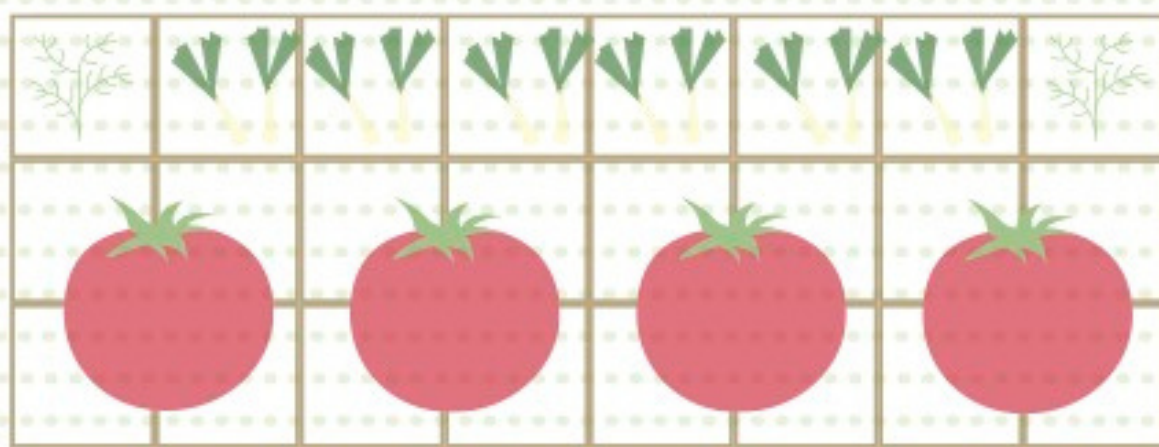
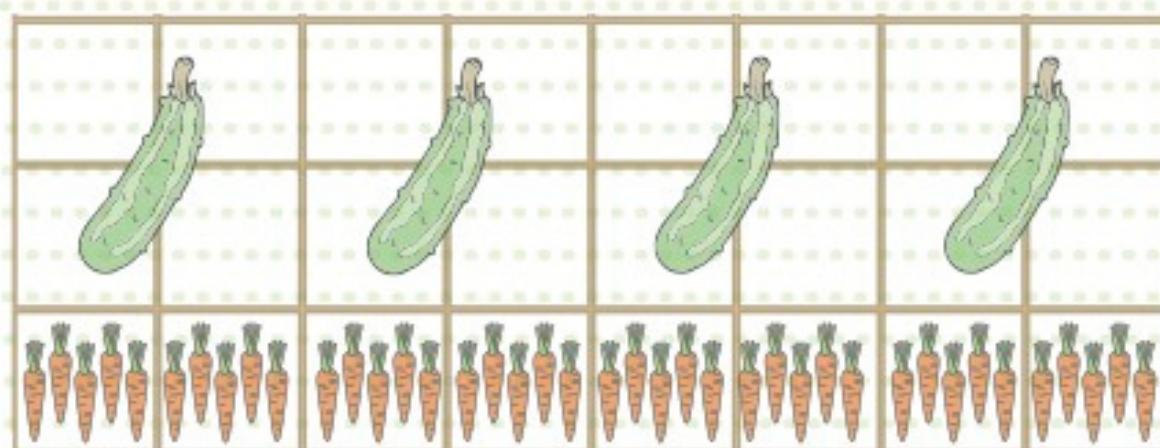




16 The Beginner's Garden RAISED BED Garden Layout Designs

SPRING, SUMMER & FALL VEGETABLE GARDENS



16 Raised Bed Garden Designs

Jill McSheehy

Have you ever needed a little inspiration for your garden design? Perhaps you have an idea what you want to grow but you'd love direction knowing where to grow it. What crops grow best together? Which ones can be planted at about the same time?

In the pages that follow, I'll share with you sixteen raised bed garden designs -- most of which I have personally used in my garden. Take these designs as templates to use right away in your 4x8 raised bed, or use them as inspiration to design any size garden, container, or raised bed.

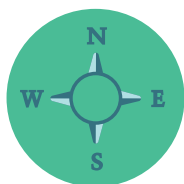
Under each design, I explain "why it works," and give you any necessary growing information I felt it important to include.

For the most part, I tried to stay true to recommended plant spacing as well. Where you might want to change plant spacing is when dealing with smaller plants, such as lettuce and carrots -- where you can usually get more plants per square foot than I had room to include.

Pay special attention to when I mention "summer," or "cool weather," because each of these designs caters to different crops and different seasons. Also of note, if a particular orientation (north, south, west, east) would be preferable to a design, I point that out as well. You will see a cardinal directional marker at the top of the pages where I recommend a specific orientation. Keep in mind -- these directional recommendations are relative and may need to be adjusted based on your climate; however, for most gardeners in the northern hemisphere, these will work well.

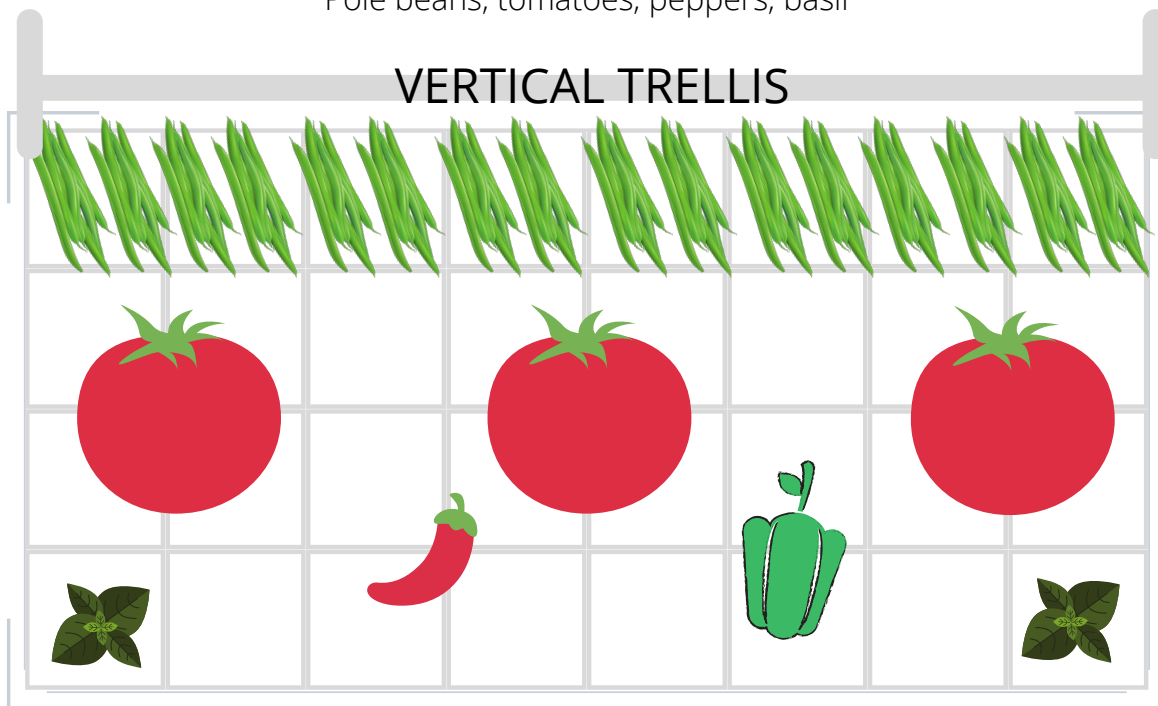
Enjoy your raised bed designs, and may they jumpstart your garden layout ideas this year!

