save seeds from your best vegetable plants for next year.
- Frost protection may be needed in certain areas.

October:

- Cultivate and add compost and manure to your garden beds.
- Plant garlic and over wintering onions.
- Harvest pumpkins and winter squash.
- Start your garden clean up.
- Start a new compost pile.

November:

- Continue to plant more garlic.
- If your climate allows sow lettuce, spinach, and Chinese greens.
- Mulch any vegetables that are still in your garden.
- Continue to clean up any garden debris and add to your compost.
- Organize and sort left over seeds.

December:

- Order “My Vegetable Garden Journal” for next year.
- Evaluate how your vegetable garden grew.
- Continue to mulch if you have vegetables still in the garden.
- Check stored vegetables and remove any that are rotting.
- Give garden gifts to friends and family over the holiday season.

My Maintenance Records

Tools and Equipment Inventory

If you are just starting out and need to purchase all your tools start with a good quality shovel, stirrup hoe, garden hose and a bucket. As you go along purchase a wheelbarrow, rake, pitch fork and a water wand. If you need larger equipment like a rototiller or weed eater save money and time by renting them.

My garden tip: **Always keep your tools clean and sharp!**

Item	Date purchased	Date cleaned
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Tools and Equipment needed Writing down what you want and need right now will make it easier for garden and budget planning.

Watering Record

Your vegetable plants need water to grow. Too little water causes plants to wilt and die; too much moisture can also destroy your plant. Most vegetables need a minimum of 1 inch of water per week. If you are using a sprinkler set out an empty can in the garden area so it will catch water and see how long it takes to reach one inch (usually about an hour).

My garden tip:

Check you soil before watering; dig down about 3 inches and if the soil is dry, give your plant some water!

Date	Location	How much given
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Observations:

Fertilizing Record

Your vegetable plants will probably need a little boost of nutrients during the growing season. Compost or aged animal manure is great amendments to add to any type of garden soil. Top dress your plant which means placing a shovel full of compost or manure around the base of each vegetable plant, and then water over it. Nutrients in the compost or manure will soak in giving the plant roots the nutrients.

If you do not have a lot of compost, fill a pail 1/3 full of compost and then fill it with water. Cover the pail and leave it overnight. The next day you have a wonderful brown liquid called compost tea. Pour this around the base of your plants for a similar affect to top dressing.

My garden tip: **A soil test can give you invaluable information about your garden soil!**

Date	Location	Type	How much given
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observations:

Mulching Record

Mulch can be any material laid over your garden soil; usually at the base of your plants to protect them by suppressing weeds and by enriching the soil as they decompose. Depending on what kind of material you are using, you may need to add a fresh layer every few months.

Mulch is also used to warm up your soil in the spring, keep it cool and moist during the summer months and to provide protection from the rain in the fall.

My garden tip:

Save your grass clippings, leaves and newspaper to use as organic mulch!

Date	Location	Type	How much
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observations:

Pest and Disease Management

The best pest and disease management is to have a healthy garden soil, keep your garden clean of debris, and keep your plants healthy by proper watering and fertilizing. Plants that are stressed are more likely to be susceptible to problems.

My garden tip:

Take time to walk through your garden everyday and observe your vegetable plants. By doing this you can tell if something is wrong and you can then quickly intervene!

Date	Problem	Control used	Result
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observations:

My Vegetable Garden Observations

How well did my vegetables grow? Were there any surprises?

Were there certain varieties that grew well or did poorly?

Was the garden too large for me or can I go bigger next year?

Was the weather, pests or diseases a factor in my success?

Were the vegetables I planted worth the space they used?

Did I eat everything I harvested? Was there anything I did not like?

Do I need to plant more or less of a certain vegetable?

Did I try something new this year, did it work?
