

Garden Planning Cards

Make efficient use of space with square foot gardening and optimize growing conditions with companion planting.

These cards provide spacing recommendations for using the square foot gardening planting method, as well as information on companion planting, care*, and harvest for a variety of common garden vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

These cards can be used in tandem with the *Square Foot Gardening and Companion Planting* Lesson Plan from the Natural History Museum of L.A. County.

*Note that information on care is specific to growing in the climate of Southern California.



**NATURAL
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Descanso Gardens

Garden Planning Cards

Beets (Beet Family)

Spacing: 9 beets per square foot. Divide your square into 9 smaller squares and plant 1 seed in the middle of each square at ½" depth.

Companions: Lettuce, chard, onions, kohlrabi

Care: Beets like lots of sun, but can grown in some shade as well. Plant seeds October – February at the latest.

Harvest: Beets will be ready about 8 weeks after planting.



Garden Planning Cards

Radishes (Cabbage Family)

Spacing: 16 radishes per square foot. Divide your square into 16 smaller squares and plant 1 seed in the middle of each square at ½" depth.

Companions: Lettuce, peas, nasturtiums

Care: Radishes will grow in sun with some shade and they like plenty of water. Plant seeds October – May.

Harvest: Radishes will be ready about 4 weeks after planting.



Garden Planning Cards

Carrots (Carrot Family)

Spacing: 16 carrots per square foot. Divide your square into 16 smaller squares and plant 1 seed in the middle of each square at $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ " depth.

Companions: Lettuce, radishes, peas, onions, herbs, tomatoes, nasturtiums

Care: Carrots grow well with lots of sun or partial shade. Plant seeds October – March. They can do okay in the summer if planted in a shady area.

Harvest: Carrots will be ready 70 – 80 days after planting.



Garden Planning Cards

Peas (Legume Family)

Spacing: 4 pea plants per square foot. Divide your square into 4 smaller squares and plant 1 seed in the middle of each square at 1 – 1½” depth.

Companions: Carrots, radishes, peas, nasturtiums

Care: Peas climb up, so they should be trellised. They require plenty of sun. Plant October – March.

Harvest: Peas will be ready about 10 weeks after planting.



Garden Planning Cards

Swiss Chard (Beet Family)

Spacing: 1 chard per square foot. Plant seeds at $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ " depth.

Companions: Peas, root crops, lettuce, celery

Care: Chard requires plenty of water and likes some shade. Plant year round.

Harvest: Chard will be ready about 8 weeks after planting.



Garden Planning Cards

Spinach (Beet Family)

Spacing: 9 spinach plants per square foot. Divide your square into 9 smaller squares and place 1 seed/seedling in the middle of each square at ½" depth.

Companions: Peas, nasturtiums, other greens

Care: Spinach will grow in sun to partial shade. Plant October – March.

Harvest: Spinach will be ready in about 6 weeks.



Garden Planning Cards

Kale (Cabbage Family)

Spacing: 1 kale plant per square foot. Plant seeds at $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ " depth.

Companions: Beans, beets, lettuce, nasturtiums

Care: Kale will grow in sun to partial shade. Plant October-March.

Harvest: Kale will be ready in about 10 weeks.



Garden Planning Cards

Lettuce (Lettuce Family)

Spacing: 2 lettuce plants per square foot. Transplant seedlings 6" apart near the center of the square.

Companions: Carrots, radishes, nasturtiums, calendula, onions, peas, corn, beets. ***Do not plant near parsley.***

Care: Lettuce requires sun to partial shade and plenty of water. Start seeds indoors and transplant October – March.

Harvest: Lettuce heads will be ready about 65-70 days after seeding. If planting loose leaf lettuce, it can be harvested when leaves are about 4" long.



Garden Planning Cards

Broccoli (Cabbage Family)

Spacing: 1 broccoli plant per square foot. The plants can grow 2 – 3 feet tall.

Companions: Beets, onions, nasturtiums

Care: Broccoli will tolerate full sun. Start indoors and transplant October – March.

Harvest: Harvest broccoli before the heads flower, when the buds of the head are firm and tight.



Garden Planning Cards

Parsnips (Carrot Family)

Spacing: 16 parsnips per square foot. Divide your square into 16 smaller squares and plant 1 seed in the middle of each square at ½" depth.

Companions: Parsley, peas, beans, radishes, garlic

Care: Parsnips will grow in full sun to partial shade.
Plant October-March.

Harvest: Parsnips will be ready about 16 weeks after planting.



Garden Planning Cards

Parsley (Carrot Family)

Spacing: 2 parsley plants per square foot. Plant seeds 6" apart near the center of the square at ¼" depth.

Companions: Carrots, nasturtiums

Care: Parsley will grow in sun to partial shade. Plant year round.

Harvest: When the stems have three or more leaf clusters, parsley is ready to be harvested.



Garden Planning Cards

Celery (Carrot Family)

Spacing: 1 celery plant per square foot.

Companions: Carrots, radishes, beets

Care: Celery will grow in sun to partial shade and requires plenty of water. Start indoors and transplant October – January.

Harvest: Harvest stalks starting with the outermost. You may begin harvesting when stalks are about 8 inches tall.



Garden Planning Cards

Nasturtium (Cabbage Family)

Spacing: 1 nasturtium per square foot. Plant 1 seed in the middle of each square at ½" depth.

