

The Best Vegetable Growing Kit

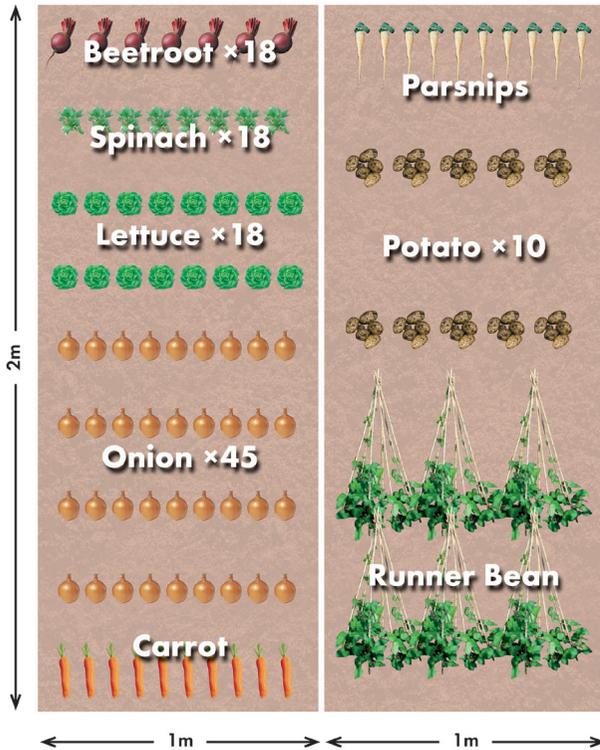
GROWING INSTRUCTIONS

When Your Plants Arrive

Remove the plants from the packaging immediately, check the compost is moist and water if necessary with tepid water. Leave them on a shaded windowsill or in a greenhouse for a few hours and then plant as soon as possible.



Pepper ×2 Courgette ×2 Tomato ×3 Cucumber ×1 Chilli ×2



Flowers for pots, beds or borders



Petunia ×20



Geranium ×20



Begonia ×20

Vegetable plug plants

The vegetable plug plants can be planted straight into the garden. Vegetables require a well drained soil, sunny position, sheltered from cold winds. Prior to planting fork over the area removing any weeds and break down any large lumps. Apply a general fertilizer and rake it into the surface. During the growing period keep the plants well watered in dry spells and keep weeds under control.

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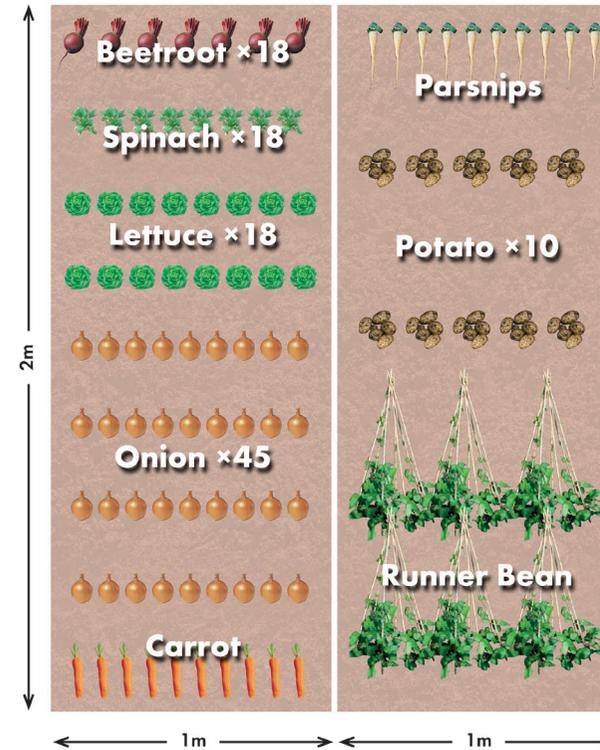
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Beetroot

Plant the Beetroot plants 10cm (4") apart in rows 30cm (12") apart. Harvest as required up to but no larger than a cricket ball. To avoid the root bleeding, twist off the foliage about 5cm (2") from the root.

Lettuce

Space the plants 23cm (9") apart in each direction. Keep well watered especially in dry spells to reduce the risk of the plants running to seed.

