FREE PRINTABLE · HERB & HOLLOW · 2027

Small Bed Layout: 4 by 4 Foot, 16 Squares

one crop group per square

Bed or spot _____

Sun hours _____

↑ NORTH (tall plants go here)

1 plants: _____	2 plants: _____	3 plants: _____	4 plants: _____
5 plants: _____	6 plants: _____	7 plants: _____	8 plants: _____
9 plants: _____	10 plants: _____	11 plants: _____	12 plants: _____
13 plants: _____	14 plants: _____	15 plants: _____	16 plants: _____

each square is 1 foot by 1 foot · 4 feet across

PER SQUARE	PLANTS
1	Pepper, eggplant, broccoli, cabbage, kale, collards
2	Basil, chives, parsley, oregano, cucumber (on a trellis), Swiss chard
4	Lettuce, dill
9	Bush beans, spinach, cilantro, onions, mustard greens
16	Carrots, radishes, beets, garlic
8	Pole beans and peas, each on a trellis
1 per 4	Tomato: one plant for a 2 by 2 foot block of 4 squares

Counts are from the Phipps Conservatory Square Foot Gardening Guide (2020). The Square Foot Gardening Foundation sorts plants the same way (1, 4, 9 or 16 per square) but counts a vine tomato as 1 per square, so read your seed packet and adjust.

HOW TO FILL IT

1. Write north at the top by checking where the sun rises, then put tall crops on that side so they do not shade the rest.
2. In each square write the crop, then use the chart to write how many plants fit.
3. A tomato takes a 2 by 2 block: draw a box around 4 squares and write one plant.

Free for personal use. Growing information only. Counts are starting points; your seed packet and your own bed come first.

One Filled Example and Two Blank Beds

↑ NORTH

Tomato 1 plant in a 2 by 2 block		**Pole beans** 8, on a trellis	**Basil** 2
		Cucumber 2, on a trellis	**Parsley** 2
Pepper 1	**Pepper** 1	**Bush beans** 9	**Chives** 2
Lettuce 4	**Carrots** 16	**Radishes** 16	**Spinach** 9

example 4 by 4 foot bed

WHAT THIS EXAMPLE HOLDS

12 crops on 16 squares, **73 plants** in total, added up from the chart on page 1: 1 tomato, 8 pole beans, 2 basil, 2 cucumber, 2 parsley, 2 pepper, 9 bush beans, 2 chives, 4 lettuce, 16 carrots, 16 radishes and 9 spinach.

This is a paper layout built from published counts, not a tested bed or a harvest promise. Cool-season squares (lettuce, spinach, radishes) can take a second crop later: write it in the last column on page 4.

2 BY 4 FOOT BED · 8 SQUARES

1 plants: _____	2 plants: _____	3 plants: _____	4 plants: _____
5 plants: _____	6 plants: _____	7 plants: _____	8 plants: _____

3 BY 3 FOOT BED · 9 SQUARES

1 plants: _____	2 plants: _____	3 plants: _____
4 plants: _____	5 plants: _____	6 plants: _____
7 plants: _____	8 plants: _____	9 plants: _____

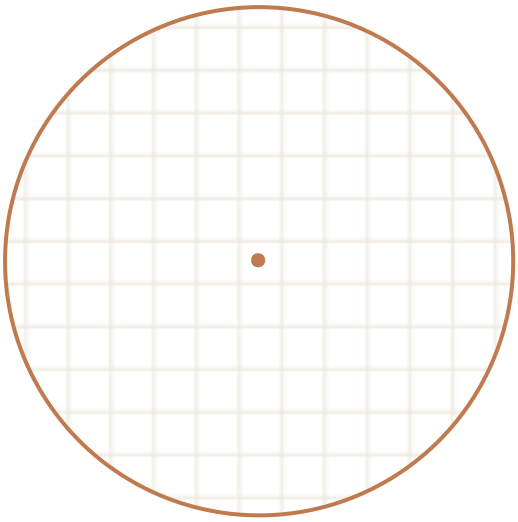
Draw north at the top of each bed. A 2 by 4 foot bed is a good fit under a window or along a fence; a 3 by 3 foot bed fits a patio corner.

