

Square Foot Gardening

Presented by Mick Manfield

Please mute your device. Thanks!

sfgmick@gmail.com

Hard Questions allowed at the end!

Square Foot Gardening not Topiary!

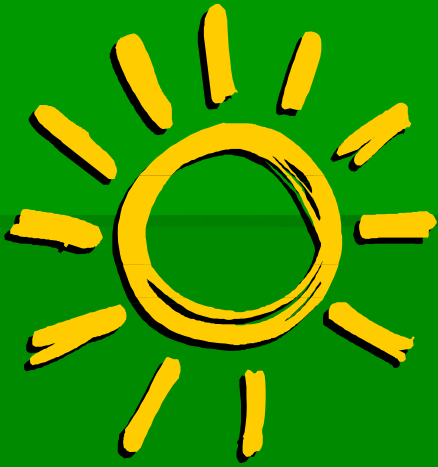


WHAT IS SQUARE FOOT GARDENING?

Compared to a conventional single-row garden:

- Grow 100% of the harvest
- 20% of the space
- 10% of the water
- 5% of the seeds
- 2% of the work
- 0% of the weeds

GARDEN LOCATION



Lots of Sun—8 to 10 Hours



Away from Trees



Close to House



No Puddles

The Ten Basics of Square Foot Gardening

1. Layout

2. Boxes

3. Aisles

4. Soil

5. Grid

6. Care

7. Select

8. Plant

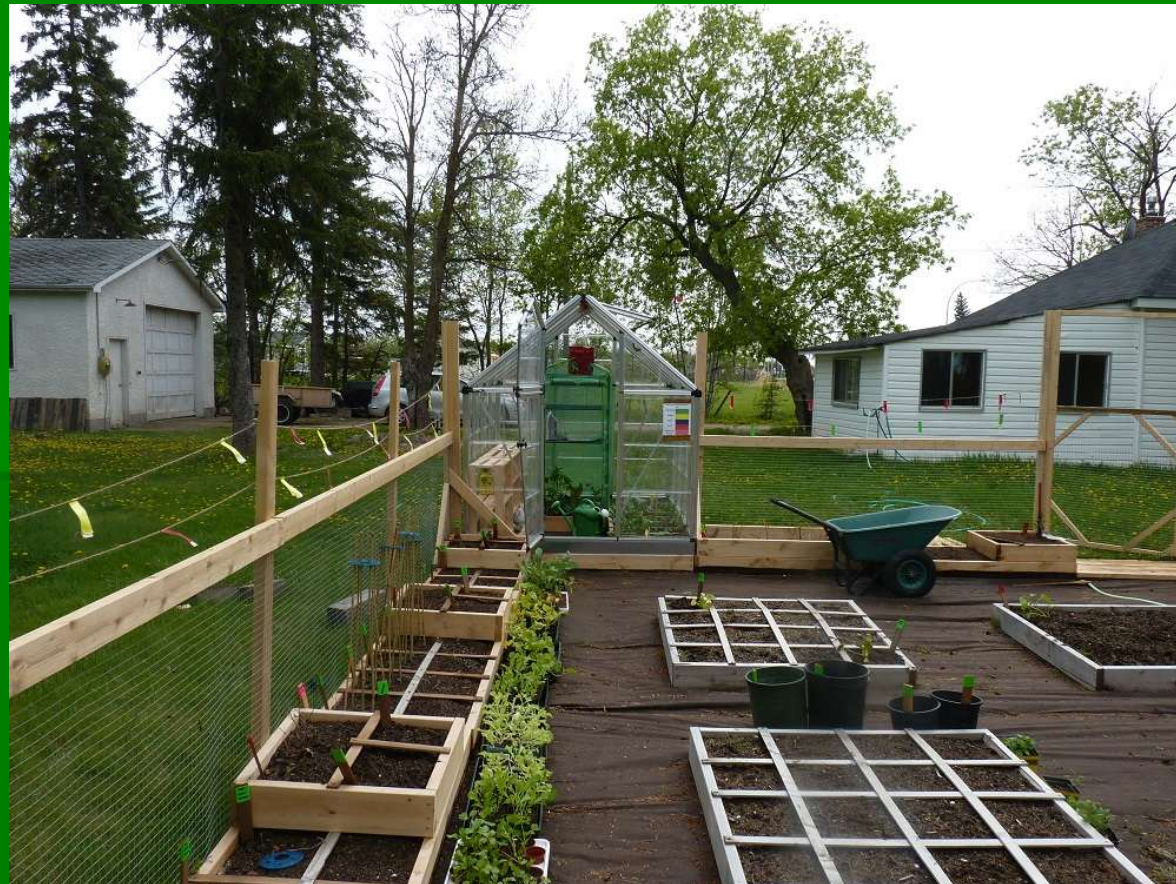
9. Water

10. Harvest

The Ten Basics of SFG

1 - LAYOUT

Think in Squares – Not in Rows



The Ten Basics of SFG

2 – BOXES

BUILD BOXES TO HOLD MEL'S MIX



Add Landscape Fabric if the boxes are on the ground or a plywood base if they are raised off the ground.

