

# Planning Your Vegetable Garden



Updated 1/31/2010



## Elements

- Location
- Design
- Record Keeping



# Location



- Northern or Southern exposure
- Six hours of sun a day for sun loving vegetables – tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, melons, squash, corn
- Summer shade for cool season crops – lettuce, spinach, chard
- Level plot to prevent runoff and with good vertical drainage
- Consider access to water & rain harvest collection sources



# *Questions ???*



# Design

- Layout
- Companion Planting
- Crop Rotation



# Layout

- Size
- What to grow
- Style
- Fencing



# Size

- Interest and available time
- Harvest yield desired
  - John Jeavon's book "How to Grow More Vegetables"
  - 100 square foot rule



## What to Grow



- What do your family and friends eat?
- Try something new





# Style

Consider Access, Workability, and Space

- Rows
- Square/rectangular plots
- French intensive
- Pulled beds
- Raised beds
- Trellis
- Containers



# Rows



- Single rows of crops separated by wide bands of bare soil
- Best for large plots



# Square/Rectangular Plots

Square foot gardening

- 4' square, divided into 1' squares by staked and string
- Easily accessible from all sides
- Planting is based on size of mature plants
- Cuts down on watering and weeding
- Mel Bartholomew's book "Square Foot Gardening"









# French Intensive

Uses space more  
efficiently

Reduces watering &  
weeding

Uses companion  
plants



# Pulled Beds

Create a  
deeper bed  
without  
building an  
enclosure





# Raised Beds

- If soil has poor drainage that is too difficult to remedy
- If garden soil is very heavy (high clay content) or very sandy
- If no space available except rooftop or patio



# Trellis

Control  
trailing plants

Grow more in  
less space





# Containers

- 5 gallons or more
- Vining veggies: cucumbers, tomatoes, winter squashes, beans
- Lettuce and other greens





More about irrigation at  
another seminar.....









