

# York/Poquoson Master Gardeners Learning Garden at the Poquoson Museum

## 968 Poquoson Avenue, Poquoson, VA

### Square Foot Gardening

Square Foot Gardening is a specific gardening system developed by Mel Bartholemew. Square foot gardeners plant in blocks rather than rows, usually in raised beds, and reach in to tend the plants rather than walking on the soil they're trying to plant. Each seed is planted individually, rather than scattering seeds in long rows and given exactly the space they need to make every inch of space in the gardens productive. As soon as one crop is harvested, pull out the plants, add an equal amount of compost back to replenish the soil, and then replant with something new. In this way, the gardens use less space, water, and time than many more traditional gardens.

#### Ten basic concepts of Square Foot Gardening:

1. **Layout:** Arrange your garden in squares, not rows.
2. **Boxes:** Build 6-inch-deep raised bed boxes to hold a new soil mix above ground.
3. **Aisles:** Space boxes 3' apart to form working and walking aisles
4. **Soil:** Fill boxes with Mel's Mix (equal parts by volume of compost, peat moss, vermiculite or perlite)
5. **Grid:** In the top of each box, mark or use a square foot grid for your planting areas.
6. **Care:** Never walk on your growing soil. Tend your garden from the aisles.
7. **Select:** Plant a different flower, vegetable, or herb crop in each square foot, according to the plant's spacing needs.
8. **Plant:** Plant seeds in each square foot space according to the mature size of plant or plant plants in the square foot spaces in a light saucer-shaped depression, again according to the mature size of the plant.
9. **Water:** Water by hand.
10. **Harvest:** When you finish harvesting a square foot bed, replenish with compost and replant with a new and different crop.



*and start planting*

Square Foot Gardening Foundation  
<http://www.squarefootgardening.org/>

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