The Ten Basics of SFG

2 – BOXES

BUILD BOXES TO HOLD MEL'S MIX

- 2 x 6 Cedar
- 2 x 6 Spruce
- Do not use Pressure Treated Lumber
- Do not Use Railway Ties
- Can use “Eco Wood Treatment”

The Ten Basics of SFG

2 – BOXES

ECO WOOD TREATMENT

ECO WOOD TREATMENT

We are very excited to announce the availability of Eco Wood Treatment to the public. A new, easy-to-use treatment that naturally beautifies any wood project.

This product is unique to the world of stains. In this age of concerns about our environment, both consumers and contractors are very receptive to products that are non-toxic and friendly to nature.

Tried & Proven Formula

Eco Wood has been treating marinas, houses, & decking for over 50 years with a recipe handed down through three generations of wood-working craftsmen.

For All Outdoor Wood

An all-purpose treatment for new

✓ Decks & Fences	✓ Furniture
✓ Posts	✓ Doors and Windows
✓ House Siding	✓ Planters
✓ Pressure Treated	✓ Veggie Gardens
✓ Timber	✓ Timber Construction

No Maintenance

No need to ever scrape, re-stain, or worry about fading or wear.

Non Toxic

Eco Wood is friendly to plants, animals, and people. Can be used in direct contact with garden soil.

Eco Wood Treatment is a proven non-toxic wood preservative that prevents the white rot fungi, a common type of wood decay.

INTL ECO WOOD TREATMENT
P.O. BOX 328, SALT SPRING ISLAND, BC, V8K 2V9
TEL: (250) 538-5516 FAX: (250) 538-5517
ecowoodtreatment@yahoo.com
WWW.ECOWOODTREATMENT.COM



Easy to Use
Just add powder to water, stir and apply.

Beauty

One, easy application: brush, roller, or spray. Eco Wood enhances the natural beauty and grain of all types of wood. The initial colour ranges from grey to light brown to olive brown, depending on wood type, texture, and dryness. The natural colour matures to a beautiful silver patina. Natural weathering effects of sun, snow, and rain actually improve the qualities of Eco Wood.



Redwood before (left) and after (right) application of Eco Wood Treatment.

The Ten Basics of SFG

3 - AISLES



The Ten Basics of SFG

4 - SOIL

MEL'S MIX:

1/3 peat moss

1/3 coarse
vermiculite

1/3 blended
compost



Mushroom, Worm Castings, Sheep, Steer/Cow , Sea Soil

The Ten Basics of SFG

4 - VERMICULITE

- Vermiculite itself has not been shown to be a health problem. However, some vermiculite insulation contained asbestos fibres, which can cause problems if inhaled. As long as this kind of vermiculite-based insulation remains undisturbed behind intact walls or in attic spaces and does not become airborne, it should not be a concern.
- Horticultural Vermiculite is completely free of Asbestos and is safe to use!!

