How Does Your Garden Grow?

5 basic steps to square foot gardening



Marshfield Clinic Health System

Find or build your garden space

- Start with a 4-feet by 4-feet space that is 6-8 inches deep and will get 6-8 hours of sunlight daily.
- Use weed cloth or cardboard to cover the ground of your garden.
- Keep 3 feet of space between gardens.

2 Prepare your soil

- Equal part volume (not weight) of coarse vermiculite, peat moss and blended compost.
- If you chose natural soil, be sure to properly identify the type and add compost as needed.

3 Grid your garden

- Use twine and support sticks to create your grid.
- Groupings of 12-inch square spaces allow you to maximize your planting.

Plant and maintain your garden

- Select your crop.
- Determine how many seeds go into one square space.
- Water regularly with sun-warmed water.
- Weed as needed.

5 Harvest your crop

- Reuse your garden space after harvest.
- Just add more compost and new seeds.

