

Vegetable Spacing Quick Reference

Plants per square foot and bed totals for 17 common crops

ORGANIC BACKYARD GARDENING

organicbackyardgardening.com

CROP	SQUARE FOOT METHOD	4 X 4 BED	4 X 8 BED
Beans	9 per square: a 3 x 3 grid, 4 inches apart. Pole beans: 8 per square around a pole or along a trellis	144 bush bean plants	288 bush bean plants
Beets	9 per square: a 3 x 3 grid, 4 inches apart	144 beets	288 beets
Broccoli	1 per square, planted in the center	16 broccoli plants	32 broccoli plants
Carrots	16 per square: a 4 x 4 grid, about 3 inches apart	256 carrots	512 carrots
Cucumbers	2 per square along the trellis side, about 6 inches apart	32 cucumbers	64 cucumbers
Garlic	4 per square: a 2 x 2 grid, 6 inches apart, pointed end up, 2 to 3 inches deep	64 garlic cloves	128 garlic cloves
Green Onions	16 per square: a 4 x 4 grid, about 3 inches apart each way	256 green onions	512 green onions
Kale	1 per square, planted in the center	16 kale plants	32 kale plants
Lettuce	4 per square: a 2 x 2 grid, about 6 inches apart	64 lettuce plants	128 lettuce plants
Onions	4 per square: a 2 x 2 grid, each onion about 6 inches from its neighbors	64 onions	128 onions
Peas	9 per square on the chart; 1 plant 8 to 10 per square, on both sides of a string trellis	144 pea plants	288 pea plants
Peppers	1 per square, planted in the center	16 pepper plants	32 pepper plants
Potatoes	2 per square on the chart; 1 per square if you want large baking potatoes; rows at 12 to 15 inches in a traditional bed	32 seed potatoes	64 seed potatoes
Spinach	9 per square: a 3 x 3 grid, 4 inches apart	144 spinach plants	288 spinach plants
Strawberries	1 per square in a raised bed (the chart allows 1 to 4); keep them to one bed	16 strawberry plants	32 strawberry plants
Tomatoes	1 per square (single-stem pruned); 1 per 4 squares unpruned; determinate types about 4 per square foot	16 (pruned) or 4 (unpruned) tomato plants	32 (pruned) or 8 (unpruned) tomato plants
Zucchini	1 plant per 4 squares: give it a 2 x 2 foot block, or 1 per square if you grow it up a stake	4 zucchini	8 zucchini

Source and updates: organicbackyardgardening.com/charts-and-tools

Plan a whole bed for your frost date, free: planmygarden.com

Bed counts assume every square is given to that one crop; in practice you mix crops, so use the per-square number and count squares. Each crop has its own page with a spacing diagram, planting steps, germination temperatures and planting weeks:

organicbackyardgardening.com/charts-and-tools.