



**Our raised beds are approx 4' x 12',
outside measured.**

**Planting area is approx 46" x 136", but leave space
between the end of the wood in each direction & your
first seed/plant for the roots to grow.**

We typically plant at least 2" in from a wooden edge.

**Do not fill the bed to the top of the wood:
water needs a place to settle**



**In our raised beds it is possible to have 15-17 rows of veg
growing, depending on the variety & if you combine
row + grid planting**

Tomatoes do well planted 2 across with cages

**Summer squash do well planted on a small "hill" made
across a row - plan to seed on each end & the middle -
plant 3 seeds each on ends & middle using the healthiest
plant to grow. Extra plants do great as transplants!**



Veg to left planted in rows: WCG beds do well with about 6 1/2" - 7" between rows for typical crops.

In row planting plant seeds 2" - 4" apart depending on crop. You can grow continuous lettuce by planting seeds for up to 14 heads in a row - then transplant the "tweens" to end up with 7 in a row. Also use successive planting.

**Seeds planted too closely will be stunted &
Seeds planted too far apart waste food yield**



**Veg to left planted in grid pattern:
planting 2"-3" apart in each direction.**

**Some veg that do well in grid planting are
carrots, beets, spinach, and beans.**

**For maximum yield from your bed, plant spring crops,
harvest when ready & immediately plant summer crops.
Designate bed areas for successive veg planting and
longer maturing veg planting**



Gardener Ruthe & Larry's

SEED PLANTING SCHEDULE – DEPENDENT ON WEATHER + SOIL TEMP

SPRING CROP	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Arugula	5/13	5/5	4/24	4/28	4/27	5/12
Beets	4/22	5/3	4/25	4/29	4/27	5/2
Broccoli Rabe	--	--	--	--	4/27	5/2
Carrot	5/3	5/4	5/3	5/1	4/27	5/12
Chard	4/22	5/3	4/25	4/29	4/27	5/3
Kale	4/22	5/3	5/3	4/29	4/27	5/3
Lettuce	4/22	5/4	4/24	4/29	4/28	4/30
Onions	4/22	5/2	4/24	4/24	4/27	4/27
Parsley	4/22	5/4	4/25	4/29		5/3
Potatoes			5/5		5/6 - 5/10	5/12
Radish	4/22	5/5	4/22	4/29	4/27	4/30
Spinach	4/22	5/3	4/22	4/27	4/28	4/30
Sugar Snap Peas	4/23	5/3	4/22	4/28	4/29	5/1
SUMMER CROP						
Basil	After June 1					
Cucumber	June 1 - 15					
Pole or bush beans	6/22	5/25	5/27	6/5	6/11	6/6
Tomatoes (cold varieties)	5/26	5/25	5/27	5/24	5/27	5/31 – 6/1
Yellow squash	June 1 – 10					
Zucchini	June 1 – 10					

Successive planting of same crop, staggered plantings: for repeated plantings of a single plant type, start by seeding or transplanting a portion of your garden bed while leaving space for more. As the season goes on, continue to fill in the space over time. Length between plantings varies by species/cultivar. Short season species with less than 60-day maturity such as lettuce, spinach, arugula, and radish can be planted every few weeks until later summer or early fall for a continued harvest.

Different plants, same space: early season varieties can be planted in a bed that is later used for a longer maturing summer crop, and possibly again for a late fall crop. Plant spring crops and when mature, plant a summer crop in its place. For example, plant spinach – harvest – immediately plant beans. For this method, know the maturity date for the starter crop & be ready to plant a summer crop immediately upon the harvest of spring crop. This method not useful in our area for long term crops: carrots, potatoes, onions, etc.



A bed with potato grow bags, grid planted carrots + onions, rows of beets, trellised cucumbers, and hills of squash yield maximum harvest.



At WCG plant some heat tolerant lettuce varieties: red cross & cherokee head lettuce & coastal star romaine lettuce do especially well in our hot summer.

Look for other varieties of heat tolerant lettuce.