Companions: All plants. Nasturtiums deter harmful insects and attract helpful pollinators.

Care: Nasturtiums will grow in full sun to partial shade. Plant September – March.

Harvest: The flower is edible with a peppery taste.



Garden Planning Cards

Shallots (Onion Family)

Spacing: 12 shallots per square foot. Divide your square into 12 smaller squares and place 1 bulb (root-end down) in the middle of each square.

Companions: Cabbage family, beets, carrots, strawberries

Care: Shallots grow best with plenty of sun and water. Plant November-February.

Harvest: Harvest after 90 – 120 days, when the leaves have turned brown and fallen over.



Garden Planning Cards

Calendula (Daisy Family)

Spacing: 2 calendula plants per square foot. Plant seeds 6" apart near the center of the square at ¼" depth.

Companions: All plants. They deter harmful insects and attract helpful pollinators.

Care: Calendula like sun to partial shade. To produce more blooms, remove the dead flowers. Plant October – May.



Garden Planning Cards

Garlic (Onion Family)

Spacing: 9 plants per square foot. Divide your square into 9 smaller squares and place 1 clove (pointed-end up, root-end down) in the middle of each square at 2" depth.

Companions: Cabbage family, beets, carrots, strawberries, spinach, eggplant, potatoes, tomatoes, peppers. ***Do not plant near peas or beans.***

Care: Garlic likes sun and plenty of water. Plant October – December.

Harvest: Harvest after 5 – 7 months, when the leaves have turned brown and fallen over.



Garden Planning Cards

Kohlrabi (Cabbage Family)

Spacing: 1 kohlrabi per square foot.

Companions: Onions, beets, fragrant herbs

Care: Start indoors and transplant seedlings in full sun
September – March.

Harvest: Most varieties are ready for harvesting 6 – 7
weeks after planting and are the most tender and
flavorful when the bulbs are 2 – 4" in diameter.



Garden Planning Cards

Bulb Onions (Onion Family)

Spacing: 4 per square foot. Divide your square into 4 smaller squares and plant 1 set or transplant in the middle of each square.

Companions: Carrots, cabbage family, lettuce, parsnips, tomatoes, most herbs. ***Don't plant near peas or beans.***

Care: Plant in full sun, October – April.

Harvest: Harvest after 60 – 80 days when the leaves have turned brown and fallen over. If planting from seed, harvest after 100 – 120 days.



Garden Planning Cards

Tomatoes (Nightshade Family)

Spacing: 1 tomato plant per square foot, but they may prefer 18 – 24” of space.

Companions: Onions, parsley, basil, carrots, nasturtiums.

Do not plant near potatoes, cabbage or corn.

Care: Tomatoes require full sun and support from cages or trellises. Start indoors and transplant seedlings late March – June.

Harvest: When tomatoes are in full color, they are ready to be picked (60 – 100 or more days after transplanting).



Garden Planning Cards

Tomatillos (Nightshade Family)

Spacing: 1 tomatillo plant per square foot, but they may prefer 18 – 24” of space.

Companions: Onions, parsley, basil, carrots, nasturtiums.

Do not plant near potatoes, cabbage or corn.

Care: Tomatillos require full sun and support from cages or trellises. Start indoors and transplant seedlings late March – June.

Harvest: When the papery husk surrounding the fruit turns from green to tan and begins to split, tomatillos are ready for harvest (65 – 85 days after transplanting).



Garden Planning Cards

Brussels Sprouts (Cabbage Family)

Spacing: 1 per square foot. Transplant seedling in center of square.

Companions: Celery, beets, onions, nasturtiums

Care: Plant in full sun, October – January.

Harvest: Brussels sprouts are ready to harvest when the heads are firm, green, and 1 – 2" in diameter.



Garden Planning Cards

Cucumbers (Gourd Family)

Spacing: 1 per square foot. Transplant seedling in center of square.

Companions: Beans, corn, radishes, sunflowers, nasturtiums. ***Do not plant near potatoes or aromatic herbs.***

Care: Cucumbers require full sun and a trellis to climb.

Harvest: After 55 – 65 days, fruit will be 4 – 5" long and ready for harvest.



Garden Planning Cards

Eggplant (Nightshade Family)

Spacing: Plant 1 eggplant seedling per square foot.

Companions: Beans, peppers, tomatoes, spinach, nasturtiums

Care: Eggplants require full sun and plenty of water. Plants may require staking for support. Start indoors and transplant March – June.

Harvest: Skin should be glossy and thin at time of harvest, 65 – 80 days after transplanting.



Garden Planning Cards

Basil (Mint Family)

Spacing: 4 basil plants per square. Divide your square into 4 smaller squares and plant one seedling in the middle of each square. For large plants, plant 1 seedling per square.

Companions: Tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, nasturtiums, calendula

Care: Basil requires full sun and warmth. Transplant seedlings outdoors after danger of frost has passed, April – June. Remove flowers to encourage more leaf growth.

Harvest: Use scissors to cut leaves as needed.



Garden Planning Cards

Peppers (Nightshade Family)

Spacing: Plant 1 seedling per square foot.

Companions: Garlic, onions, eggplant, basil

Care: Peppers like plenty of sun and well-drained soil.
Transplant April – June.

Harvest: Sweet peppers will mature in 2 – 3 months, while hot peppers may take 5 months.

