

# KEY PRINCIPLES of Square Foot Gardening

## 1 Plant Densely

Grow more in less space by fitting a high number of plants into each square foot. This optimizes productivity and makes the most of limited areas.

## Grow Up 2

Use vertical space with trellises and supports. Let vining plants climb up rather than spreading out.

## 3 Use Mel's Mix™

Create a **nutrient-rich growing medium** with compost, coarse vermiculite, and peat moss. **No fertilizer required.**

## Grow Shallow 4

Use raised beds with **just 6 inches of Mel's Mix**. This eliminates the need for deep digging and soil amendments.

## 5 Plant in Squares

Planting in **1-foot squares** is highly efficient, as it supports **easy crop rotation** and **reduces disease** by mixing plant types.

## Save Seeds 6

Use **just a pinch of seeds!** Plant 2 or 3 seeds per hole following 1/4/9/16 guideline. **No waste, just growth.**

## 7 Rotate Crops

**Replant different plants** in each square throughout the season. This helps maximize yields, prevent disease and reduce pests.

## Garden Proximity 8

**Place your garden in a place that you see daily**, "out of sight, out of mind", makes for a neglected garden.

