

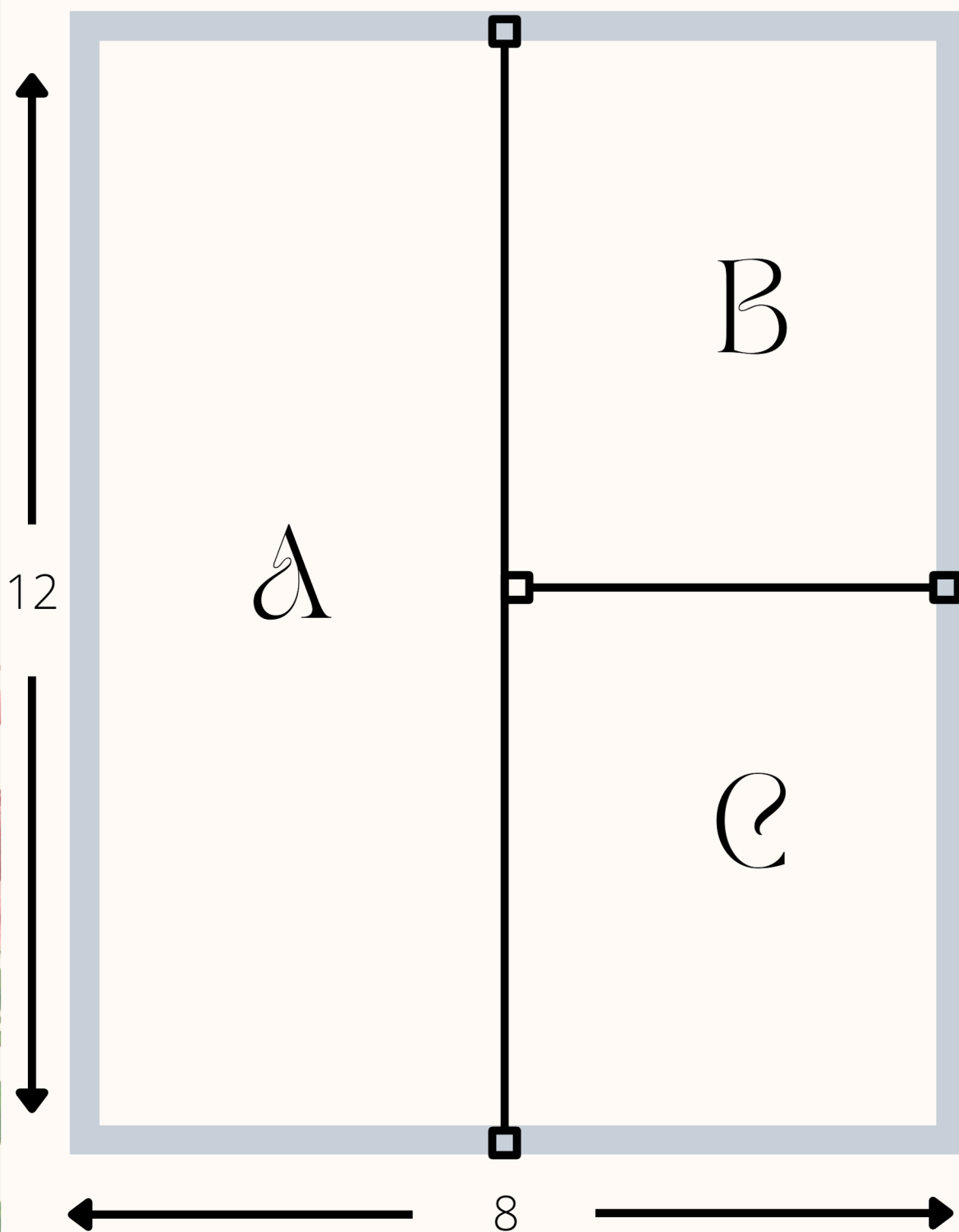


# EMERGENCE GARDENS

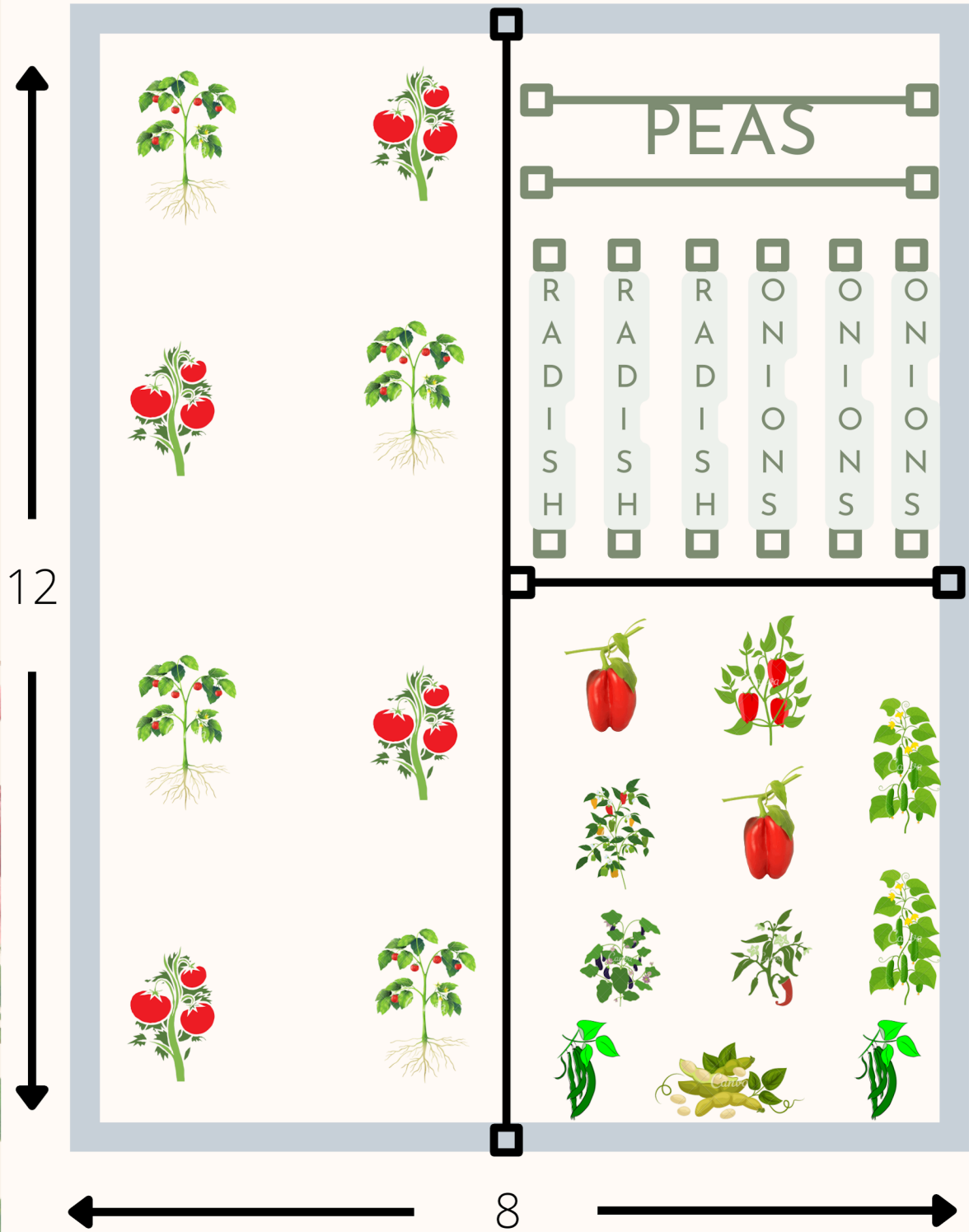
SIMPLE  
GARDEN PLAN  
8X12' BED

- 01 The Garden Sections
  - 02 The Garden Map
  - 03 The Garden Plan
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## The Garden Sections



# The Garden Map







## The Garden Plan: Now & Week One

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### As soon as possible

#### Preparation

- Test soil and follow recommended guidelines in sections A and C and cover with heavy tarp or landscape fabric

#### OR

- Apply light sprinkling of agricultural lime in sections A and C and cover with heavy tarp or landscape fabric



### First week of garden

"Week 1": Can be week of 4/3, 4/10 or even 4/17

#### Preparation

- Turnover soil by long handled shovel throughout section B. It is not necessary to remove weeds, turnover so weeds are buried 6-12" below soil.

