

Spring Edible Garden Planning for Small Spaces

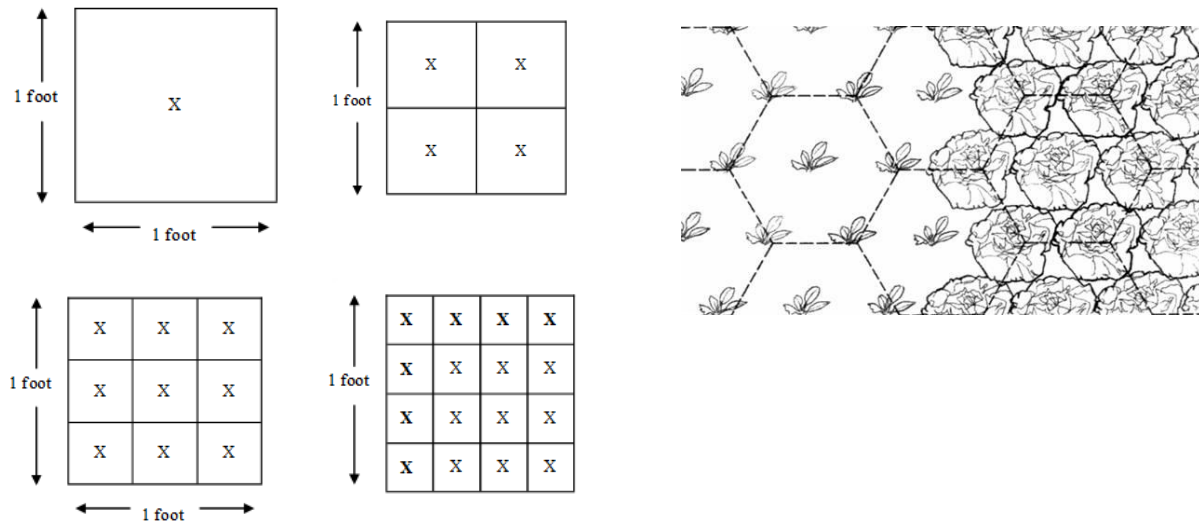
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Pro Tips for Spring 2023

Seed Storage Tip

In small gardens, seeds can last for years, even decades! The ideal storage location for seeds is somewhere cool, dark, and dry. For many folks the refrigerator is the best location. Use a wide-mouth container, and add desiccant packets to the container. Seeds will remain viable for years to come. We've even germinated 22-year old tomato seeds when stored this way. [Watch this video](#) for details.

Ideal Biointensive Spacing for Cool-Season Crops



- Alliums – hexagonal on 6" centers
- Brassicas – 1 per square foot
- Lettuces – 4 per square foot or hexagonal on 6" centers
- Peas – 3" apart on both sides of trellis (pole), hexagonal on 4" centers (bush)
- Root veggies – 16 per square foot (or 9 per sf for larger beets)

Indoor Seed Starting

Grow lights are your friend. Use full-spectrum lightbulbs and keep the lights no more than 3” above leaf surfaces for 12-16 hours per day. This will produce bushy, strong plants. Leggy plants = not enough close light. Use a [vacation lamp timer](#) to automate the process.

Favorite Cool Season Varieties

Lettuces:

Forellenschluss – “speckled like a trout’s back”
Rouge d’Hiver – red tips
Black Seeded Simpson – bright green ruffled leaves
Reine des Glaces – torn edges like a crown
Red Oak – adds nice color to a salad
Four Seasons – goes from green to burgundy

Greens:

Golden chard, Bright Lights Chard;
Viroflay, Winter Giant, Giant Noble Spinach;
Roquette Salad/Sylvetta Arugula;
Mizuna, Osaka Purple mustard greens

Root Crops:

Golden, Bull’s Blood, and Chioggia Beets;
Cosmic Purple, Yellowstone, Tonda di Parigi Carrots;
Turga Parsnips;
French Breakfast, Helios, Purple Plum, Pink Beauty Radish;
Purple Top Turnips

Cole Crops:

Thompson, Rosalind, Di Cicco, Calabrese Broccoli;
All the Year Round or Snow’s Overwintering Cauliflower;
Brunswick, Violaaceo di Verona, or Vertus Savoy Cabbage;
Dazzling Blue, Red Russian, Siberian, Red Ursa Kale;
Vienna White & Vienna Purple Kohlrabi