

your-vegetable-gardening-helper.com

Step 2 - Plan your Vegetable Garden Layout

Home

6 steps to a garden

Growing Vegetables

Garden Soil

Organic Vegetables

Spring Gardening

Raised Beds

Veggies in Containers

Indoor Gardening

Winter Gardening

Garden Supplies

Pests

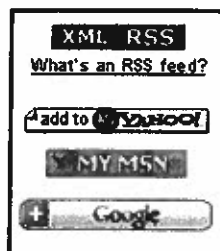
Gardening Tips

What's new?

Free ezine

The Gardener

Site Search



Planning a vegetable garden layout before you start working the soil, buying seeds or plants is an important step. This will save you time, energy and money later on. In this step you will draw your vegetable garden plan to scale on a piece of paper. This is something I do during the long winter months.



Here are some tips to start you off:

How are you going to grow?

Are you going to grow in raised beds, in containers, in level rows, in a greenhouse? Your choice will depend on where your garden site is located. If you can, make your vegetable rows face north to south for best distribution of light.

Mark your pathways.

Make sure you leave room to walk between rows to make it easier to water, weed and observe the plant without crushing it. 12-16 inches is needed for a pathway, a little more if you plan to bring a wheelbarrow or cart through. I suggest making wider pathways at the end of the rows so you can maximize your growing area.

What vegetables do you want to grow?

If you need help with this there are questions you can answer at [planting a vegetable garden](#).

Vegetable crops should be rotated each year because plants require different amounts of nutrients and attract particular pests and disease. By using crop rotation you are promoting healthier plants and soil in your garden. A simple way to start learning about vegetable gardening crop rotation is to divide your vegetables into three basic groups:

- **Root crops** - [beets](#), [carrots](#), [parsnips](#), [potatoes](#)
- **Brassicas** - [broccoli](#), [cabbage](#), [Brussel sprouts](#), [cauliflower](#), [radish](#), [turnip](#), [rutabaga](#), [kale](#)
- **Everything else** - [lettuce](#), [onion](#), [peas](#), [spinach](#), [swiss chard](#), [beans](#), [corn](#), [peppers](#), [squash](#), [tomatoes](#)
- You will then plant each group in a different area each year.

What does each vegetable require for best growth?

- What kind of spacing does it need?
- Is it a cool or heat loving plant?
- Does it mature quickly or need a long growing season?
- Does it need lots of heat to grow well? Is indoor growing possible?
- Do you have a shady area? Which plants will grow best?
- Do you have dry or wet areas? Which ones like more moisture?
- Will the plant need some kind of support or trellising?

This vegetable list will help your answer the above questions. Now that you have your list in hand you can start placing each vegetable on to your vegetable garden layout.

Placement of your vegetables.

- Divide the site into three sections (4 if you are planting perennial vegetables). Label them A,B,C,D. Each year plant a different vegetable group (listed above) in each section. Perennials remain in the same section each year.
- Within each section organize the vegetables by how much space they need.
- Place the ones that mature earlier in one area so you can plant something else later in the season in that same spot.
- Place any perennial type vegetables (i.e. asparagus, herbs) on the outside area of the garden so they will not be disturbed when you till the other three sections of the garden.

If you want to keep the garden growing all season you will need to consider a spring vegetable gardening plan, a summer plan, a fall vegetable gardening plan as well as winter indoor gardening plan.

Remember, this is planning a vegetable garden layout on paper for now, use a pencil so you can easily move things around. Have fun!

Your next step in planting a vegetable garden is soil preparation.

[Return from Vegetable Garden Layout to Planting a Vegetable Garden](#)
[Return to homepage](#)

Copyright 2007
your-vegetable-gardening-helper.com

POWERED BY: SITE BUILD IT!