### Transplants: Onions

- Acquire approximately 30 onion starts
  - Dig 3 shallow furrows 2" wide x 2" deep X 3.5' long parallel with house side of bed, 6" apart
  - Fill trenches with diluted mixture of fish emulsion (1 TBS fish/1 gallon water) Neptune's Harvest made in Gloucester
  - Place onion starts in trenches 4" apart, tuck in firmly with surrounding soil
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## The Garden Plan: Now & Week One

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### Direct seeding: Radishes, Sweet salad turnips and Sugar snap peas

- Acquire seeds, approximately 90-150 total radish/turnip, and 100 pea seeds. \*Optional, acquire carrot seeds. Based on the information you gave me about how much time you want to spend in the garden I recommend against carrots as they are labor intensive
  - Acquire 10 small sticks or ground stakes and approximately 25' of twine or string
  - Stake at each end of the 5 direct seed rows indicated in the garden map. Attach twine and fasten so taut, 6" apart for those parallel to the onions, 1' apart for the perpendicular 2 rows. I can show you an example of this on your follow-up visit if that's helpful.
    - The reason we mark the rows of direct seeded plants with twine is so we can remove weeds that come up before the seeds germinate without worrying about disturbing the seeded plants
  - In the 2 rows perpendicular to your onions, plant sugar snap peas at 1" spacing between seeds
    - A good rule of thumb is to plant seeds at a depth 2x the size of the seed
  - In the row directly next to your seeded onions, plant your desired mixture of radishes and sweet turnips at 1-2" spacing
    - Because radish seeds are so small, sometimes it is easier to make a line in the soil with your finger, place the seeds in and gently cover them
  - Leave the remaining two marked rows empty, or fill with optional carrot seeds
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## The Garden Plan: Now & Week One

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### Watering

- The soil you planted into should have been moist since it was just turned over. If this is the case there is no need to water at all. If it was very dry you can lightly water in the seeds with a watering can or mist setting on a hose. The overhead watering at this stage is likely to flood out your seeds.
  - As long as you get at least 1" of rain every 7 or 8 days you do not need to supplementally water your garden at all at this point
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## The Garden Plan: Weeks Two through Four

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### Weeding

- At this point, spending 30-60 minutes a week removing any weeds that pop up should be more than enough. If you catch them small, it is far less likely to create a headache for you

### Watering

- Continue to follow the guidelines above, as long as you are getting a good rain at least once a week there is no need to water

### Trellis

- At some point you will want to build yourself some sort of trellis system for your peas, this is a good time to do so since there is not much else going on in the garden
- Once peas begin to grow, help train them onto your chosen trellis system

### Planting

- In Week 3 you can seed another row of your radish mix in one of the two remaining marked rows. You will want to clear the space fully of any weeds. You could also choose to purchase starts of bunching herbs like cilantro, or small greens like baby bibb head lettuce instead, or direct seed baby greens like arugula or spinach. All of these can be grown easily in a small space


### Thinning

- As the seeds grow you may choose to thin them by carefully removing some of any thickly planted stands.

### Mulch

- Once all of your seeds are a couple inches above the ground you may want to put a thin layer of biodegradable mulch like straw or wood shavings. I use coffee chaff (not grounds) sometimes you can ask a local roaster if they have any.

### Harvesting

- As early as Week 3 you may be ready to harvest scallions, small spring onions and radishes. Keep your eye on them and harvest when they look ready to eat!
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## The Garden Plan: Weeks Five and Six

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### Preparation

- Remove tarping and turnover remaining sections of the garden. If you used a heavy enough tarp, there should not be any weeds. If there are any large weeds you can remove them by hand.

### Transplants: Tomatoes, Peppers, Eggplant

- Tomatoes
  - Acquire no more than 8 total tomato plants of any variety
  - Depending on the size of your starts, dig 8 holes placed in 2 rows at 3-4' apart in quadrants A and C, each hole also 3-4' apart. Holes should be large enough to fit the entire plant in, with 1-2" of stem in the hole
  - Fill holes half way with 1/10 dilution of fish fertilizer, if liquid soaks out immediately fill half way a second time
  - Remove any suckers from plants and place tomato plant in hole and fill hole, including up to 3" of stem. You can also remove the bottom leaves of the plant if they are below the soil line (inside the hole).
  - This amount of liquid should be enough to get the plant through until the next rainfall, do not water plants in from above
  - Be sure to dispose of suckers and bottom leaves away from your garden
  - Depending on how big your starts are, you may need a support system right away. I advise NOT using tomato cages. Better options are stakes with twine using the "california basket weave" technique (easier than it sounds) and suspended wire using twine and clips. We can plan your third visit around this time if you'd like a demonstration of either of these methods.