~Jill



Simple Summer Staples

Pole beans, tomatoes, peppers, basil

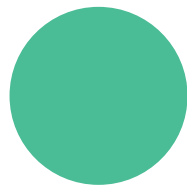


Why this Works

Enjoy four favorites for the summer garden with beans, tomatoes, basil, and peppers in one raised bed.

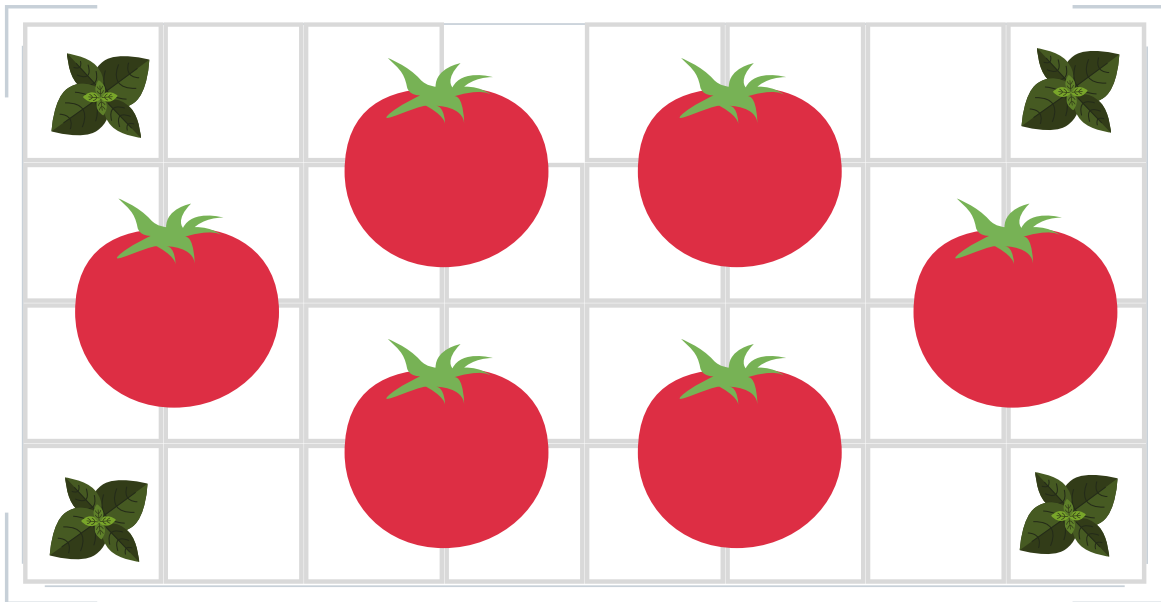
Pole beans work best with this design; construct a trellis on the top end. For best results, orient this design where the beans are on the north (or east) end and the peppers on the south end to ensure sunlight can reach the tomatoes and peppers. However, if you live in an area with very hot summers, and your garden receives full sun, this design would work with the beans on the west side, as tomatoes appreciate afternoon shade in hot climates.

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Italian Summer

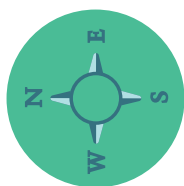
Tomatoes and basil



Why this Works

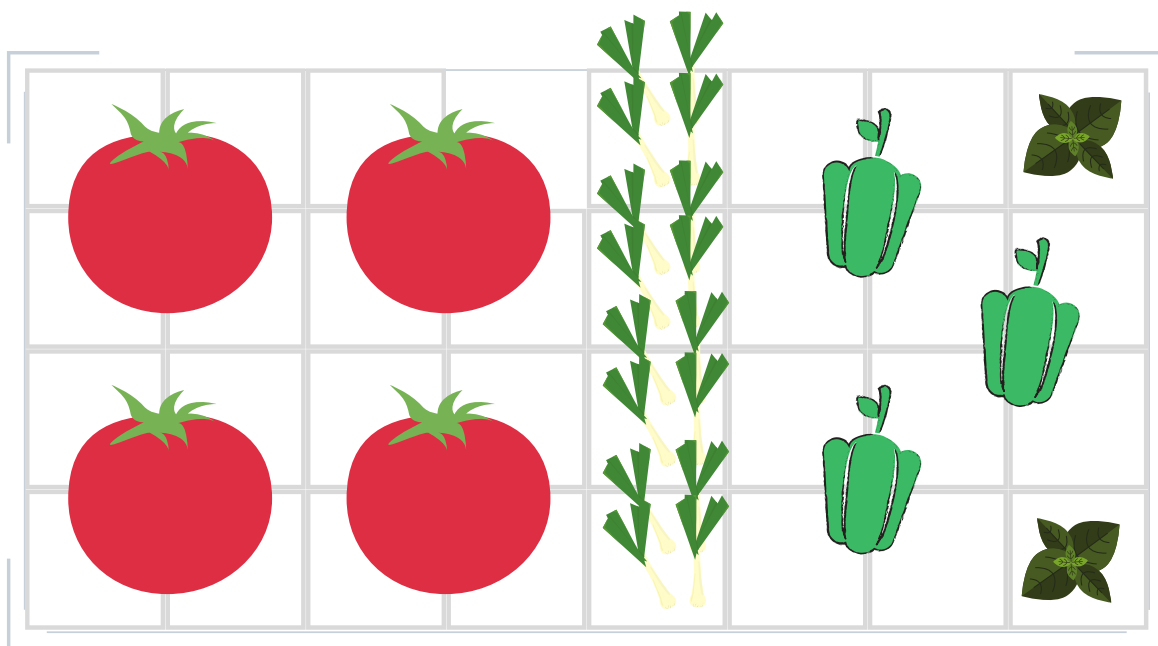
If you eat a lot of Italian food, you'll need a generous amount of tomatoes for sauce, and we can't forget the basil! Thankfully, these two pair nicely both in the garden and on the plate, and many people report fewer tomato pests when basil is planted around the plants.