4 – Backyard Composting is essential



6 Inches Deep – Really???



The Ten Basics of SFG

5 - GRID



The Ten Basics of SFG

6 – CARE Inspect and Water



The Ten Basics of SFG

7 - **SELECT CROPS**

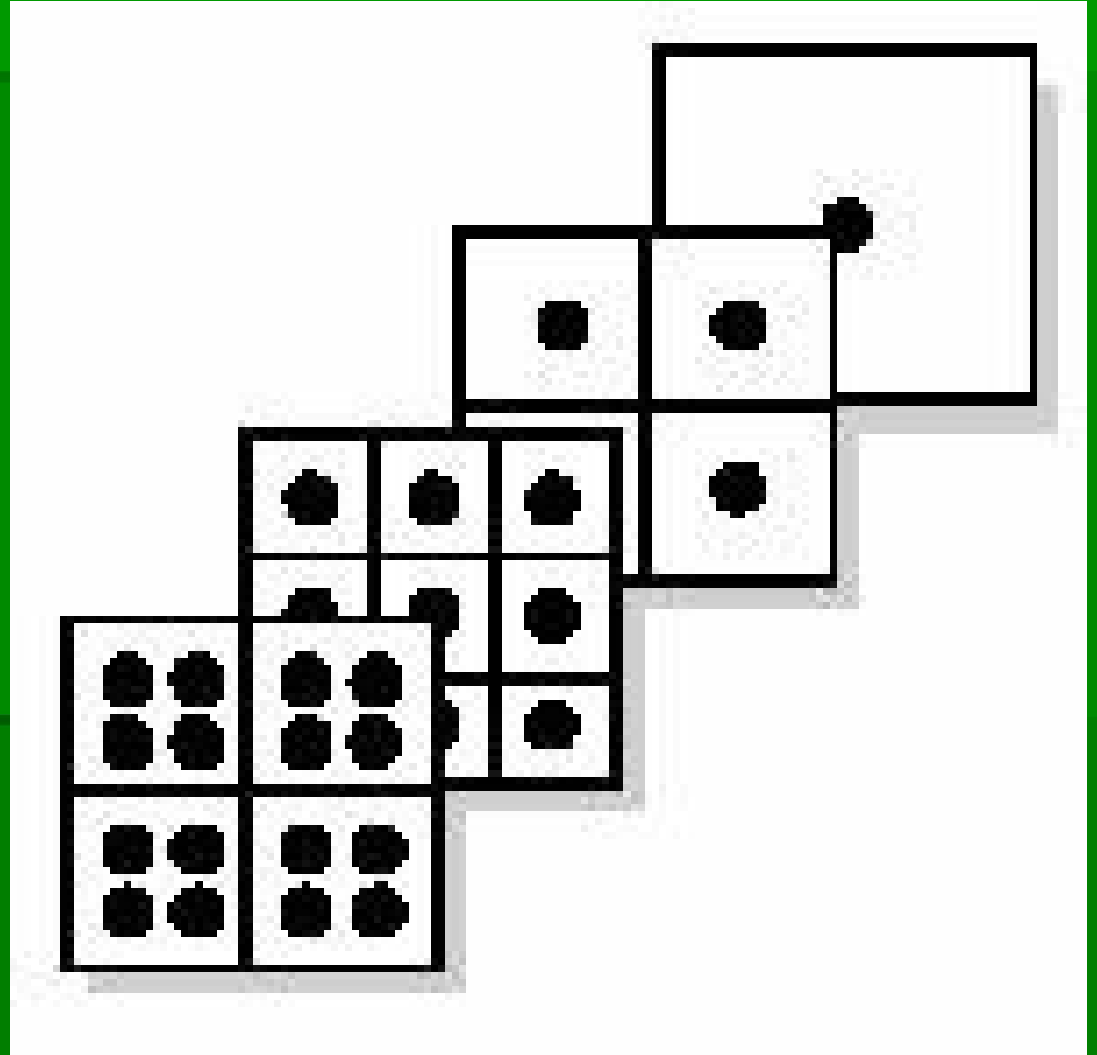
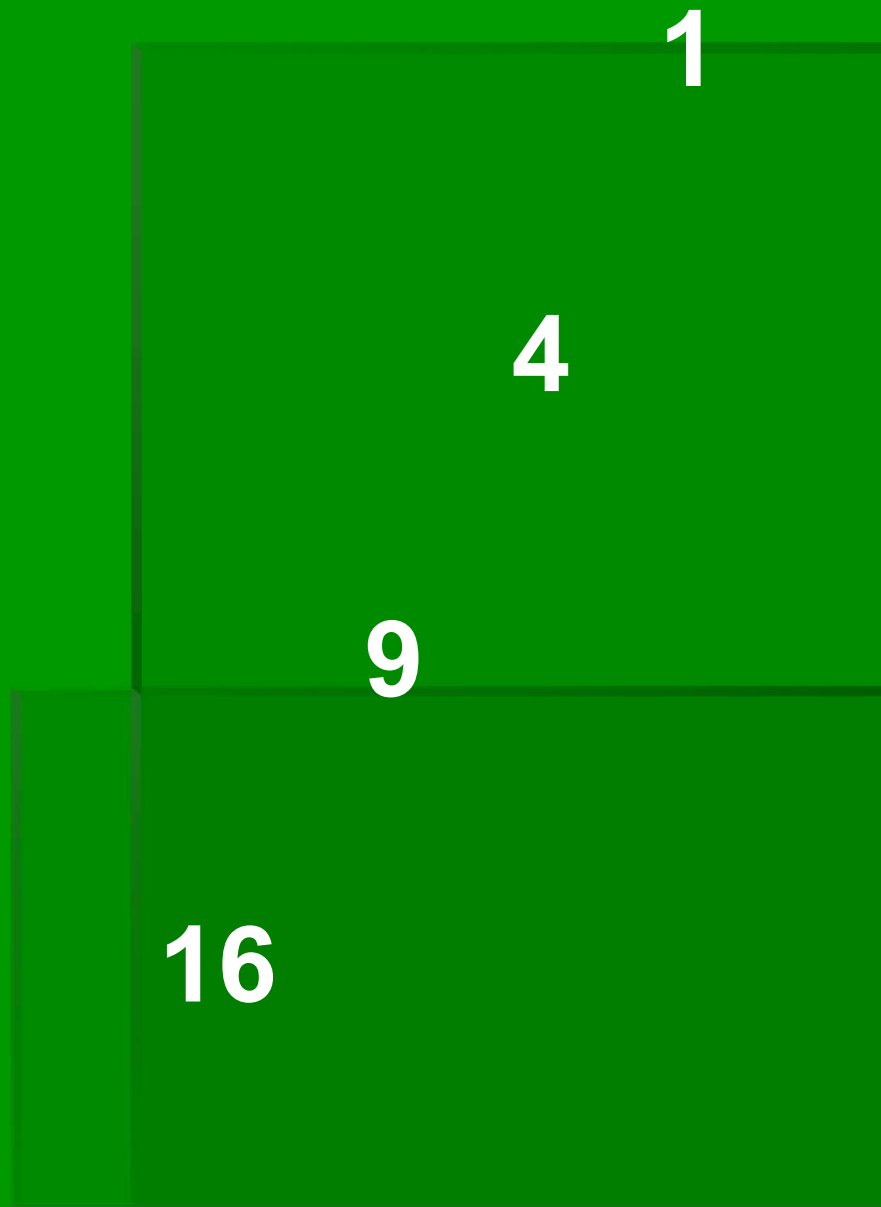


