

Location! Location! Location! The Key to Success



Pick an area that gets 6 - 8 hours of sunshine daily.



Stay clear of trees and shrubs where roots and shade may interfere.



Have it close to the house for convenience and protection.



Existing soil is not really important. You won't be using it.



Area must not puddle after a heavy rain.

Information adapted from "Square-foot Gardening" by Mel Bartholomew

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



LEWIS COUNTY EXTENSION

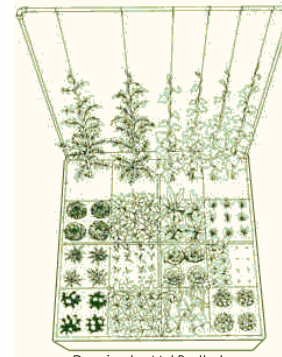
Master Gardeners

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Located in the Historic Lewis County Courthouse

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<http://lewis-mg-mrc.org>



Drawing by Mel Bartholomew

Square-foot Gardening

An intensive, above-ground gardening technique that allows denser plantings to:

- Reduce weeds
- Reduce water evaporation
- Minimize space required for a vegetable garden
- Reduce over-abundance of single varieties
- Eliminate digging

Square-foot gardening can be done anywhere that receives at least 6 to 8 hours of sunlight daily during the growing season (mid-May to mid-September).

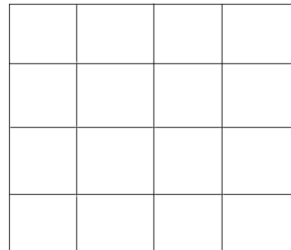
Twelve Steps to Building a Square-Foot Garden

- **Layout** - Arrange your garden in squares. 4'x4' is an ideal size to allow access to all areas of the garden.
- **Boxes** - Build boxes using 1x6 or 2x6 lumber (avoid treated lumber). Deeper boxes can be used and may provide more room for root growth.
- **Aisles** - For more than one box leave at least 3-foot aisles between them to allow comfortable maneuvering space.

- **Soil** - Use a good-quality, loose, well draining potting soil mix to fill the beds.



- **Grid** - Make a square foot grid using twine, 1x2 boards or other material that will provide visual grid lines.



- **Care** - Never walk on your growing soil. Tend your garden from the aisles.
- **Select** - Plant a different flower, vegetable or herb crop in each square foot, using 1, 4, 9, or 16 plants per square foot.

- **Plant** - Conserve seeds. Plant only 2 or 3 seeds per hole. Transplants should be placed in a hole that is slightly more shallow than their original soil line (exception is tomatoes that can be planted deeper).



- **Water** - by hand or weave soaker hoses throughout the square. (If using soaker hoses, check periodically to make sure water is evenly distributed. With loose-draining soil water may not spread out evenly.)



- **Harvest** - When you finish harvesting a square foot, add compost and replant with a new and different crop.
- **Rotation** - It is important to rotate crops throughout the squares to reduce disease and insect problems.
- **Overwintering** - Some root crops can be overwintered such as carrots, beets, turnips, rutabagas, and parsnips. Tops may die back in freezing

weather but they will hold well below ground. Some leafy greens such as spinach, Asian greens, maché and other cool-weather greens may die back if frozen but will quickly re-grow when temperatures get above 40°.