Four Pots, Drawn From Above

1 inch on paper = 9 inches of pot

TOMATO TUB · 24 IN

about 25 gal · One tomato, over 20 in wide (Illinois, Penn State). Basil can sit near the rim.



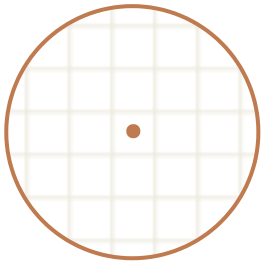
CROP _____

PLANTS _____

SUN HOURS _____

SALAD POT · 12 IN

about 5 gal · Leafy greens, over 10 in wide (Illinois).



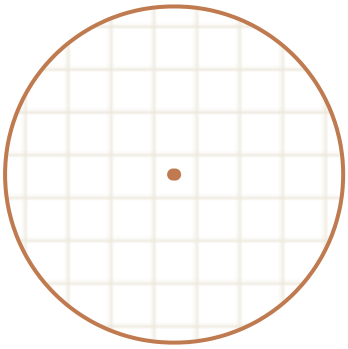
CROP _____

PLANTS _____

SUN HOURS _____

PEPPER POT · 16 IN

about 10 gal · One pepper: over 16 in (Illinois) or 14 in (Penn State).



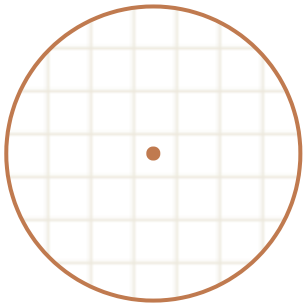
CROP _____

PLANTS _____

SUN HOURS _____

CARROT POT · 14 IN

about 7 gal · Carrots, over 12 in wide (Illinois).



CROP _____

PLANTS _____

SUN HOURS _____

Soil volumes come from the Illinois Extension width-to-gallons table (10 in about 3 gal, 12 in about 5, 14 in about 7, 16 in about 10, 24 in about 25). Penn State says every pot should be at least as tall as it is wide, and a single tomato needs a pot at least 20 inches wide. Dot the center and mark where each plant goes; each grid square is 2 inches of pot, so you can see how many fit between plants. Print at Actual size (100%) so the scale holds.

Sow-By Dates and Planting Log, 2027

ZONE _____ LAST SPRING FROST _____ FIRST FALL FROST _____ WHERE I GOT THEM _____

Find your average last and first frost dates from your local extension office or a frost-date lookup by ZIP code. For each crop, read the seed packet: it says something like “sow 4 weeks before last frost”. Count that many weeks back or forward on a calendar from your last frost date and write the result as the sow-by date.

#	CROP AND VARIETY	SQUARE OR POT	PACKET SAYS (WEEKS BEFORE OR AFTER FROST)	SOW-BY DATE	SOWN	SPROUTED	PLANTED OUT	FIRST PICKED, AND NEXT CROP HERE
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								

Packet timing wins over any chart. Growing information only.

PAGE 5 · THE NEXT STEP

Want the sun checks, pot charts and dates done for you?

CONTAINER & BALCONY GARDEN PLANNER ($9)

For a balcony or patio where you cannot dig a bed. 37 pages: three sun-check grids, a crop picker sorted by your real sun hours, pot size charts with plants per pot, a potting mix and weight worksheet, a planting calendar by last frost date, watering logs and a planting record.

herbandhollow.com/shop/container-balcony-garden-planner

SEED STARTING CALENDAR ($7)

A frost-date count-back sheet for any ZIP code, sowing weeks for 13 herbs and 17 container vegetables, zone pages and a seed inventory, so page 4 fills in faster.

herbandhollow.com/shop/seed-starting-planner-zone-calendars

SMALL SPACE GARDEN BINDER ($25)

All nine of our paid printables in one 212-page binder kit, if you plan to keep your planning pages together.

herbandhollow.com/shop/small-space-garden-binder

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