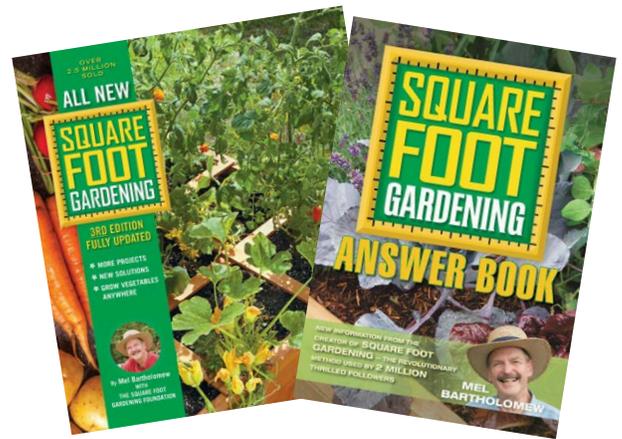


FAQS & ANSWERS

Audience members and workshop participants typically ask the same types of questions, and it's helpful to be prepared ahead of time to avoid being caught off guard. Here are some common FAQs to get you started. Remember to reference both the *All New Square Foot Gardening, 3rd Edition* and the *Square Foot Gardening Answer Book*, as well as www.squarefootgardening.org website/blog for additional questions and information.



Q: Where can I find Vermiculite?

A: Online retailers such as www.Uline.com and www.7springsfarm.com have vermiculite for sale that will ship directly to you, and local feed stores and landscape supply companies often have vermiculite in stock as well.

Q: Can I buy compost? Won't that be easier?

A: We do suggest you make your own compost. However, if you are unable to make your own, we advise you find organic OMRI labeled compost at a local garden center — and remember to check the ingredients list for 3 or more sources of compost to create that blend we recommend.

Q: Is peat moss less environmentally friendly? Should I use coir instead?

A: While it's true that peat moss was over-harvested in the past, most all sources of peat moss are now sustainably generated and farmed. Coir can be used in Mel's Mix™ but it is not our top recommendation and will not work as perfectly as peat moss.

Q: How do I know how much Mel's Mix™ I will need?

A: There is a **convenient calculator on the SFG website**. But to help you gauge, a 4'x4' box will use (4) 5-gallon buckets of each of the three ingredients.

Q: Is 6" really all I need to grow my vegetables? It seems too shallow!

A: Yes! Other than carrots and potatoes, 6" is all you need. If you already have raised beds that are deeper than that, you can use inexpensive soil or sand at the bottom, then add a layer of landscape fabric before finishing with 6" of Mel's Mix™.

Q: Is the grid really necessary?

A: Yes! It's a hallmark of a Square Foot Garden. It helps you keep track of your harvest and prevent wasted space and unnecessary effort — and it looks tidy!

Q: How often do I need to replace my Mel's Mix™?

A: Every 7-10 years will do!