Roma tomatoes work best in this arrangement, as they are compact and grow to about three feet. But feel free to experiment with other types of tomatoes as well. Orientation in this bed does not matter.



Spaghetti Garden

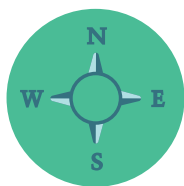
Tomatoes, onions, bell peppers, basil



Why this Works

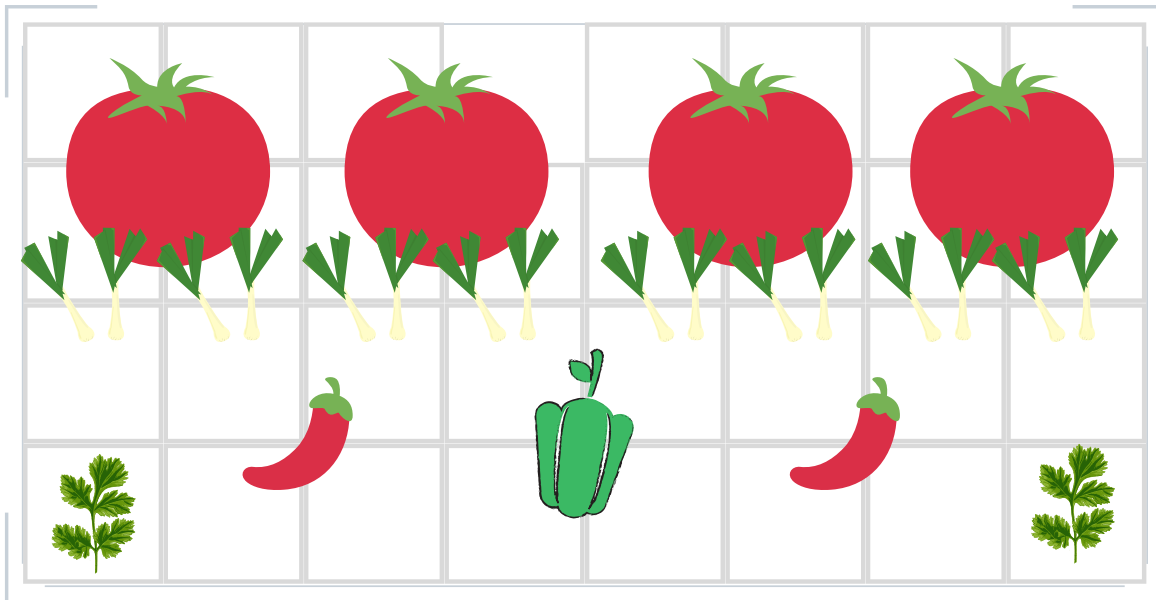
Most of the ingredients for a delicious spaghetti sauce can be grown in one raised bed garden!

Paste tomatoes like Romas bring thickness to sauce, but don't be afraid to experiment with other varieties. If the tomatoes you choose will grow taller than 3 feet, make sure the tomatoes in this layout are on the north (or east) side of the garden so they will not shade out the peppers.



Salsa Garden

Tomatoes, onions, jalapenos, cilantro, bell peppers

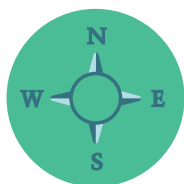


Why this Works

Although different ingredients in salsa harvest at different times, they can still be grown together. Onions and cilantro will be the first ones planted 1-2 months before your average last frost date, with tomatoes and peppers planted after frost has passed. Feel free to replace cilantro with summer herbs once it starts going to flower. Any pepper you want in your salsa will work here as well.

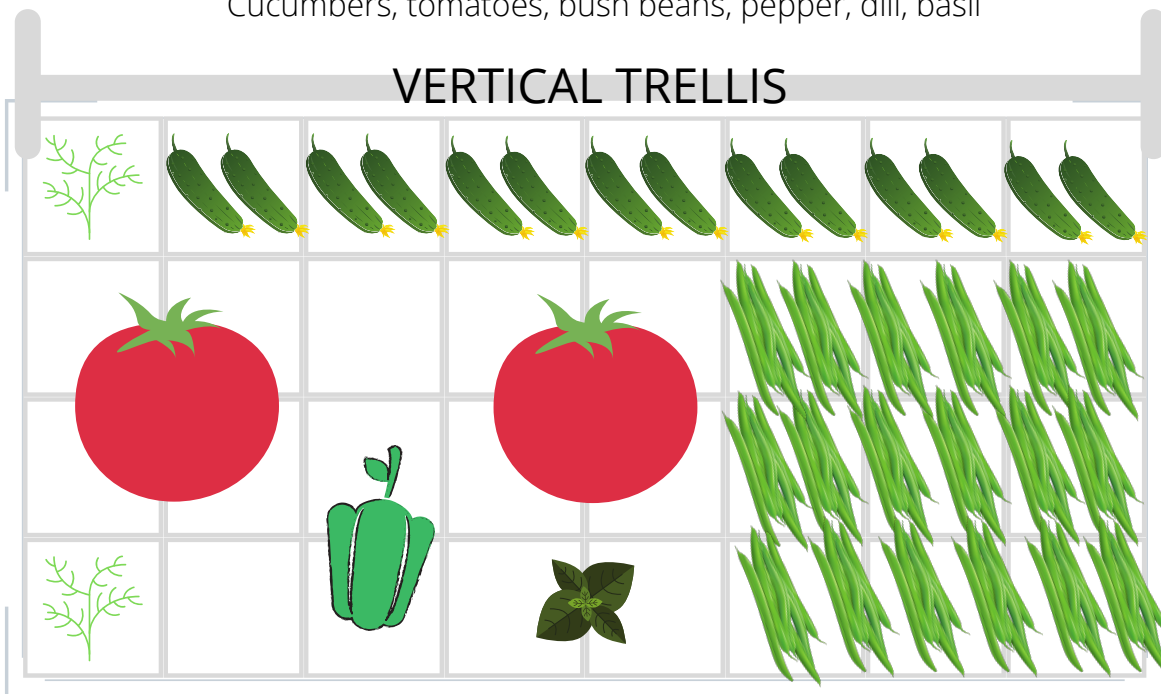
Paste tomatoes like Romas bring chunkiness to your salsa, but don't be afraid to experiment with other varieties. If the tomatoes you choose will grow taller than 3 feet, make sure the tomatoes in this layout are on the north (or east) side of the garden so they will not shade out the peppers.

