

#1 Method : Square Foot Gardening

It's NOT raised bed gardening, it's Square Foot Gardening! Most plants in the Smallest Area.

- Arrange garden in squares:
- 3 or 4`wide x 4 or 8 feet long
- Make a square foot grid for the top -MUST!
- Build bottomless boxes
Use mostly compost
- Plant a different flower, vegetable, or herb crop in each square foot using 1, 4, 9, or 16 plants per square foot.
- Conserve seeds. Plant only a pinch (2 or 3 seeds) per hole.
Transplants are planted in a slight saucer-shaped depression.
- Water by hand from a bucket of sun-warmed water.
- When you finish harvesting a square foot, add compost replant it with a new and different crop.



Great internet resource:

<http://www.melbartholomew.com/what-is-square-foot-gardening/>

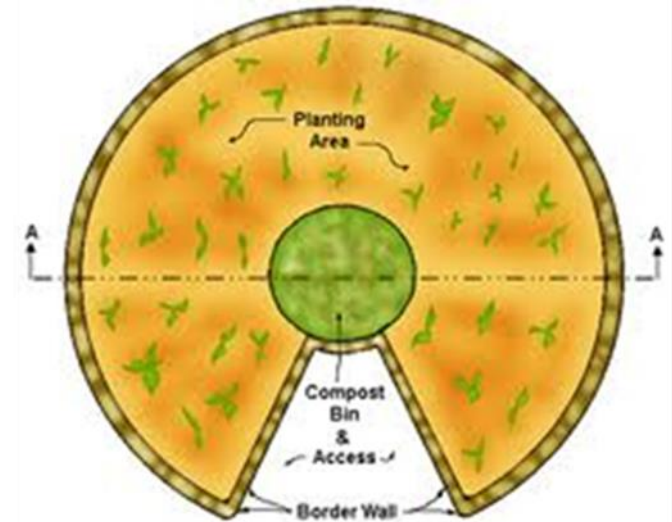
#2 Recycle : Key Hole Gardening

Water Conservation and Composting!

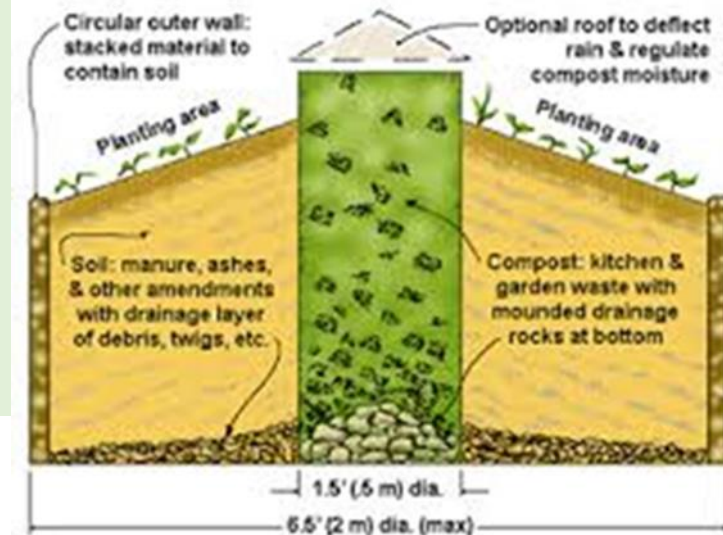
- 6-foot diameter circle
- Notch the circle
- Exterior wall about 3 feet high using rocks, metal, timbers or any material that can support the weight of wet soil.
- Wire mesh to create a tube about 1 foot in diameter and about 4 feet high. Stand the tube in the center of the circle.
- Line the outer walls with cardboard and fill the garden area (but not the wire mesh tube in the center), with layers of compostable materials, wetting it down as you go. Fill the last few inches with compost or potting soil.
- Fill the center basket with material, along with layers of vegetable and fruit kitchen scrapes – this serves as a fertilizer
- Water the center basket and the garden only when the plants need it. This forces the plants' roots down toward the center basket.

