

Home Vegetable Gardening

Planning for both warm and
cool seasons

Some Basic Rules

- Plant only the space you can maintain
- Plan, then plant
- Grow high-value crops
- Pick crops appropriate to your climate and season
- Site selection
- Soil preparation
- Harvest at right time



Square foot gardening

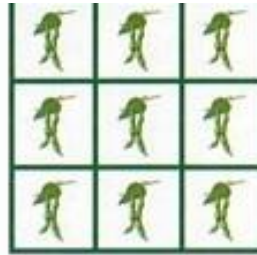
Most efficient use of space.



Cabbage



Swiss Chard



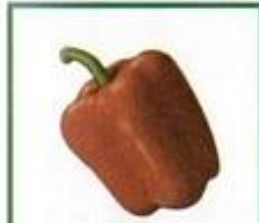
Spinach



Radish



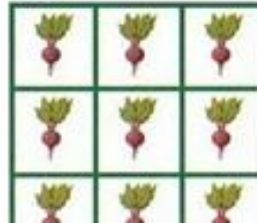
Pepper



Marigold



Beet



Onion



Square foot gardening plan

Planting charts available online or in Square Foot Gardening book

Summary

- Plan around 4x4 foot raised beds, 3 feet apart
- Use planting chart to aid planning process
- Plant for value: herbs, fresh tomatoes, salad
- What to know about 'heirlooms'
- Site needs water, drainage, sun, and accessibility
- Improve your soil

Limit size of your garden





Still too big...

You don't need a community garden in your backyard.



To heck with it!

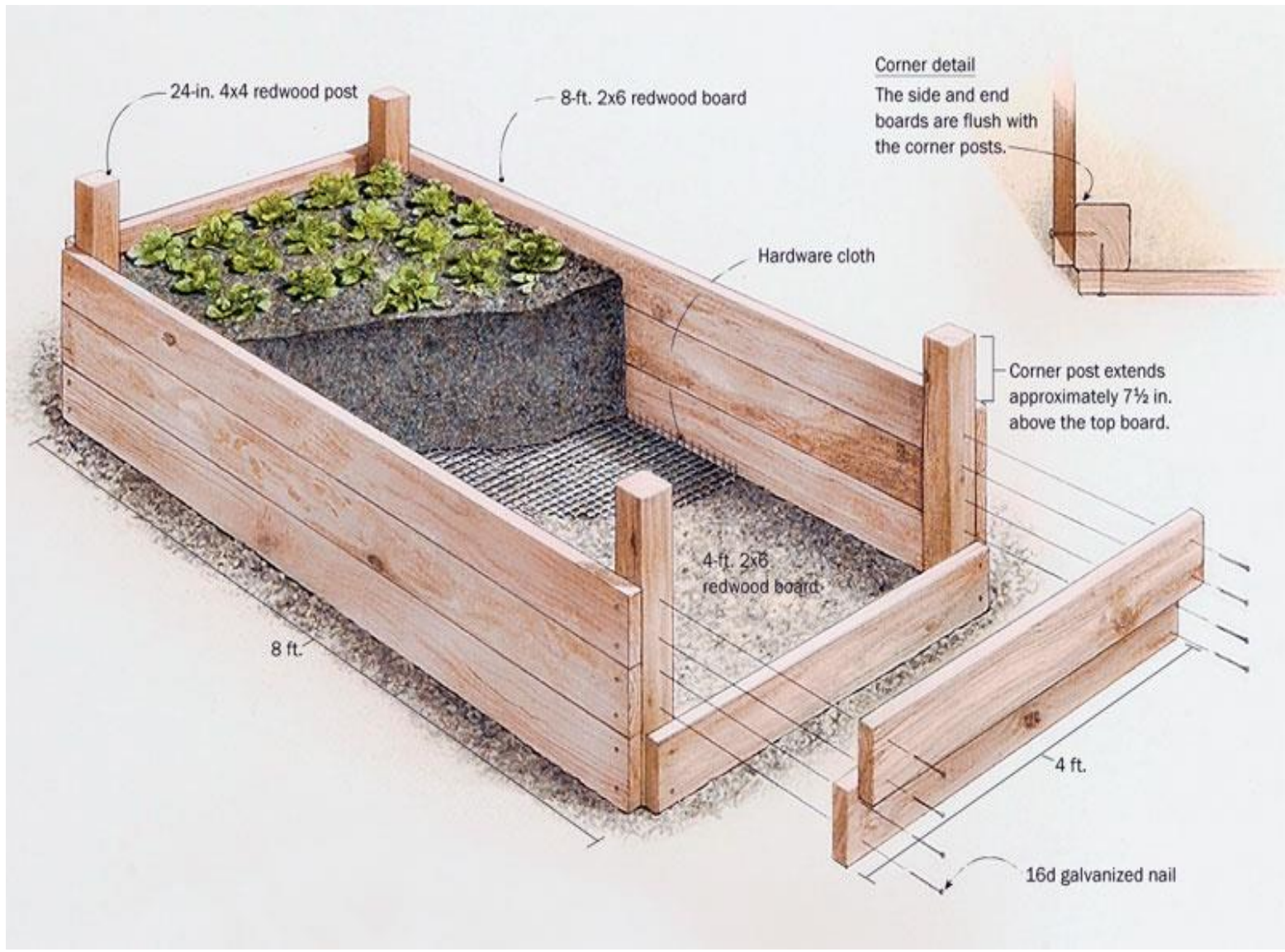
'Apocalypse Now'



Four 4x4 beds can produce a lot

Vertical support can be added.





24-in. 4x4 redwood post

8-ft. 2x6 redwood board

Corner detail

The side and end boards are flush with the corner posts.

Hardware cloth

Corner post extends approximately 7 1/2 in. above the top board.

4-ft. 2x6 redwood board

8 ft.

4 ft.

16d galvanized nail



Hardware cloth excludes gophers and moles



Copper tape as slug and snail barrier

Decollette snails feasting on brown garden snail



Peppers, squash, tomatoes, and basil

Replace spent plants with new planting.



Another option for vertical support

Crops for vertical growing

- Tomatoes
- Squash
- Cukes
- Beans
- Peas
- Melons



Brandywine Tomato

Locating your garden

- Convenient to kitchen
- Water source
- 6 hours sun per day
- Protected
- Good drainage
- No tree roots, other obstacles

Soil Preparation

- Compost or planter mix
- Add organic material (cow manure, chicken manure, kitchen waste)
- Start your own compost pile
- Dig and turn over only if adding amendments

Composting

- Commercial or homemade bin
- Suitable materials
- What not to compost
- Keeping pile aerated and moist
- Vermicomposting kitchen waste
- Master composters

Plant from seed or starts?

- Seed directly:
 - Corn
 - Squash
 - Roots (radish, carrot, parsnip)
 - Greens: lettuce, chard
 - Some herbs: dill, chives, cilantro
 - Anything with a large seed works well direct seeded.

Plant from started seedlings

- Tomatoes
- Eggplant
- Pepper
- Basil
- Anything with a long germination time
- If starting from seed, start indoors under grow lights in January/February to plant outside after March 15



Seed starting

Home and garden centers, nurseries, hydroponic supply stores



Bottom heat speeds germination

Keep watered – will dry out quickly.



Frost protection with wall o' water

Last official frost date is March 15



Pests and problems

Snails and slugs –

Use Sluggo, beer, or bribe your kids to hand pick them



Cutworms

B.T. caterpillar killer or hand remove



Aphids

Eliminate ants, then encourage natural enemies.



Cabbage looper



Leaf miner



**University of California Agriculture and Natural
Resources**