

Square Foot Gardening

There are many ways to design and lay out a garden, but we have found that Square Foot Gardening (SFG) works very well for raised beds. The SFG method was developed in the late 1970s by Mel Bartholomew, who was looking for a way to produce more food in less space. It is a simple method that uses blocks instead of traditional rows when planting. The garden bed is divided up into a grid and a different type of plant can be put into each square-foot block. The number of seeds or plants in each square depends upon how big the plant gets and how much space it needs to develop properly.

Making a Grid

A grid is what makes a Square Foot Garden. Mark off each foot along the four sides of your raised bed using a tape measure; then, connect the marks to form a grid. How you connect them is a matter of preference: you could use nails and string, sticks, old blinds, or simply draw lines in the soil.



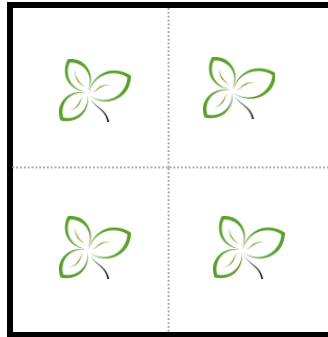
Spacing Guidelines

You can use the seed or plant spacing found on seed packets to determine appropriate SFG spacing for different types of plants. Imagine or draw a smaller grid to evenly space the seeds or plants within a block. Here are four general guidelines:

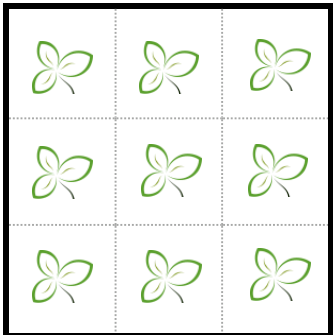
Extra Large: One per square for 12-inch spacing



Large: Four per square for 6-inch spacing



Medium: Nine per square for 4-inch spacing



Small: 16 per square for 3-inch spacing