Great internet resources:

- <http://www.texascooppower.com/texas-stories/nature-outdoors/keyhole-gardening>



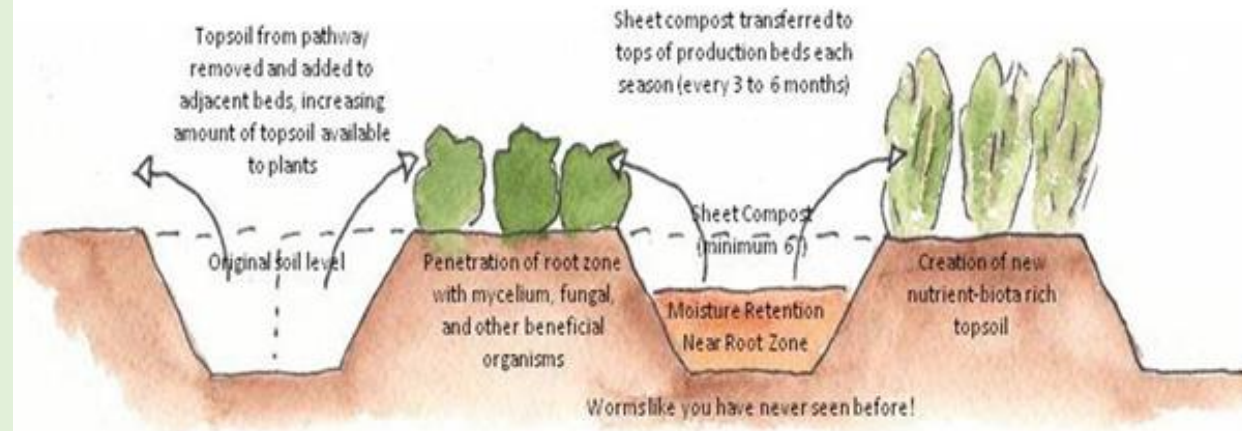
Keyhole Garden Plan View



#3 For Larger Gardens: Trench Gardening

A major issue in sustaining vegetable production is maintaining high soil quality

- Trench gardens use the same techniques as keyhole garden
 - Not raised but layers are dug into the ground
 - Leaving only a small mound of topsoil raised above ground level.
 - Trench gardens have the same moisture-retaining and soil enrichment properties as keyhole gardens
- Require fewer materials
- Allow for larger plants, such as tomatoes and eggplant.



Great internet resource:

<http://www.modernvictorygarden.com/potatoestrenchingmethod.htm>

Trench composting is nothing new. In fact, the Pilgrims learned when the Native Americans taught them to bury fish heads and scraps in the soil before planting corn.

#4 Reduce Erosion, Runoff, & Fertilizers: Potholing – Conservation Agriculture

No tractor?

No tiller?

No problem

Benefits of making potholes:

1. Concentrates inputs in the potholes rather than spreading them throughout the entire plot.
2. Adds nutrients to the soil by increasing the amount of organic material present.
3. Potholes can be reused for up to three years without applying new inputs.
4. Traps water runoff, improving moisture retention and preventing soil erosion.
5. Uses locally available resources



Great Internet Resource

- <http://www.crs.org/solr-search?search=Homestead+gardening&=Search>

#5 Companion Planting

- Grow stronger healthier plants
- Use less pesticides and fertilizers
- Be healthier and Save Money!

Companion planting isn't magic or folk lore. Ask the Pilgrims, it saved their lives when the Native Americans taught them about the 3 sisters: Corn, Squash, and Beans.

Certain plants grow better next to others because of Chemical, Physical, or Biological reasons
Learn more as you garden on...

Great internet resources:

- <http://www.groworganic.com/organic-gardening/articles/the-scientific-basis-for-companion-planting>

UNDERSTAND WHICH PLANTS GROW WELL TOGETHER AND WHICH TO PLANT FAR APART!