# Raised Bed Materials

- Wood
- Blocks
- Stone
- Aluminum panels
- Bed lining



# Wood



# Blocks





# Stone



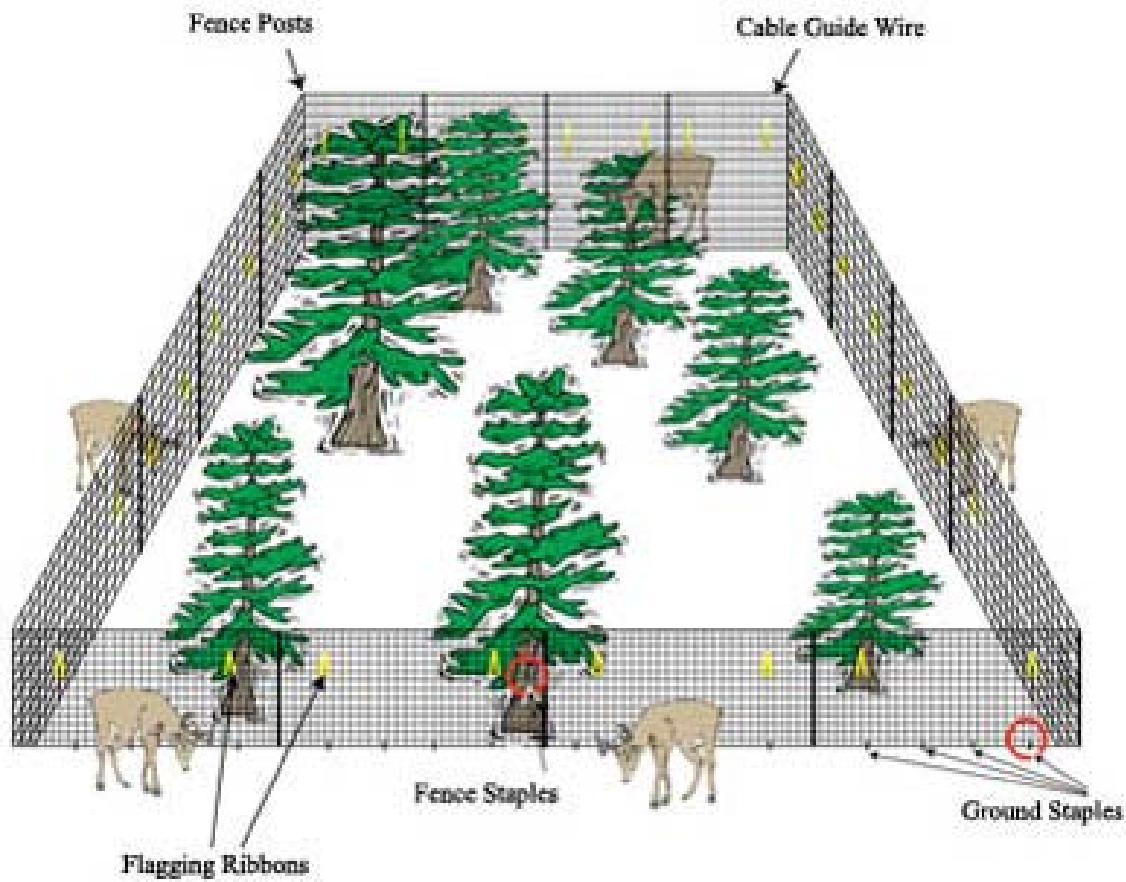


# Aluminum

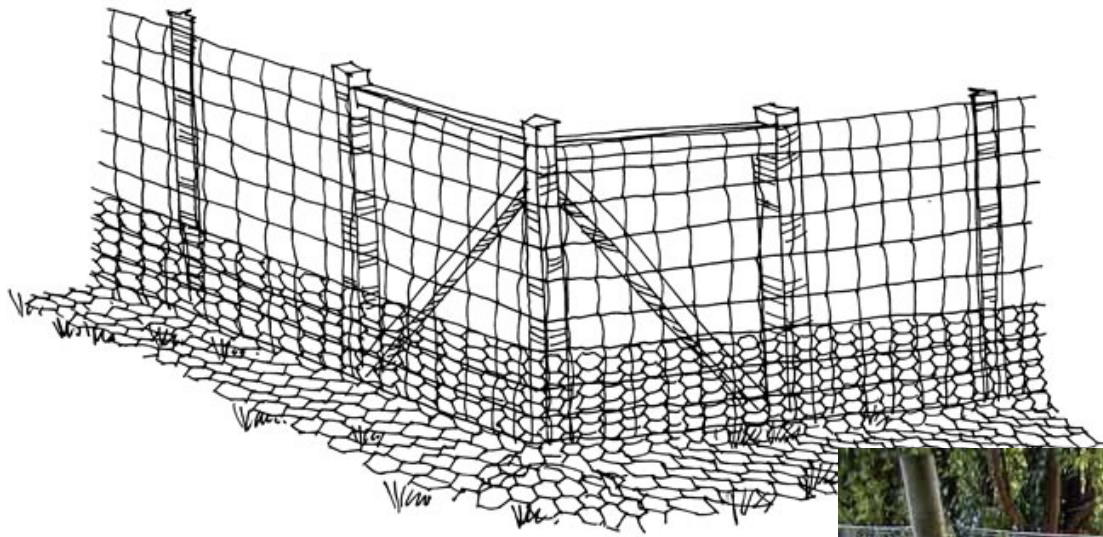




# Deer Fencing



# Rabbit Fencing





# Javelina Fencing



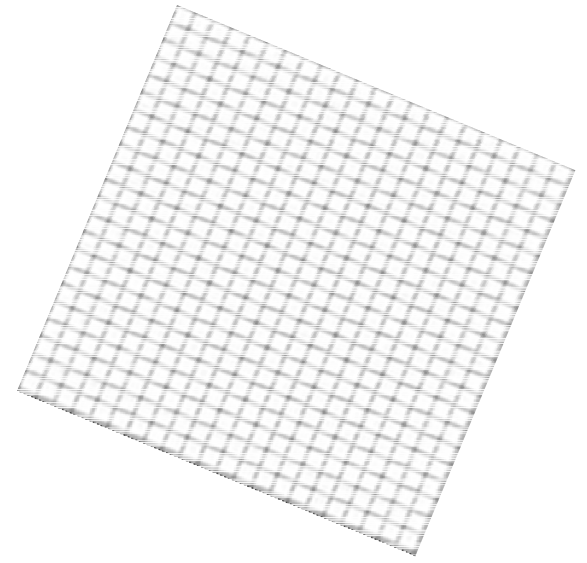
# Beautifying Fences



# Drawing the Plot Plan

## Advantages

- Save money by not purchasing excess seeds or transplants
- Ensure continuous harvest (succession planting)



# How to Draw the Plan

- Measure your garden space
- Trace city or county lot map
- Plot it on graph paper
- Sketch circles for individual transplants and rows for directly sown seeds
- Strategically place taller vegetables
- Sketch in the cool-season varieties
- Sketch a follow-up design with warm-season crops



