

# HOW TO MAKE SQUARE FOOT GARDENING TEACHING PROPS

Props and visual aids are the quickest way for participants to make a real connection between the classroom and their future garden. Here are some of our favorite ideas, plus inspiration from current Certified Instructors!

## Standard 4' x 4' size garden (for children, 3' x 3'):

**Step 1:** To show the actual size of a garden, cut one 4' x 4' square out of cardboard, have it plain on both sides if possible. (Tip: Measure both diagonals; they should be equal if square.)

**Step 2:** Using a thick black marker (about ¼" wide) draw, on one side only, a 1' x 1' size grid.

*How to use this prop:*

1. Show basic size of Square Foot Gardening.
2. Walk around to reach in.
3. Flip to show importance of grid.
4. Lay on table to show wheelchair garden.
5. Space 2 or 3 end-to-end to show 4' x 8', and 4' x 12' garden.
6. Space 3 feet apart to show walking aisles.

**Flash Cards:** Take 12" x 12" individual pieces of white cardboard and draw dots showing spacing of 1, 4, 9, or 16 per square foot. Pictures of actual vegetables, herbs, and flowers could also be used.

**Mel's Mix™ Sample:** Put samples of peat moss, coarse vermiculite, and compost in plastic zip-lock bags or jars to hand around. A bag of completed Mel's Mix™ could also be used.

**Nylon Netting:** Take a piece of nylon netting to show when talking about vertical gardening. Have two of the strongest men in the room try to break it!

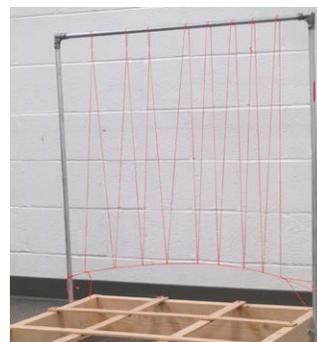
## Inspiration From SFG Certified Instructors:



**Brian Fuder:** Brian has a small display box that shows a 4' x 4' box layout with a grid.



**Kim Roman:** Kim created a felt square with a taped grid and cards showing vegetable spacing.



**Patrick Prickett:** Patrick built a 3' x 3' demo box with vertical grow frame.



**Reese Michaels:** Reese has 3' x 3' boxes with grids, a vertical trellis, and cardboard cards that show proper spacing.