PLANT	GOOD COMPANIONS	BAD COMPANIONS
BEANS	MAIZE, SUNFLOWERS, LAVENDER, CABBAGE, CUCUMBER, STRAWBERRIES, BRINJAL	ONION, GARLIC, FENNEL
BEEETROOT	BEANS, ONIONS, GARLIC, LETTUCE, CABBAGE	
BRINJAL	CALENDULA, MARIIGOLDS, MINT, PEAS	
BROCCOLI, CABBAGE, CAULIFLOWER, KALE	AROMATIC PLANTS, DILL, SAGE, ROSEMARY, POTATOES, BEETROOT, CELERY, GARLIC, ONIONS, GERANIUM	TOMATOES, POLE & RUNNER BEANS, PEPPERS
CARROTS	LETTUCE, CHIVES, LEEKS, ROSEMARY, SAGE, PEAS, WOODWOOD	STRAWBERRIES, FENNEL, CABBAGE
LETTUCE	CARROTS, RADISH, STRAWBERRIES, CUCUMBER, BEANS	CELERY, PARSLEY
MAIZE	SUNFLOWERS, AMARANTH, BEANS, PEAS, & OTHER LEGUMES, PUMPKIN, SQUASH, CUCUMBER, MELONS, & OTHER CUCURBITS, PARSLEY	CABBAGE, TOMATO, CELERY
ONION/ GARLIC	CARROTS, BEETROOT, STRAWBERRIES, TOMATOES, LETTUCE, CABBAGE	PEAS, BEANS, PARSLEY, LEEKS
PEAS	LAVENDER, CARROT, TURNIP, RADISH, CUCUMBER, MAIZE, BEANS, GROWS WELL WITH MOST VEGETABLES & HERBS	ONION, GARLIC
PEPPERS	TOMATOES, GERANIUM, BASIL, CARROT, ONION	BEANS, KALE, CABBAGE FAMILY
POTATOES	CORIANDER, MARIIGOLD, BEANS, MAIZE, CABBAGE FAMILY, BRINJAL	PUMPKIN, CUCUMBER, SQUASH, MELONS, SUNFLOWERS, TOMATOES
SPINACH	STRAWBERRIES, BROAD BEANS, PEAS	POTATOES, FENNEL, CABBAGE FAMILY
TOMATOES	BASIL, OREGANO/ PARSLEY, CHIVES, NASTURIUM, ONIONS, CARROTS, CELERY, CALENDULA, GERANIUM, BORAGE	GENERAL PEST DETERRANT, PLANT THROUGHOUT GARDEN
CALENDULA	TOMATOES- REPELS TOMATO WORM!	COMPOST ACTIVATOR. USE LEAVES TO MAKE COMFREY TEA FERTILIZER!
COMFREY	FAST-GROWING NUTRIENT ACCUMULATOR. PLANT ALONG EDGES & USE LEAVES FOR MULCH	REPELS CABBAGE MOTH. PLANT ON BORDERS TO KEEP FLYING PESTS AWAY!
CHILE PEPPER	CABBAGE, MAIZE	USE MARIIGOLD LEAVES TO MAKE AN ORGANIC GENERAL INSECTICIDE SPRAY!
MARIIGOLD	PLANT FREELY THROUGHOUT THE GARDEN - REPELS SOIL NEMATODES, APHIDS, BEAN BEETLES & MANY MORE.	REPELS WHITE FLIES & SPIDER MITES
NASTURIUM	TOMATOES - IMPROVES FLAVOR!	DETERS CABBAGE WORM
THYME	CABBAGE	DETERS CABBAGE MOTH, BEAN BEETLES & CARROT FLY!
ROSEMARY	CARROTS, CABBAGE, SAGE, BEANS	KEEPS ANIMALS OUT! ALSO REPELS WHITE FLY
WORMWOOD/ ARTEMESIA	AROUND GARDEN EDGES	PLANT NEAR AROMATIC HERBS TO ENHANCE ESSENTIAL OIL PRODUCTION
YARROW	PLANT FREELY THROUGHOUT THE GARDEN. REPELS SOIL NEMATODES, APHIDS, BEAN BEETLES, AND MANY MORE!	

A DIVERSE GARDEN IS AN ABUNDANT GARDEN. HAPPY PLANTING!