# Cool Season Varieties



- Germinate and grow at lower temperatures & are not injured by light frost
- Generally perform poorly during periods of extended hot temperatures
  - Bolt and produce flowers
  - Taste bitter
  - Peas stop producing pods



# Cool Season Veggies

Asparagus

Garlic

Pea

Broad bean

Horseradish

Radish

Broccoli

Kale

Rhubarb

Brussels sprouts

Kohlrabi

Shallot

Cabbage

Leek

Spinach

Collard

Onion

Turnip

**Plants that require cool weather to become established but grow into the warm season:**



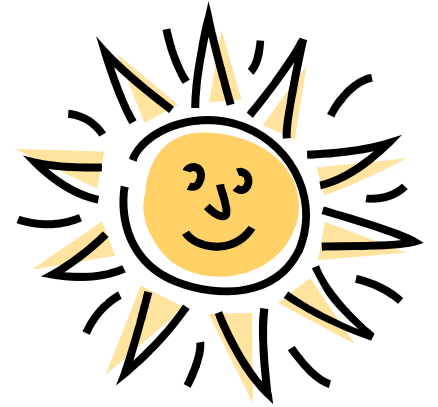
**Onions and Potatoes**





# Warm Season Varieties

- Do not grow well at temperatures below 50°F
- Are killed by frost
- Will often rot if planted in cold, damp soil
- Will have retarded growth & delayed fruit set with cool weather



## Warm Season Veggies

Cucumber

Eggplant

Lima bean

Melons

New Zealand spinach

Pepper

Pumpkin

Snap bean

Squash

Sweet corn

Sweet potato

Tomato



# Wishy-Washy Crops

- Injured by frost
- Intolerant of temperatures above 70°F

Beet

Chard

Mustard

Carrot

Chinese cabbage

Parsnip

Cauliflower

Endive

Potato

Celery

Lettuce

Swiss chard



# Companion Planting

Provide plants that assist in the growth of others by:

- Attracting beneficial insects
- Repelling harmful insects
- Providing nutrients (heavy feeders vs. light feeders)
- Providing shade and/or support



**Companion Planting Chart (sample)**

Plant Name	Companion To	Benefit	Incompatible With
Allium – flowering onions, chives, garlic, leeks, onions, shallots	Roses, carrots, tomatoes, fruit trees, other vegetables	<p>Repel aphids, weevils, carrot flies, moles, fruit tree borers</p> <p>Control rust flies and some nematodes</p> <p>Protect against red spiders</p> <p>Protects roses from black spot, mildew, aphids</p>	Peas and beans



# Crop Rotation

- Avoid the build-up of pathogens & pests
- Balance soil fertility
  - Replenish nitrogen by planting cover crops
- Improve soil structure
  - Alternate deep-rooted plants and shallow-rooted plants



Crop Rotation Chart –1 <sup>st</sup> YEAR			
Bed 1	Bed 2	Bed 3	Bed 4
Beans Celery Corn Eggplant Onions Peas Peppers Squash Tomatoes	Broccoli Brussels sprouts Cabbage Cauliflower Lettuce Sweet basil	Beets Carrots <b>Potatoes *</b> Radishes Turnips Dill	Spread/till in compost or “green manure”.  Plant a cover crop.  See Yankee Gardener Glossary.

**\* Do not plant potatoes where tomatoes, peppers, or eggplants were growing previously.**



### Crop Rotation Chart – 2<sup>nd</sup> YEAR

Bed 1	Bed 2	Bed 3	Bed 4
<p>Spread/till in compost or “green manure”.</p> <p>Plant a cover crop.</p> <p>See Yankee Gardener Glossary.</p>	<p>Beans</p> <p>Celery</p> <p>Corn</p> <p>Eggplant</p> <p>Onions</p> <p>Peas</p> <p>Peppers</p> <p>Squash</p> <p>Tomatoes</p>	<p>Broccoli</p> <p>Brussels sprouts</p> <p>Cabbage</p> <p>Cauliflower</p> <p>Lettuce</p> <p>Sweet basil</p>	<p>Beets</p> <p>Carrots</p> <p><b>Potatoes *</b></p> <p>Radishes</p> <p>Turnips</p> <p>Dill</p>