Perpetual Spinach

Space the plants 20cm (8") apart with rows 30cm (12") apart. Harvest by removing the outer leaves before they reach their maximum size.

Pot Ready Vegetable Plants

These plants should be potted on as soon as possible, but they will keep quite well for 2-3 days if necessary, provided they are kept in a warm light place and are not allowed to dry out.

Use 10cm (4") pots and a good quality moist proprietary compost, leaving the net or material around the root ball in place. Before planting make sure that the root ball is not dry, water well an hour or so beforehand, if necessary.

Set the plants so that the top of the root ball is about 1cm (½") below the compost surface and the leaves are just above the surface. Maintain an initial temperature of 16-18°C (60-65°F). They can then be planted outdoors in early June once the danger of frost has passed.

Courgette

Plant 60cm (2ft) apart or grow in 25-20cm (10-12") pots. Keep the plant well watered and feed weekly. Early in the season and in cool weather hand pollination would be beneficial. The female flower has a swollen area behind the petals, this is absent on male flowers. Remove a male flower from the plant and insert into a fully open female flower to transfer the pollen. Pick regularly to encourage further fruit to be produced.

Cucumber

This variety can be grown in the greenhouse up a cane or wire, or grown as a trailing plant outdoors once the danger of frost has passed. In the greenhouse pinch out the plants growing tip when the roof has been reached. Side shoots (laterals) will develop which should be supported as necessary and pinched out two leaves beyond the first female flower. It is advisable to remove all the fruits from the first 60cm (2') of stem to allow the plant to become established. Further fruits will quickly appear and then should be picked regularly to achieve maximum production.

Grown as a trailing plant outdoors pinch out the plants growing tip at 6-7 leaves. Any shoots not bearing fruit should be pinched out at the seventh leaf. Male flowers will appear which should be removed. Male flowers are easily identified as they have no immature fruit behind the petals.

Sweet and Chilli Pepper

Peppers will reach their full potential in the greenhouse, although they can be grown quite successfully in 25-30cm (10-12") pots on a sheltered, sunny patio. Care should be taken to ensure plants are hardened off prior to moving outdoors, once all risk of frost has passed. Provide a cane support and tie in as they develop in the early stages and do not allow the plants to dry out. No stopping, side shooting is necessary. Keep the plants well watered and feed with a liquid tomato fertilizer when the fruit start to set.

Tomatoes

Tomatoes will perform well in the greenhouse or in the garden if planted in a sunny, sheltered position after carefully hardening off and the risk of frost has passed. Space the plants 45cm (18") apart and provide adequate support from an early stage tying in the main stem as the plants develop. In the greenhouse grow in the border, grow bags or 25-30cm (10-12") pots. Side shoots, which appear where the leaf stalks join the stem, should be removed by pinching out when they are about 2.5cm (1") long.

Onions

Plant in rows 30cm (15") apart, spacing sets 10cm-15cm (4-6") apart. The sets should not be entirely covered with soil, but must be pressed firmly into the surface.

When the bulb is mature the foliage turns yellow and topples over. On a dry day lift the bulbs and leave in the sun or under protection in wet weather to dry.

Potatoes

To plant draw out a shallow trench 10-15cm (4-6in) deep and space the potatoes 30-40cm (12-16in) apart. Draw the soil over the seed potatoes using a rake or hoe to cover and form ridges over the rows. Provided soil is moist watering should not be necessary at this stage. The first shoots should emerge from the ridges after 3-4 weeks. The row should be ridged up again to cover the shoots. Harvest when the flowers open or the buds drop.

Vegetable Seeds

Follow the instructions on the seed packet.

Summer Flowering Plants

The plants should be transplanted into 7.5-9cm (3-3½") pots. The plants are easier to remove from the tray if the compost is moist. Carefully remove the plants from the tray and transfer to the centre of the pot or the appropriate position in the seed tray. It is important that the plants are at the correct depth. The lower leaves should be just above the surface of the compost.

Grow on the plants in a light place at a minimum temperature of 16-18°C (60-65°F). Plant outdoors when they have a good root system, and the danger of frost has passed.

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