## The Garden Plan: Weeks Five and Six

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- Peppers
  - Acquire no more than 6 total pepper plants of any variety
  - Dig 4-6 holes 12-18" apart. Holes should be precise size of plant, peppers and eggplant can not have their stems buried like tomatoes
  - Fill holes half way with 1/10 dilution of fish fertilizer, if liquid soaks out immediately fill half way a second time
  - Plant one plant in each hole at ground level
  - This amount of liquid should be enough to get the plant through until the next rainfall, do not water plants in from above


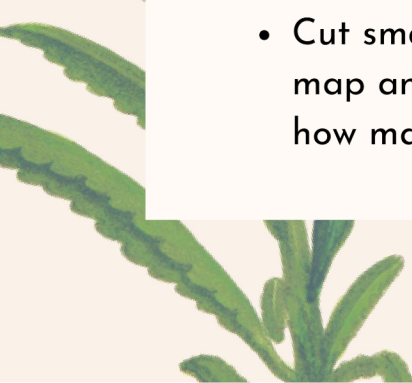
### Harvesting

- By this time you should be actively looking to harvest scallions and onions for fresh eating as well as peas. For onions, as long as the greens are not bent you do not have to worry about getting them out of the ground, they will continue to grow and can be cured if you can not keep up with the fresh onions

### Fabric

- Once you have planted all of your high season transplants, you will want to lay landscape fabric or burlap to prevent weed growth around your plants. I recommend thin stripe that you lay on either

### Direct seeding: Beans and cucumbers

- Acquire pole bean and cucumber seeds. One package is plenty but you may wish to try several varieties. You can also use starts. With these two plant types, I find direct seeding yields healthier plants. You could also add a climbing melon or two here, for those I would advise using starts
  - Cut small holes in the landscape fabric where shown on the map and plant 2-3 seeds in soil in each hole. It's up to you how many of which you'd like!
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## The Garden Plan: Weeks Five and Six

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### Planting

- If you have yet to fill the final row of your radish area, you'll want to do that now, again you can supplement with any small green or bunching herb

### Watering

- Believe it or not I'm still going to advise you against supplemental watering as long as you are getting 1" a week. Here's why! Daily watering puts water on the surface of the garden only, which sort of makes the plants lazy. The water is right there, so they don't need to develop a deep root system to access the ground water. A shallow root system means the plants are more likely to topple over. You know your soil better than me so if you are concerned that it is too dry, you may want to water more than I would. You definitely don't need to water every day, 2x/week max. For tomatoes it is always best not to get the foliage wet if you can help it, so if you do water, do so from below the plants if possible.

### Trellis

- You will now want to build a trellis system for your pole beans and cucumbers. There's no reason you need to keep them separate, but you can if you wish! If your peas are done for the season, you could move that trellis over. It doesn't have to be elaborate, just something for the vines to grow up.
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## The Garden Plan: Week Seven and beyond

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### Tomato maintenance

- Tomatoes grow FAST. You will want to sucker the plants at least 2-3 times a week for the first few weeks. At a certain point you pass a point of no return and they do want they want to so these first few week are crucial to make sure you are setting yourself up for a harvest of large heirlooms!
- Continual clipping or additional string for basket weave. You'll want to check if this is needed about 1x/week

### Weeding

- At this point, you may need to spend 15 minutes a day or equivalent removing any weeds that pop up since they are growing faster, but with the landscape fabric that may not be necessary!

### Supplemental plants

- By now you've likely harvested all of your radishes and peas, and maybe even the bulk of your onions, leaving quadrant B open for impulse buys at the farm stand. As long as you steer away from large plants like tomatoes, zucchini et al., you should let your green thumb go wild! Annual flowers, okra, basil and even bush beans if you're not so sure about the pole beans are all good picks. You could also try a late planting of shelling peas or more sugar snap peas. If you need more specific guidance I am happy to chime in, but from what you told me it sounds like you like picking something up when you see it and I wanted to make sure we saved you some space to let you experiment.
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## The Garden Plan: Week Seven and beyond

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### Harvesting

- For tomato harvest you'll want to keep an eye on the weather. With heirloom tomatoes you almost never want to let them fully ripen on the vine. If there is rain expected, you may even want to pull them off to ripen on the counter even if they're only just breaking (color of the bottom end).
- If you have any onions left, watch for when they start to bend over. At this point they probably will also have started to field cure. You can pull them and put them in a dark well ventilated space to finish curing. We still have onions now in March from our August harvest, so they keep very well if stored properly.

### Clean up

- Once the season is through and everything has been harvested be sure to dispose of the remaining plant matter by burning or yard waste bags, You don't want to let it decompose in the soil to prevent spreading of pathogens.

### Cover crop

- I highly recommend removing all landscape fabric and broadcast seeding a cover crop to protect your soil and add nutrients for next season. Things like red clover, rye, oats and vetch are all good options and can be found in bulk at Marvin Grain in Dartmouth, or online. There is probably an option near you as well. You'll want to put the tarp back down in February of next year over the whole garden and the cover crop will be incorporated into the soil before you start your garden next year!
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