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Summer Variety

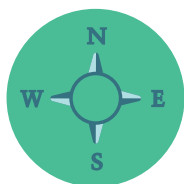
Cucumbers, tomatoes, bush beans, pepper, dill, basil



Why this Works

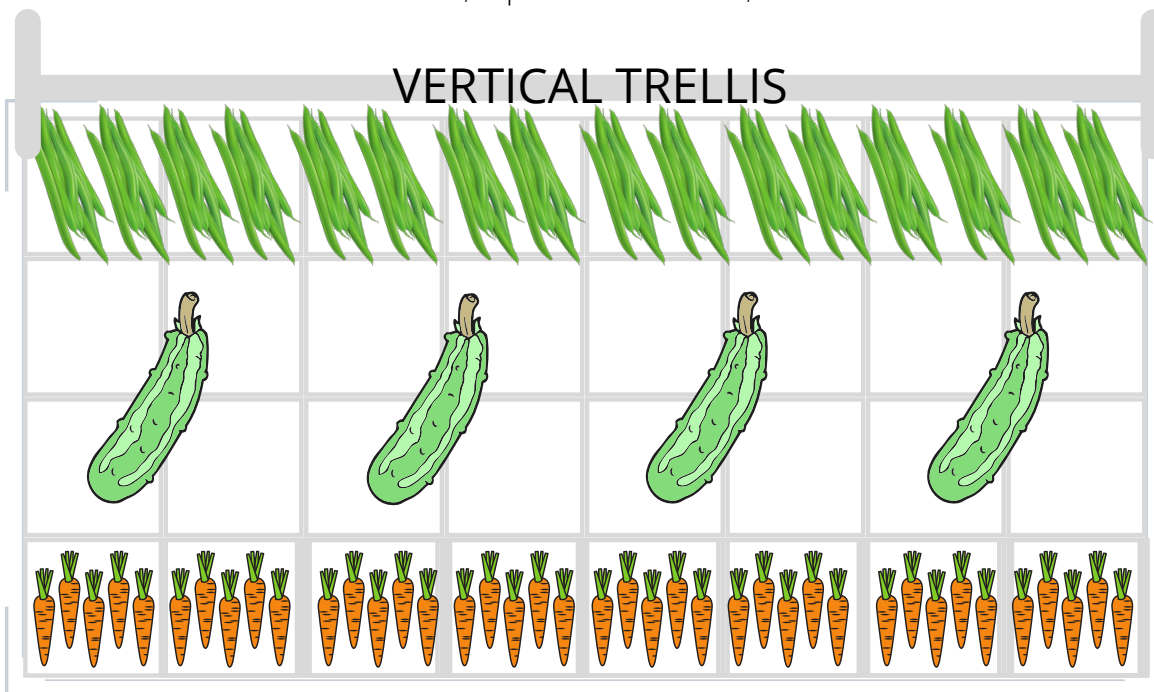
You can make the most of every square foot of your garden with a variety of basic summer crops. Tuck in herbs such as dill and basil for harvesting and for attracting beneficial insects.

Take advantage of vertical gardening by training cucumbers to a trellis. Because they will cast shade, orient your garden where the trellis sits in the north (or east). Smaller tomato plants such as cherry tomatoes and Roma tomatoes work best with this layout.



Summer Harvest Treat

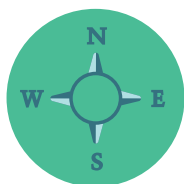
Pole beans, squash or zucchini, carrots



Why this Works

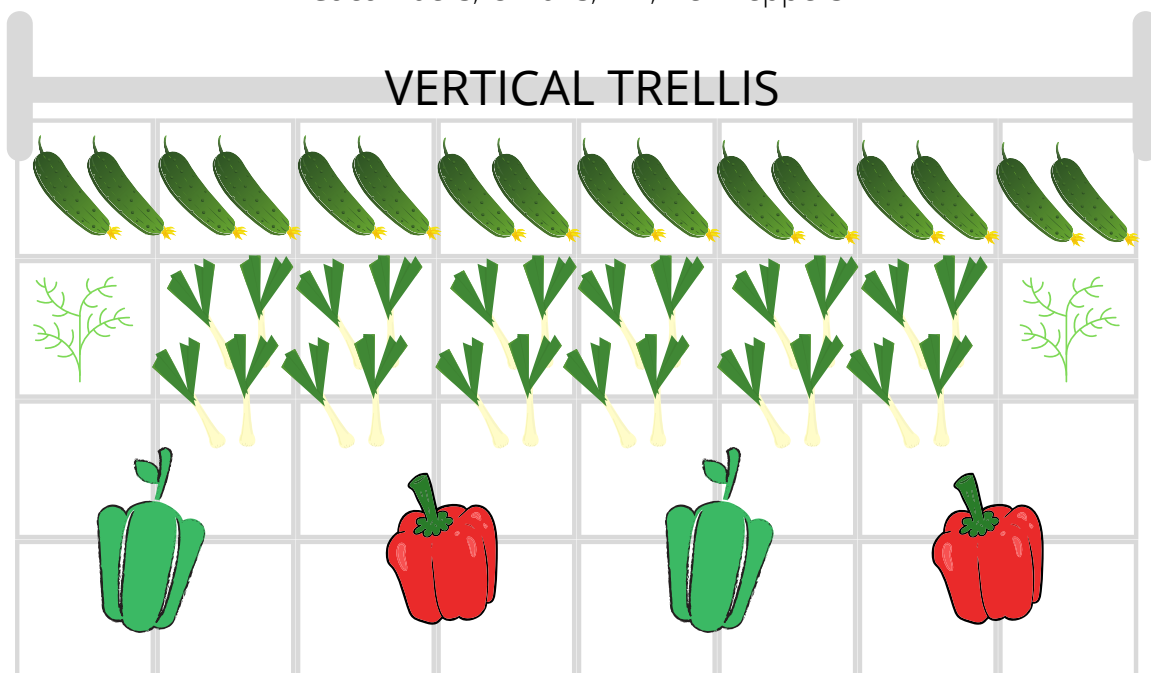
Pole beans grow upward, leaving room for squash or zucchini's sprawling habit. Carrots, planted much earlier than the other veggies can enjoy spring sunlight before the squash and zucchini takes over about the time when carrots are ready to harvest.

