

# Plan Your Garden Layout

Adapted from Univ. Illinois Extension

**Kinds of vegetables.** Choose vegetables that you and your family enjoy. Make sure, though, that they can be grown successfully in your area. Some crops utilize space better than others. These vegetables can be produced efficiently in a small garden:

Snap beans	Leaf lettuce	Spinach
Beets	Onions	Swiss chard
Broccoli	Peas (followed by other crops)	Tomatoes
Cabbage	Turnips	Carrots
Radishes	Peppers	Garlic

Another consideration in selecting crops is whether they taste noticeably better when they are fresh from the garden. Highly perishable crops that taste best immediately after harvest are peas and asparagus.

**Growing seasons and growth characteristics.** Group the various vegetables according to their growing seasons and growth characteristics. Perennial crops, such as asparagus, rhubarb, and berries, which will be in one location for more than one season, should be planted along one side of your garden. Arrange early plantings on one side, probably near the perennials. Group early- or quick-maturing vegetables together so that after harvesting the space may be used for later plantings. To avoid shading, plant tall crops to the north or west of shorter crops.

**Spacing between rows.** Proper spacing between rows is important to allow for growth of plants, ease of cultivation, and efficient use of space. Recommended spacings are given in Table 1.

**Successive plantings** are desirable if you wish to have a continuous fresh supply of certain vegetables. Don't plant too much of a crop at any one time. Two or three small plantings of leaf lettuce and radishes may be made a week to 10 days apart in early spring, with an additional one made in the fall. Onion sets for green onions may be planted every two weeks until you have used up all your sets. At least two plantings of carrots, beets, and cabbage should be made - one early in the spring for summer use, another later on for fall storage. Several plantings of snap beans should be made throughout the season.

Certain later crops can be planted in the same spot in the garden from which earlier ones have been harvested. Any of the early-harvested crops, such as leaf lettuce, spinach, radishes, green onions, and peas, can be followed by beans, beets, carrots, cabbage, late spinach, late leaf lettuce, and turnips.

**Interplanting.** To intensify production in a small garden, early maturing crops can be planted between rows of later or long-season crops. Peas, radishes, green onions, spinach, or lettuce may be planted between rows where tomatoes, peppers, or cabbage is to be grown.

**Rotating crops** from year to year is necessary to prevent diseases that overwinter in the soil. Do not grow the same vegetable or related vegetables in or near the same location more often than once in three years. Rotate crops from one side of the garden to the other.

**Table 1: Planting Chart - Spacing**

Vegetable	Spacing in row			
	Seed to sow per foot	Distance between plants when thinned or transplanted, inches	Distance between rows, inches	Planting depth, inches
Asparagus	.....	12-18	36-60	6-8
Bean, bush, lima	3-4	Do not thin	18-30	1-2
Bean, bush, snap	6	Do not thin	18-24	1-2
Beet	10	2-4	12-18	½-1
Broccoli	.....	18-24	30-36	(d) =
Cabbage	.....	9-18	18-30	(d)
Carrot	15-20	1-3	12-18	½
Cauliflower	.....	18-24	24-36	(d)
Chard	8-10	4-8	18-24	½-1
Cucumber	4-5 per hill	36, hills (3 plants per hill)	48-72	1
Eggplant	.....	18-24	30-36	(d)
Endive	4-6	9-12	18-24	½
Garlic, cloves	.....	3	12-18	1½
Kale	4-6	8-12	18-24	½
Kohlrabi	6-8	3-6	18-24	½
Lettuce, leaf	10	2-4	12-18	½
Muskmelon	3 in row 4-5 per hill	12, single plants 36, hills (3 plants per hill)	48-72	1
Mustard	20	1-2	12-18	½
New Zealand spinach	4-6	12	24-30	1
Onion, seed	10-15	2-4	12-18	½-1
Onion, from plants or sets	.....	1-4	12-18	1-4
Parsley	10-15	4-6	12-18	½
Peas	10-12	Do not thin	18-24	2
Pepper	.....	18-24	18-24	(d)
Potato	1	10-12	24-36	4
Pumpkin	1-2 in row 4-5 per hill	24-36, single plants 72, hills (3 plants per hill)	84-120	1
Radish, spring	10-15	1	12-18	½
Rhubarb	.....	24-36	36-48	(d)
Rutabaga	4-6	6-8	18-24	½
Spinach	12-15	2-4	12-18	½
Squash, summer	2-3 in row 4-5 per hill	18-24, single plants 48, hills (3 plants per hill)	36-48	1
Squash, winter	1-2 in row 4-5 per hill	24-36, single plants 72, hills (3 plants per hill)	84-120	1
Sweet potato	.....	12-18	36-48	(d)
Tomato	.....	18-36	36-60	(d)

(d) At depth the transplant was growing, or deeper.