

GARDEN PLANNER

V3

USER GUIDE

The Garden Planner is the perfect way to create plans of your growing area and organize your vegetable garden. This online app makes it easy to create plans regardless of the size or shape of your growing area. It enables you to calculate how many plants will fit into a space, change the design and keep track of plants on your garden layout, making succession planting and crop rotation much simpler. Whether you use raised beds, traditional row-based planting, or the Square Foot Gardening method, the Garden Planner has features to make planning and keeping track of your garden simple.



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GETTING STARTED

CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

CREATE AN ACCOUNT BUTTON



The Create an Account button can be found at the top right hand corner of your screen.

The Garden Planner is free for the first 7 days, and no payment information is required. A subscription does not start automatically, and you can unsubscribe or opt out of the twice-monthly newsletter emails at any time.

ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Create Account

At present, the Garden Planner works on a PC & Mac. Our [new version](#) is now available as a 'beta test' which doesn't require Flash Player. Early in 2021 we'll be extending it to work on many tablets. [Find out more.](#)

Your account can also be used for the Garden Journal which works on all mobile devices as well as PCs and Macs.

Creating an account starts your 7 day free trial of the Garden Planner and gives you access to the Garden Journal.

Email

Password

Repeat Password

Country

☒ Send me emails to remind me when to sow and plant out

☒ Send me occasional emails with special subscription offers or other gardening deals

We will send you an activation email, seven introductory emails and reminders when your account expires. You can unsubscribe from Garden Planner emails at any time by using the link at the bottom of the emails. Please be assured that we will never share your details with any other company for marketing purposes.

By creating an account you are agreeing to the [Terms & Conditions](#) which govern your use of this service.

Create an Account

A valid email address is required to send the planting reminders and account notification emails (e.g. end of free trial).

Enter and retype your password to ensure that it is entered correctly. You will use this to log in to your plans. Passwords must be at least 6 characters long and should not be obvious. It is best to

choose a password that contains letters and numbers and is not the same as part of your email address.

Select your country so that the Garden Planner loads the appropriate plant information and weather station data.

Read and select your email options. Clicking on the **Terms and Conditions** link will open it in a new browser window or tab. By creating an account you are agreeing to the Terms & Conditions which govern your use of the website.

Click Create an Account.

NOTE: We respectfully ask that you do not share your account with anyone outside of your household. If you feel that you require an exception, please contact us. We have special accounts available for educational institutions and organizations that use the Garden Planner for training purposes.

ACTIVATE YOUR ACCOUNT

CHECK EMAIL

In order to activate your account you will need the activation code, which is sent to you by email to confirm that your email address works. This is sent immediately, so if you do not see it in your inbox be sure to check your junk mail, spam, or promotions folder.

ENTER ACTIVATION CODE

Enter your activation code in the **Activate Your Account** box.

If this window is closed before the code is entered, you can reopen it by logging in using the email address and password you set when you created your account. See [Logging In](#).

RESEND ACTIVATION CODE

If you did not receive your activation code, you can enter your email and password in the **Login** box and click the **Resend Activation Email** option.

If you are still unable to activate your account, it could be because there is a problem with your email account or your internet provider is incorrectly blocking the activation email. Please check the junk, spam or promotions folder in your email app to make sure it hasn't been accidentally diverted there. You can use the **Resend Activation Email** option to provide a different email address.

Please [Contact us](#) if these options are unsuccessful, including both the email address you created your account with and an alternative email address if you have one.

LOGGING IN

LOGIN TO THE GARDEN PLANNER



Click on Login at the top right of your screen on the website.

Enter your email address and password in the **Login** boxes, then click Login.

If you forget your password, click **Forgotten Password?** in the **Login** box to have the system send you a temporary password by email (please note that the password is sent as plain text, so you should only use this option if you are happy that your email account is secure and private).

If you have not yet activated your account, you will be prompted to enter your activation code.

If you have not yet set your frost dates, you will be prompted to do this.

If your free trial or subscription has expired, when you attempt to open the Garden Planner you will be prompted to go to our secure subscription page to add a subscription to your account.