Pole beans work best with this design; construct a trellis on the top end. For best results, orient this design where the beans are on the north (or east) end so they do not cast too much shade on squash and zucchini.



Relish Garden

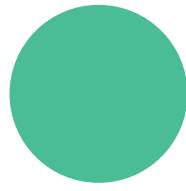
Cucumbers, Onions, Dill, Bell Peppers



Why this Works

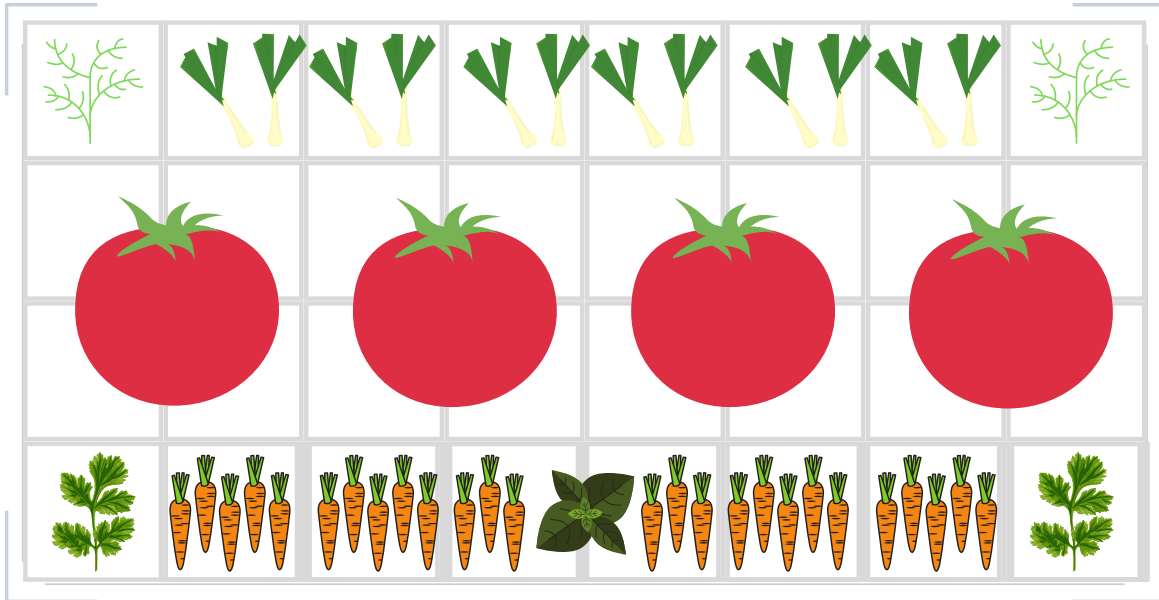
All the garden ingredients for pickle relish grow nicely together, even if they are a mixture of cool weather crops (onions and dill) and warm weather crops (cucumbers and peppers).

Construct a trellis on the top end and grow cucumbers vertically. For best results, orient this design where the cucumbers are on the north (or east) end so they do not cast too much shade on the peppers. Note: all bell peppers will ripen to red; I only included both colors in this design to demonstrate that you can grow both for relish. The only ingredients you'll need for a delicious relish after your harvest are vinegar, celery salt, and mustard seeds!



Basic Veggie & Herb Combo

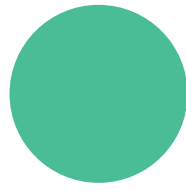
Dill, onions, basil, tomatoes, cilantro, and carrots



Why this Works

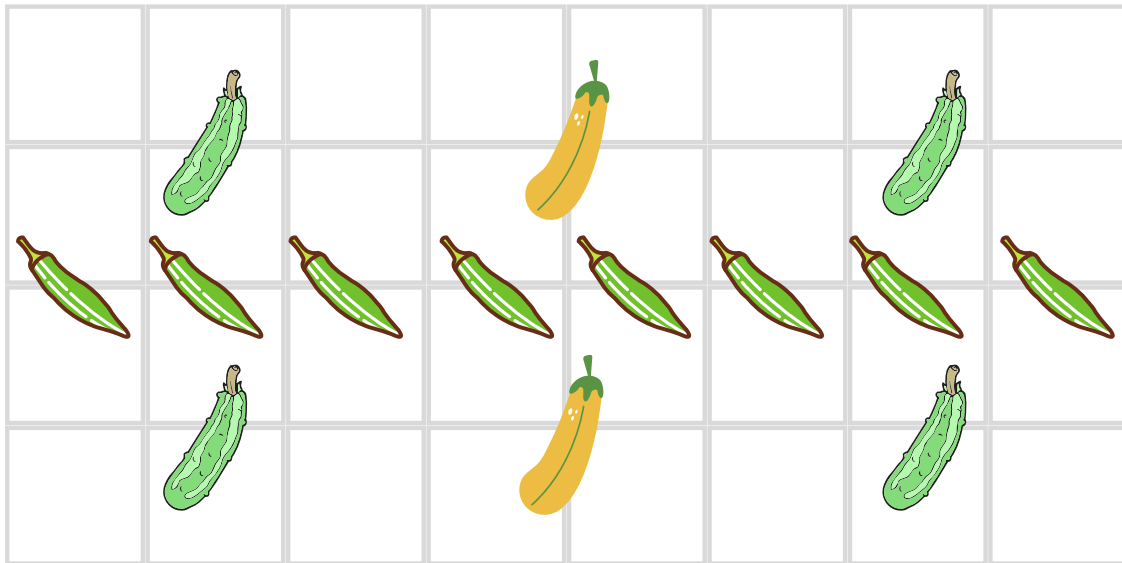
With this simple design, you can fit in several of your must-have basics. Cilantro, carrots, and onions may harvest earlier than your tomatoes, allowing more room for them to take over.

