

Crop Rotation, Succession, and Space Planning

You have been asked to develop a vegetable garden plan for a local demonstration garden to demonstrate the principles of crop rotation, succession planting, intensive plant spacing, and intercropping. Use your knowledge of these techniques to develop a plan for one 4' x 8' bed over a four-year rotation period. You try to incorporate as many practices as you can into the plan. You may use season extension techniques to grow early and late season crops if needed.

Here are some general guidelines and rules:

- Base the crop rotation plan on plant families. Areas may not have more than one planting from a specific family during the four-year period.
- Each year must include some form of succession planting or intercropping, but the whole bed does not need to feature these techniques.
- You may include cover crops if you like, but remember that they must be included in the no crop of the same family during the four-year period rule.
- You must include a root crop, fruit crop, and leaf crop in every year of the plan.
- You do not have to grow the same crops every year.
- Use the included spacing and growing season chart as a general guideline.
- All areas of the bed must be planted at least once during the year. Aim to have the entire bed planted during spring, summer, and fall.

Plant	Qty	per 12" x 12" Square (unless noted otherwise)	Growing Season *protection needed in Winter
Beans (Bush type)	9	plants per square	Summer
Beans (Vine type)	8	plants per square	Summer
Beets	16	plants per square	Spring, Summer & Fall
Broccoli	1	plants per square	Spring & Fall
Cabbage	1	plants per square	Spring & Fall
Carrots	16	plants per square	Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter*
Cauliflower	1	plants per square	Spring & Summer
Swiss Chard	4	plants per square	Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter*
Corn	1	plants per square	Summer
Cucumbers	2	plants per square	Summer
Eggplant	1	plants per square	Summer
Lettuce	4	plants per square	Spring, Summer (some w/ protection), Fall, Winter (some varieties)
Muskmelons	1	plants per square	Summer
Onions	16	plants per square	Spring & Summer
Parsley	4	plants per square	Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter
Peas	8	plants per square	Spring & Fall
Peppers	1	plants per square	Summer
Radishes	16	plants per square	Spring & Fall
Spinach	9	plants per square	Spring, Fall & Winter*
Summer Squash (Bush Type)	1	plant per 3' x 3' space	Summer
Summer Squash (Vine Type)	3	plants per 1' x 4' space	Summer
Winter Squash	2	plants per 1' x 4' space	Summer
Tomatoes (Bush Type)	4	plants per 4' x 4' space	Summer
Tomatoes (Vine Type)	1	plants per square	Summer

