



## Square Foot Gardening Tips

### 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. (Where roots and shade won't interfere.)
- Have it as close as possible to the house. (For convenience, and protection.)
- Existing soil is not really important. (Since you probably won't be using it.)
- Area must not puddle after a heavy rain. (In other words, good drainage.)

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 Mel's special soil mix: 1/3 blended 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 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 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