For larger, indeterminate tomatoes, change layout to 3 across instead of 4. And don't switch up the location of the herbs; carrots and dill shouldn't be planted next to one another. Orientation doesn't matter.



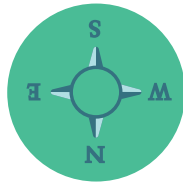
Southern Summer

squash and/or zucchini, okra



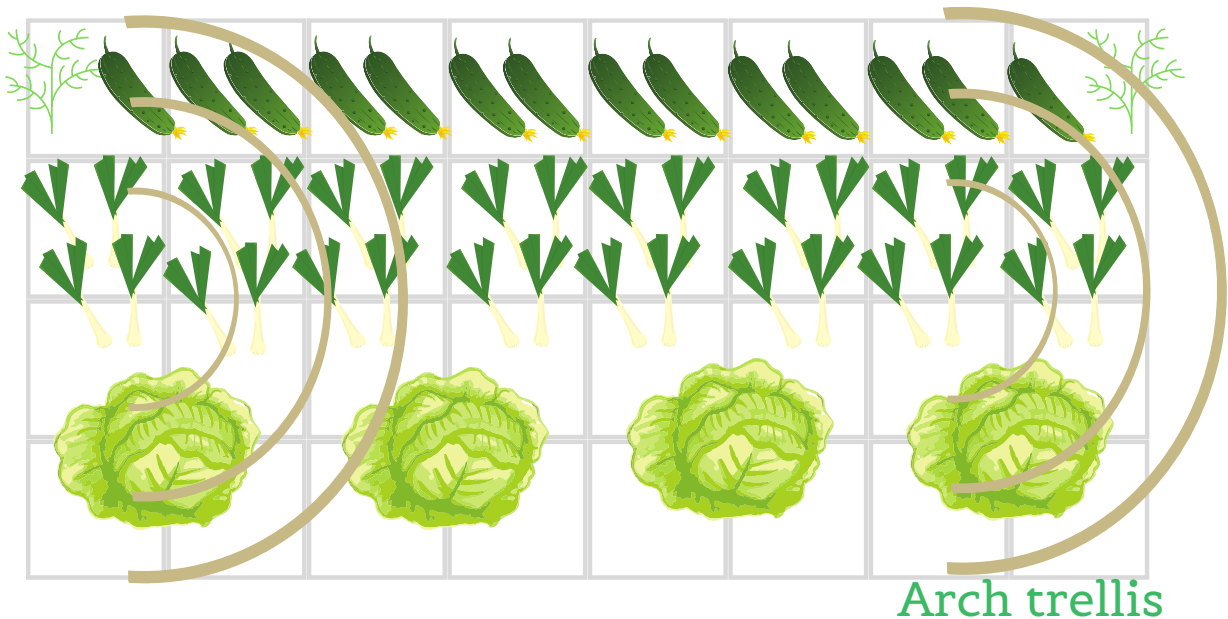
Why this Works

Okra and squash/zucchini both love warm weather, but their differing growth habit compliments one another perfectly. Okra grows tall, while squash and zucchini sprawl out. Their large leaves shades out weed pressure under the okra plants.



Spring Extender

Cucumbers, Onions, Cabbage, Dill

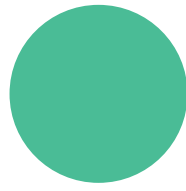


Why this Works

Since cabbage and onions prefer cooler weather and soil, give them the benefit of shade cast by cucumbers growing over the top of them.

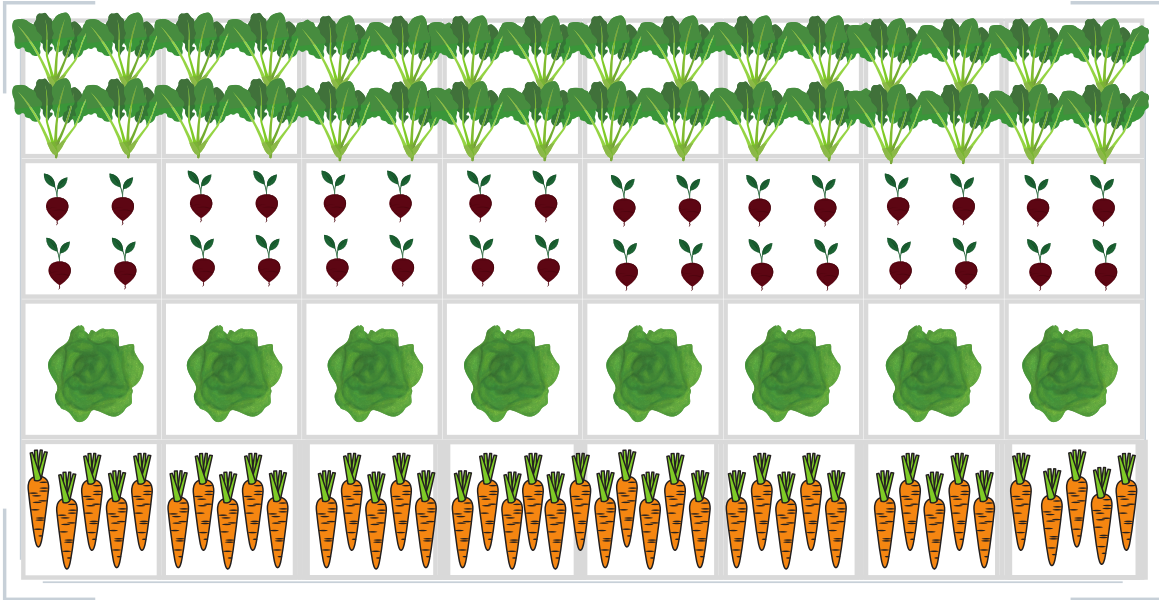
After the onions and cabbage harvest, as long as the cucumbers are still growing strong, plant fall crops under the trellis later in the season.

To get the most from the shade effect, orient the cucumbers anywhere except on the north side.