LOGGING OUT OF THE GARDEN PLANNER

To log out, click on **Account** in the main menu at the bottom left of the Garden Planner, then click **Logout**.

Alternatively, click your browser's Back button to return to the main website, click on your email address at the top right corner of your screen, then click **Logout**.

You can stay logged in to your Garden Planner account if you wish, but this is not advisable on a shared computer or device.

ACCOUNT SETTINGS

The Account Settings option under the **Your Account** heading on the welcome screen once you've logged in enables you to make changes to displayed units of measurement, your account email address, password, email settings, and public plan availability. You can also adjust your location and frost dates and subscribe or resubscribe on this page.

General Settings

You can override these measurement settings for each plan when using the Garden Planner if required.

Weight Units

- ☐ Imperial (pounds, ounces)
- ☒ Metric (kilograms, grams)

Length Units

- ☐ Imperial (miles, yards)
- ☒ Metric (kilometers, meters)

Temperature Units

- ☐ Imperial (fahrenheit)
- ☒ Metric (celsius)

[Save General Settings](#)

Email Settings

Email

☒ Send me emails to remind me when to sow and plant out

☐ Include perennial plants when sending email reminders of when to plant, useful for new gardens

☒ Send me occasional emails with special subscription offers or other gardening deals

[Save Email Settings](#)

Change Password

New Password

Repeat Password

Password must be at least 6 characters
Passwords do not match

[Change Password](#)

Under **General Settings**, select which units you wish to use for weights, measurements and temperature. Click **Save General Settings** to save your changes.

To change your email address, type it into the box provided. When you click **Save Email Settings**, you will be sent a new activation code, which you must enter on your next login to verify that the email address is a valid one.

You can also opt in or out of receiving sowing and planting email reminders twice a month (found at the bottom of the email newsletter), choose to include perennials when sending out planting reminders, or receive emails with special subscription or other gardening offers. Click **Save Email Settings** to save your changes.

To change your password, enter and retype it as instructed. Click **Change Password** when you are finished making your changes.

Under **Plan Settings** you can choose whether or not any plans you make are visible to other users in our Garden Plans Gallery. Click **Save Plan Settings** when you're done.

SET YOUR FROST DATES

If the Locate Your Garden box does not automatically appear, click **Location and Frost Dates** on the **Your Account** page.

Enter your zip or postal code or address and click **Search**. The Garden Planner will locate your garden on the map. You can repeat this with additional address details if it does not find an accurate location the first time.

NOTE: You must have the correct country set for your account for this to work. If you need to change it, please click on the Country drop-down box.

If necessary, drag the map marker to make your location more accurate.


Location & Frost Dates

Country: United States

Set your location by searching for an address, moving the map marker or clicking 'Find Location' on the map.

Address Lookup Search

Find Location



Frost Dates

Automatic Frost Dates Manual Frost Dates

! Your frost dates will be set automatically when you save. If you need to change them, please use the Manual Frost Dates tab.

Last Frost - Apr 5

First Frost - Nov 6

You have a split growing season

Save

Click **Save** at the bottom of the page and the Garden Planner will locate your nearest weather station from our database of over 5,000 weather stations. The system will set your frost dates to match the average for the nearest weather station, and these dates will be used to calculate the recommended planting and harvesting times for all the plants in our database so that they suit your location.

Please note: For Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, we use a different system based on postcodes. This is more accurate for these areas than the frost date system used for Northern Hemisphere locations. If you live in one of these countries you won't see frost date calendars or be able to adjust your frost dates.

You can manually adjust your own dates by clicking on Manual Frost Dates then setting your last and first frost dates. This is useful if you live in a microclimate that differs from information available from the nearest weather station, which can be the case if you live a long way from the nearest weather station or if your elevation is much higher or lower.

We currently have weather station data for the following countries:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| • USA | • Spain |
| • Canada | • Portugal |
| • UK | • Netherlands |
| • Ireland | • Belgium |
| • Australia | • Denmark |
| • New Zealand | • Switzerland |
| • France | • South Africa |
| • Germany | |

Other locations may be added in the future.

If your country is not in the above list, you will need to manually set your frost dates as described above.