At WCG cold climate tomatoes + cherry/grape varieties do especially well

Cold climate varieties have maturity dates of 50-70 days, determined by your planting location & weather

Maturity dates are determined by location & weather, seed pack info is a general guide





MAXIMIZE YOUR TRELLIS YIELD

Place trellis on NORTH end of the bed so it doesn't shadow your or your neighbor's bed

Screw the trellis into the outside of the long boards

Place trellis about 6"-7" from outside edge of bed to provide grow room on both sides of the trellis

Placing trellis 6" from outside edge of short north board allows for 3 rows of veg on each side of the trellis

Plan for 3 rows of seeds on each side of the trellis

Plant: sugar snap peas, snow peas, romano, northeastern or cranberry beans



LARGE
yield of pole beans by
planting 3 rows in grid
pattern on each side
of the trellis: seeds
planted 2" apart in all
directions

For a tall trellis try
sugar snap peas, snow
peas, any type pole
bean

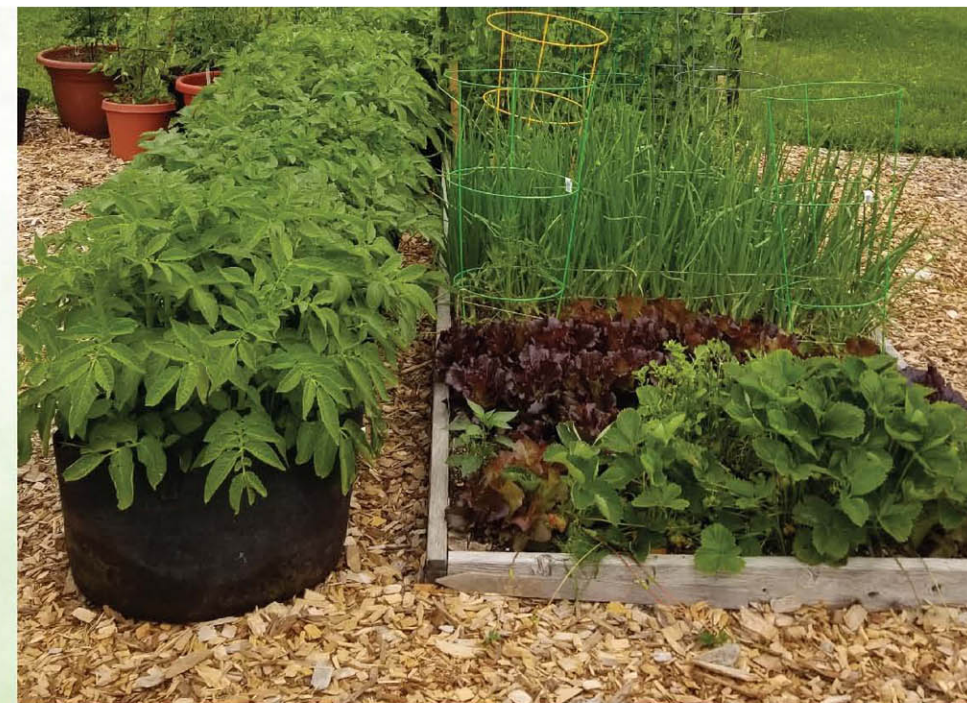
For a shorter trellis
try cucumber &
squash





Grow bags & pots add extra space for more types of veg: potatoes, tomatoes & tomatillos do very well in bags/pots.

Grow bags/pots must be placed so they do not block aisles, people or tools. We have a dedicated bag/pot area north of the blueberry bed.



Grow bags can be purchased locally at Box of Rain Organic Garden Center in Kalispell or ordered online. Look for 5, 7 or 10 gallon bags.

Large pots work best for roots to have room to spread.

Fill bags or pots with a mixture of manure, compost & purchased organic soil.

For potatoes add 4" of soil, plant up to 6 "chitted" potato pieces, cover with another 4" of soil, and cover with straw. Once the growth is 6" tall, remove straw & cover with another 4" of soil + replace the straw on top. Lots of info on the internet for planting potatoes in grow bags.

Tomatoes or tomatillos are planted in large pots filled with soil. Put tomato cages around plants when small so branches don't break later.

GROW BAGS & POTS NEED TO BE MONITORED FREQUENTLY FOR WATER NEEDS - THEY DRY OUT FASTER THAN RAISED BEDS

TILL

Kills weeds at the surface & can tear weed roots below surface

You can till portions of soil, leaving other areas low or no-tilled

Delivers nutrients deep into the soil

Breaks up densely packed soil - plants need loose soil

Blends organic matter into the soil where it breaks down faster to provide earlier & more plentiful biomass to plants

GARDEN METHODS

In WCG raised beds either method can be used. The low & no-till methods are easy + efficient to use in our beds due to size & type of soil.

Plan your garden bed by which type of planting - row/grid - and which type of tilling you want to use.

LOW & NO-TILL

Tends to increase soil organic matter

Intact soils maintain root channels that facilitate greater water infiltration & storage

Reduce soil compaction, increases moisture retention

Leaves beneficial organisms, bacteria & worms in the soil