Cool Season Roots & Greens

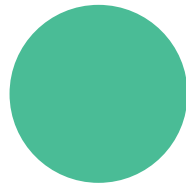
spinach, beets, lettuce, carrots



Why this Works

Whether as a spring or fall crop, each of the plants in this design love cool weather, and planting root vegetables alongside leafy greens makes good use of space. In the spring, spinach and beets may harvest before lettuce and carrots, allowing succession planting for warmer crops in that area first.

If planting non-heading lettuce, you can sow lettuce seed throughout the row above, allowing many more than one plant per square foot, depending on the variety. Orientation doesn't matter.



Tops and Bottoms

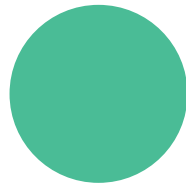
onions, broccoli, beets, carrots



Why this Works

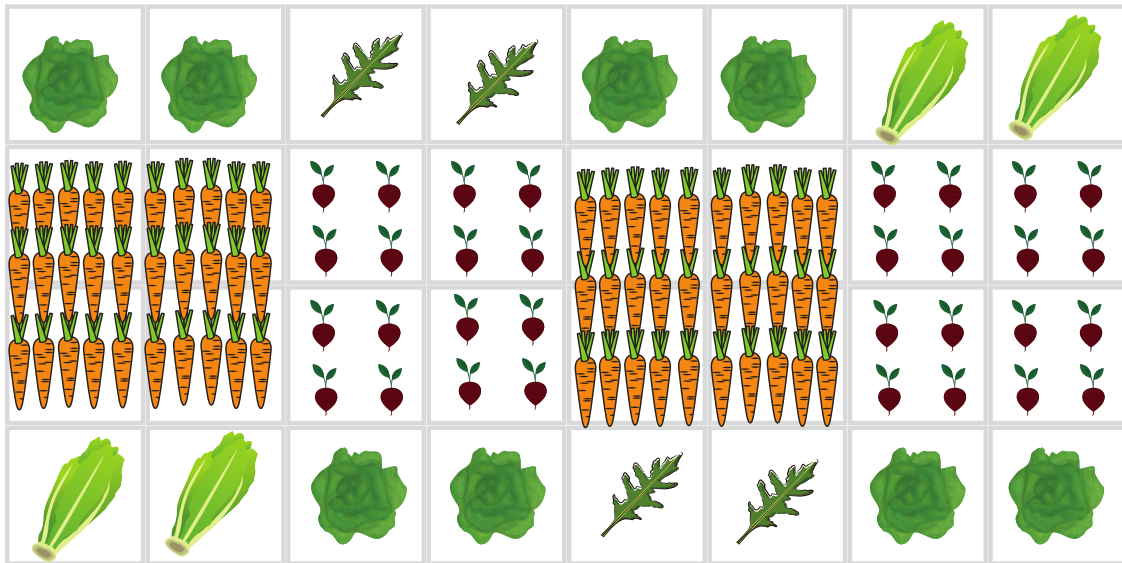
All the plants in this combination thrive in cool weather and must be planted early in the spring. Combining the root crops with the above-growth of broccoli, take full advantage of garden space in the spring or fall. If planting for a fall crop, either substitute more carrots for onions, or grow green onions (they will not bulb in the fall). Low-growing greens like spinach could also be substituted under the broccoli.

Orientation does not matter.



Patchwork Salad Bowl

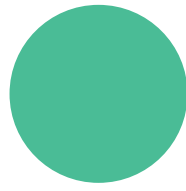
mixture of lettuces, carrots, and beets



Why this Works

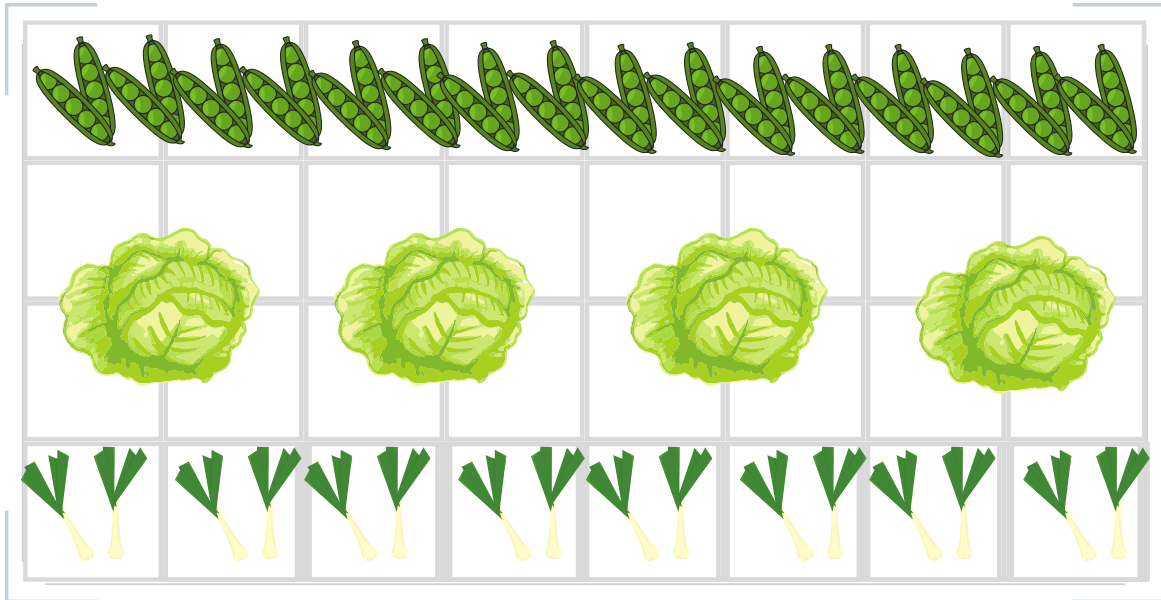
Bringing together the cool season roots of carrots and beets alongside a mixture of lettuces sets the table for a fresh garden salad in the spring or fall. Break out of traditional rows with this "patchwork" design, and add even more "pop" by including many different varieties and colors of lettuces.

Orientation does not matter.



