

## Worksheet 3: Make a Planting Plan

Making a planting plan is all about taking full advantage of the space you have and raised garden beds to help maximise your crop output. As well as being extremely beneficial to the beginner gardener, planning well in the early stages of the season will also help ensure the highest yielding garden possible.

### Where do I start?

Go out into the garden and work out the best possible place for your vegetable plot. If you have the choice, it's good to grow veg in the kind of sunny, sheltered spot where you might want to sunbathe.

Most of the plants going into the patch are annuals. They need to grow rapidly and need all the help they can get and plenty of food. That's only possible in full sun, so avoid overhanging trees and shade-throwing sheds and buildings as far as possible.

As well as sun, many plants such as tomatoes and cucumbers need shelter from the wind. They won't grow well if rocked at their roots and their leaves will blacken with wind burn.

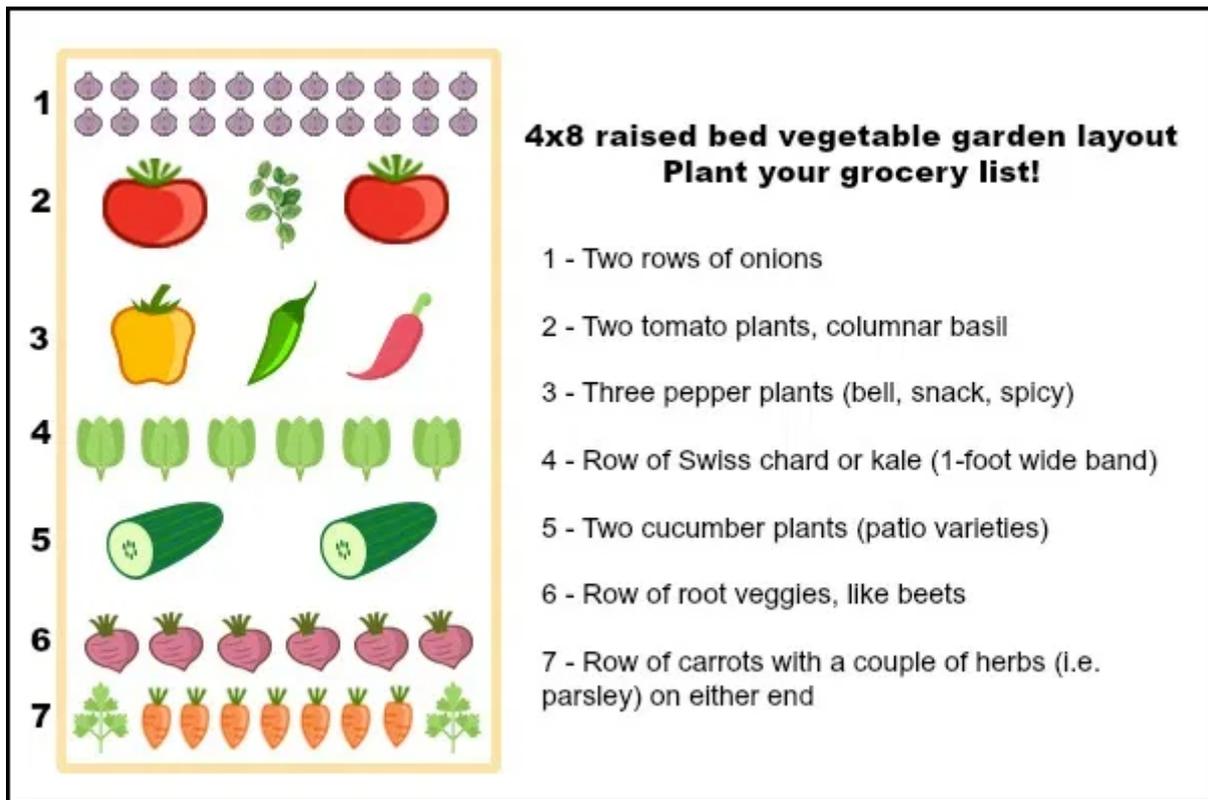
Try fencing panels, hurdles or even think of planting a permanent hedge on the windy, western side of the plot. These will give the more delicate plants a chance of survival outside.

If you can't find hurdles, use a few straw bales for instant effect. These provide a cheap, but perfect temporary wind break, which can be removed once the worst of the spring winds are over in early May.

It's worth knowing that a wind break will protect an area about five times its height, so a two-metre hurdle protects for 10 metres.

### Planning ahead..

Once you have your site in mind, then it's time to plan – you will need pencil and paper to make your plan, the idea of plan is that you have an idea about what you want to plant and where you want to plant it before starting work. Keep it simple, and create planting rows, see below.



This plan is a basic and simple one, and we would suggest that you keep it simple, a plan like this can be added to as you get more confident – or if you have more space. If you have lots of space and can build raised beds, then you can create beds for different types of vegetables.