### Crop Rotation Chart – 3<sup>rd</sup> YEAR

Bed 1	Bed 2	Bed 3	Bed 4
Beets Carrots <b>Potatoes *</b> Radishes Turnips Dill	Spread/till in compost or “green manure”.  Plant a cover crop.  See Yankee Gardener Glossary.	Beans Celery Corn Eggplant Onions Peas Peppers Squash Tomatoes	Broccoli Brussels sprouts Cabbage Cauliflower Lettuce Sweet basil



Crop Rotation Chart – 4 <sup>th</sup> Year			
Bed 1	Bed 2	Bed 3	Bed 4
Broccoli Brussels sprouts Cabbage Cauliflower Lettuce Sweet basil	Beets Carrots <b>Potatoes *</b> Radishes Turnips Dill	Spread/till in compost or “green manure”.  Plant a cover crop.  See Yankee Gardener Glossary.	Beans Celery Corn Eggplant Onions Peas Peppers Squash Tomatoes



# *Questions ???*



# Record Keeping

WHY???

- To learn more about habits & needs of plant
- To have record of what, where, and how you plant and the results of your efforts
- To create a keepsake for your family or future land owner





# What to Record

Crop  
rotation

Rainfall &  
Temperature

Weeds

Varieties that  
do well for  
you

Pests & critters  
– helpful &  
harmful

Monthly  
water usage

Particular  
problems

Growing  
results

Schedules



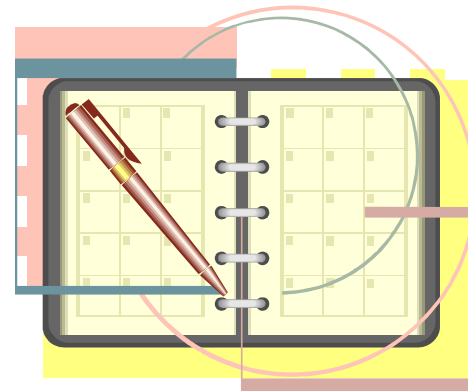
# What You Did When

- Soil preparation
- Planting
- Weeding
- Feeding



# Schedules – What Happened When

- Bloom time
- Date crops ripened
- Arrival of pests



# Kinds of Journals



Binder

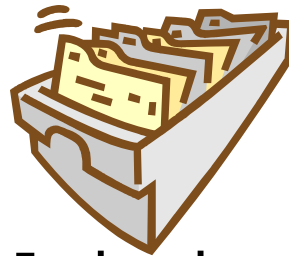
Scrapbook

Photo album

Purchased journal

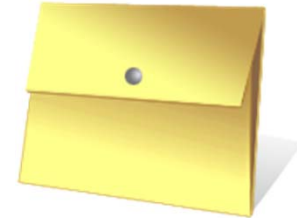
Daily planner

Diary



Index box

Shoebox

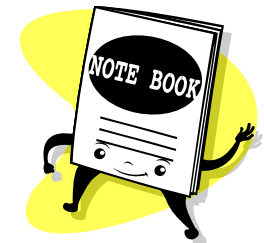


Large envelope



Software

On-line garden  
journals



Notebook

Composition Book

Water-proof forestry  
journal

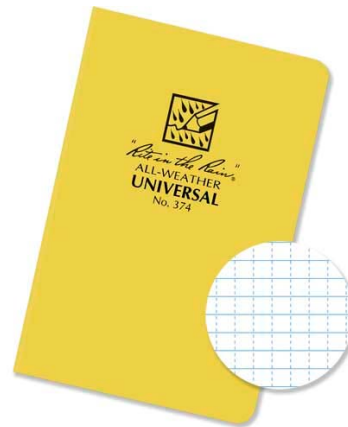




# Waterproof Journals

"Rite in the Rain"<sup>®</sup> Field-Flex Notebooks - paper sheds water

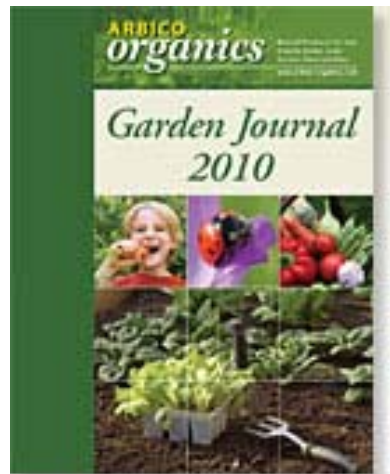
<http://www.forestry-supp>



# Free Garden Journal

Download from:

<http://www.arbico-organics.com/category/garden-journal>



# *Questions ???*

