



## OBJECTIVES

In this activity students will learn about square foot gardening and how to plan for their own square foot garden.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- Worksheets (attached)

## ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What is a square foot garden?
- How do we plan a square foot garden?
- How many plants can we put in my square foot garden?
- What are some plants that do well in a square foot garden?

## LESSON

Introduction: Square foot gardening uses a grid system to divide the garden into small squares. Dividing the garden makes it easier to manage and produces higher yields than traditional garden plans. Review each step with students. Use the attached worksheet to plot the square foot garden plan.

### 1. Decide how big you'd like your garden to be.

The first step in planning a square foot garden is to decide on the size of the garden. How large of an area do you have to work with? Once you know the size of the area, you can determine how many square feet you have to work with. Use the garden map worksheet (attached) for this step.

### 2. Choose a location for your garden.

The next step is to choose a location for your garden. It is important to choose a location that gets plenty of sunlight and has good drainage. Choose a site that is free of contaminants and water runoff. See the [School Garden Food Safety toolkit](https://bit.ly/school-garden-safety-manual) (<https://bit.ly/school-garden-safety-manual>) for more information on choosing safe locations. If you have space limitations, you may want to consider growing your plants in containers.

### 3. Decide what vegetables you want to grow.

Once you have chosen a location for your garden, it is time to decide what vegetables you want to grow. Consider how much space each vegetable will need and make sure you have enough room for all the plants you want to grow.

### 4. Create a plan for your garden.

After you have decided on the size, location, and plants for your garden, it is time to create a plan. This plan will help you determine how many plants of each type you will need and where they will go in your garden. (use the attached Garden Map Worksheet or create your own)

When selecting a home for your plants, ensure each one lives amongst their kind. Position them among "good friends" so they will thrive in the garden and not face any unpleasant surprises when it's time to grow out in the garden! ([Companion Planting Chart](https://bit.ly/companion-planting-chart) (<https://bit.ly/companion-planting-chart>)). Use this [Square Foot Gardening Chart](https://bit.ly/FT2-PlantChart) (<https://bit.ly/FT2-PlantChart>) for number of vegetables to grow per square.

## EXTENSIONS & VARIATIONS

Extend the activity by asking students to calculate how many square feet and plants they would need to grow a year's worth of food per person in their household. Use the chart in this article, [Calculate How Many Vegetables to Plant](https://bit.ly/calculate-veg) (https://bit.ly/calculate-veg) to guide students on how many of their favorite food would they need to grow.

# SQUARE FOOT GARDEN PLANNING

HANDOUT No. 1



## GARDEN MAP

Draw Your Garden Space

Each Square Equals One Square Foot

Date:

Project Name:

Location:

A large grid of 10 columns and 6 rows of squares. The grid is formed by 11 vertical dashed lines and 7 horizontal dashed lines. The squares are intended for drawing a garden plan, where each square represents one square foot.

# SQUARE FOOT GARDEN PLANNING

HANDOUT No. 2



## PLANT CHECKLIST

Draw Your Garden Space

Each Square Equals One Square Foot

Name:

Date:

Crops	Yes/No	Spacing Per Square	Seed Start Date	Direct Sow