



Western Cape
Government
FOR YOU

Agriculture



Agricultural Producer Support and Development
Square foot gardening



Square foot gardening

- Square foot gardening is the practice of dividing an area into small square sections (typically 30 cm on a side, hence the name).
- It assists the planning and creating of a small, but intensively planted vegetable garden, resulting in a simple and orderly gardening system.

Raised beds

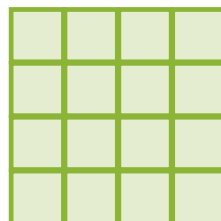
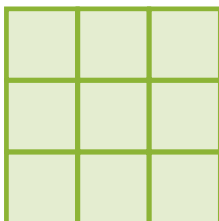
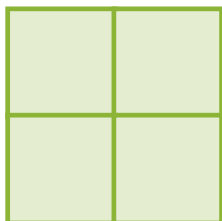
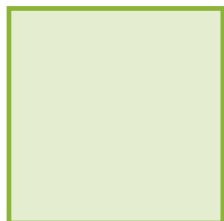
- Raised beds can be planted more intensively than a traditional backyard garden.
- This means you can grow more vegetables in smaller spaces.
- Raised beds make it possible to grow safely even on land that is contaminated with lead and other heavy metals.
- Depending upon the severity of the winter and your own inventiveness, the garden can be used year-round, although most people grow their vegetables from mid-October through late April.
- Fewer tools are needed to help you plant and care for your garden.
- Weeds, soil insects and soil-borne diseases are more easily controlled since recommended treatments are more effective in raised gardens.

Advantages to growing food in raised beds

- The soil warms up faster in the spring, allowing for an earlier planting season.
- Rain and irrigation water can enter easily. Water is able to drain easily.
- The garden can be tended from the edges, so the soil does not become compacted by people walking in the garden.
- You can produce 5 times more vegetables than with conventional gardening.
- There is good ventilation. Micro-organisms develop well.
- Plants take full advantage of the nutrients. Roots grow better.

Plant spacing in one block (30 cm x 30 cm)

There are four types of spacing:



1 per block	4 per block	9 per block	16 per block
Roots/Tubers:	Herbs:	Roots/Tubers:	Roots/Tubers:
Potatoes	Parsley	Beets	Carrots
Sweet potatoes	Basil	Turnips	Radishes
Ginger	Oregano	Garlic	Onions
Horseradish	Mint		Green onions
Leaf Crops:	Leaf Crops:	Leaf Crops:	
Broccoli	Bok Choy	Spinach	
Kale	Lettuces		
Cabbages	Chards		
Fruits/Legumes:	Fruits/Legumes:	Fruits/Legumes:	
Melons	Soybeans	String Beans	
Squash	Fava beans	Peas	
Tomatoes	Corn		
Artichoke	Strawberries		
Eggplant			
Cucumber			
Peppers			
Pumpkins			

For further information contact your nearest extension officer.

www.elsenburg.com

Tel: 021 808 5111

Email: DOA.info@westerncape.gov.za

Twitter: [@WCGovAgri](https://twitter.com/WCGovAgri)

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