Early Season Jumpstart

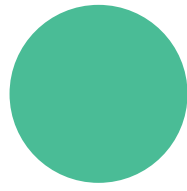
Peas, cabbage, onions



Why this Works

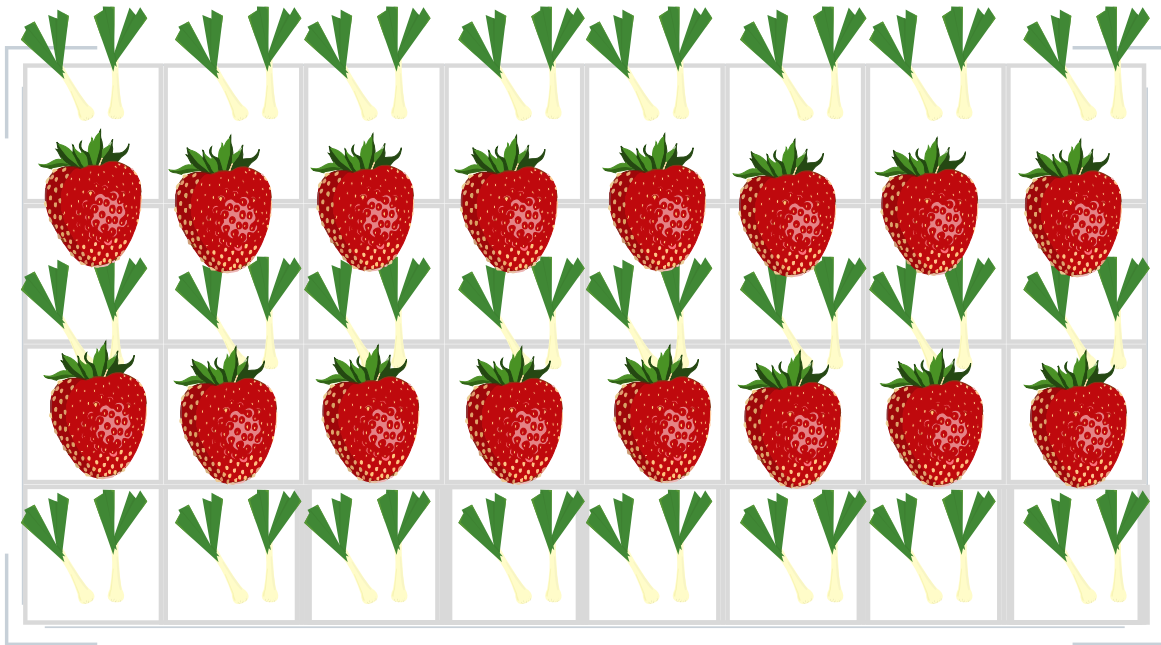
Peas, cabbage, and onions can all be planted early in the season, around 4 weeks before your average last frost date (sometimes earlier for onions). Onions are also thought to be a good companion plant with cabbage to deter cabbage worms.

If you choose peas with a climbing habit, construct a trellis at the top end and orient your bed where the peas are on the north. If you choose a bush pea, the orientation does not matter.



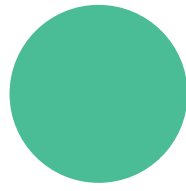
Opposites Attract

strawberries and onions



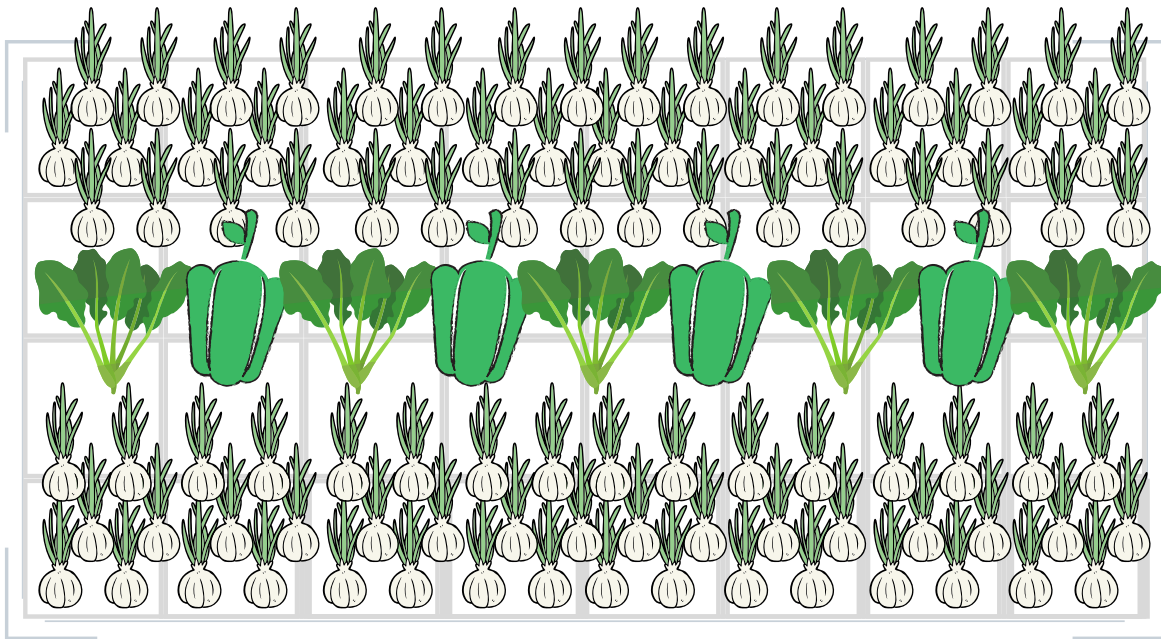
Why this Works

When first planted, most strawberries require 12-18" spacing and 2' between rows, but when they are young plants, that leaves a lot of wasted space. (Next season, new strawberries will have grown from runners in between.) For the first season, onions can fill that space without competing with the young strawberry plants. Plus, both onions and strawberries can tolerate slightly acidic soil similarly.



12-Month Succession

Garlic, peppers, spinach



Why this Works

Garlic and spinach grow in the cool season and are harvested in early summer, while peppers enjoy hot season and aren't planted til early summer.

All plants will grow together for a short period of time.

Plant garlic around your average first frost date in the fall. Plant spinach in late winter. Plant peppers one month after average last frost in spring between spinach plants. If you are starting in the spring, you can plant garlic after your first frost, which will kill pepper plants.

Orientation doesn't matter.

I hope these ideas have given you inspiration for your garden design and layout! I'd love to see how you put them in place this season! Send me an email at jill@journeywithjill.net or tag me on Instagram @thebeginnersgarden.

And if you're not yet a listener, I encourage you to check out my podcast, the Beginner's Garden Podcast.

Happy Gardening!

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