The Ten Basics of SFG

8 - PLANT



SPACING PER SQUARE FOOT



SPACING PER SQUARE FOOT

- 1 plant per square foot = 12" spacing
- 4 plants per square foot = 6" spacing
- 9 plants per square foot = 4" spacing
- 16 plants per square foot = 3" spacing

Planting Do's and Don'ts

- Intercropping
- Companion Planting
- Crop Rotation
- Succession Planting

SUCCESSION PLANTING

Vegetables

- Broccoli
- Corn
- Peas
- Beans
- Cabbage
- Cauliflower

Salad

- Tomatoes
- Lettuce
- Radish

Frost Dates

Average Frost Date.

Last Frost May 31st

First Frost September 29th

120 Growing Days

SUCCESSION PLANTING

- Choose plants that have a short growing time (less than 90 days)
- Start plants early indoors so they are ready to plant as soon as the ground is warm.
- Direct sow seed every week for 8 weeks.
- Protect plants from frost in the spring and fall.

SUCCESSION PLANTING PEAS AS AN EXAMPLE

- Plant growth to full maturity is 60 days.
 - Peas can be started indoors in deep pots.
 - Plant outside and cover on May long weekend.
-
- Plant every week until the end of July.
 - Plants will grow quicker in Mid Summer because of the extra sunlight.

The Ten Basics of SFG

9 - WATER



The Ten Basics of SFG

10 - HARVEST



The Ten Basics of SFG

10 - HARVEST



A GARDEN FOR ALL AGES



Ages 4 to 94

ALL PHYSICAL ABILITIES



ALL PHYSICAL ABILITIES



MAKE A STAND-UP OR SIT-DOWN GARDEN



SCHOOL GARDEN YWCA

Daycare on Fermor



Teach Every Subject

SCHOOL GARDENS



Teach Every Subject

Deck Boxes



Rooftop Boxes









Some Tips and Tricks

Use gardeners Velcro wherever you can to secure plants or stakes. The Velcro is wide enough that it wont damage a plant and it is reusable.



Some Tips and Tricks

Store the bamboo poles that you use as close to the garden as possible. You can do this by using pvc pipe cut into sections and screwed to the fence.



Some Tips and Tricks

Tomato cages can be used upside down! Or you can bend the ends of the tomato cage legs at 90 Degrees to prevent them poking through landscape fabric. Secure the cage to a post and shelf bracket on the outside of the box.



Some Tips and Tricks

Haws watering cans come with a nozzle and a fine rose shower head, when watering use the nozzle and angle it so that the water is directed at the base of the plant.



Some Tips and Tricks

Grow and support large vining fruits on lathe fence panels with large openings so that you can thread the vine through the fence. These plants will need to be fertilised.



Soluble Fertilizers

Any Evolve Fertilizer made by Dirt
N Grow in Stonewall Manitoba
Sea Magic dried seaweed kelp



SEEDY SATURDAY 2026

March 7th • 10.30am-3.30pm • Millennium Library

PUBLIC EVENT • FREE TO ALL • 2ND & 3RD FLOORS

SEED SWAP • MARKET

*trade packaged &
labelled seeds*

*dozens of vendor &
community tables*

WORKSHOPS • FILM SCREENINGS

**Kitchen Gardens
for Beginners**

Alyssa Kosta 1030

**No/Low Till
Agriculture**

Pamela McFarlane 11am

**Food Preservation
and Economy**

Debbie Innes 1230

*From Seed to Seed
(MB)-Ecological
family farming on
the Prairies*

*Tea Creek (BC)-
Indigenous Food
Sovereignty*

1pm
2pm

For more info:
greenhouse@spenceneighbourhood.org

Questions?