Setting your frost dates is necessary in order for the system to calculate recommended planting times and planting reminders for your area which are used on the [Plant List](#) and [planting reminder emails](#).

Select the **My area does not experience frost** box if applicable.

Select the **Split Growing Season** box if your climate is too hot to grow certain plants during the summer. (This splits the season into separate spring and fall plantings for ‘cool-season’ crops that do not grow well through hot summers e.g. lettuce.) This option will be automatically checked if you have a long growing season, but you can override the setting if necessary.

You can change your location or check your frost dates at any time by clicking on **Location and Frost Dates**.

When you are finished, click **Save** to update your settings.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

The Garden Planner runs on desktop or laptop computers with an up-to-date browser such as Chrome, Edge, Firefox or Safari, running on Windows or MacOS. Your computer should have at least 4GB of RAM.

The Garden Planner will work on iPad OS 12 and newer. It should also work on other reasonably fast tablets.

The Garden Planner is not currently supported on phones due to the small screen size, however the [Publish Plan to Web](#) feature enables you to view any plan or Plant List you have created in the Garden Planner on those devices.

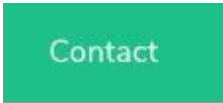
The Garden Journal works on phones, tablets and computers.

LAUNCHING THE GARDEN PLANNER

To start the Garden Planner, first login at the top right corner of the website then click the Start Garden Planner button. If you have a slow internet connection (e.g. dial-up) the Garden Planner may take a few minutes to load.

If you're using an iPad or other touchscreen tablet, when you open the Garden Planner you will have the option of turning on Touch Mode (recommended). This makes it easier to move and resize items on your plan using your finger.

GETTING HELP

Contact

Click the **Contact** button in the menu next to the Start the Garden Planner button.

You can find a link to our FAQs page here, but if this doesn't answer your question you can send a message using the form shown below.

CONTACT FORM

Contact Us

At GrowVeg we care about providing you with the best support possible. To get an answer to your question quickly use our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page or if you can't find an answer to your question there, please fill in the form below - we aim to respond within 24 hours.

Your Name:

Email Address:

Re-type Email:

Type of Question:

Message:

2NN6J

Security Code:

(Please enter the code above to help prevent automated spam)

All sections are required to be completed.

Enter and retype your email address so that we can be sure to respond to the correct address. If you don't receive a response within 24 hours, please send an alternative email address as we may have had difficulty sending a reply through to your account.

If your message is a request for support, please describe the problem, the steps you have already taken, what you see on the screen, and what you expected to see. We aim to respond quickly to all requests, but this can sometimes take 24 hours or more during busy periods. Please note that we cannot answer general gardening questions. However, there are plenty of resources on our website, Facebook pages, YouTube Channel and internet forums to help you with these.

TIP: If you have not had a response back after 48 hours please check your email address is working (send yourself an email to be sure) and provide us with an alternative email address to contact you if you have one.

Alternatively, click on [Help and Support](#) in the left-hand menu within the Garden Planner.

THE GARDEN PLANNER DASHBOARD

The Garden Planner dashboard is where you can quickly access all the different parts of the Garden Planner.

OVERVIEW

QUICK ACTIONS

The Quick Actions menu includes shortcuts to:

- Open Plan
- Create New Plan
- Garden Planner User Guide

7 DAY FORECAST

View upcoming weather forecasts for the your garden including expected maximum and minimum temperatures, precipitation and wind speed and direction.

UPCOMING REMINDERS

Click on **New Reminder** to set a reminder. Click on the Reminder Date and set the date you want the reminder to display in the Upcoming Reminders. Type a description of the reminder, then click **Add**.

Click **Dismiss** once you've completed a task. Toggle on **Show Dismissed** to view reminders that you've already dismissed. Click **Restore** on a dismissed reminder to reinstate it.

Click **Edit** to make changes to a reminder. Click **Save** when you're done.

NEWS & UPDATES

You can find updates such as our latest articles and videos and updates to the Garden Planner app here.

SUGGESTED ARTICLES

Five suggested articles and videos are listed here. These typically change weekly.

HELP & USER GUIDES

Links to User Guides, videos, Plant Grow Guides and Pest Guides are shown here.

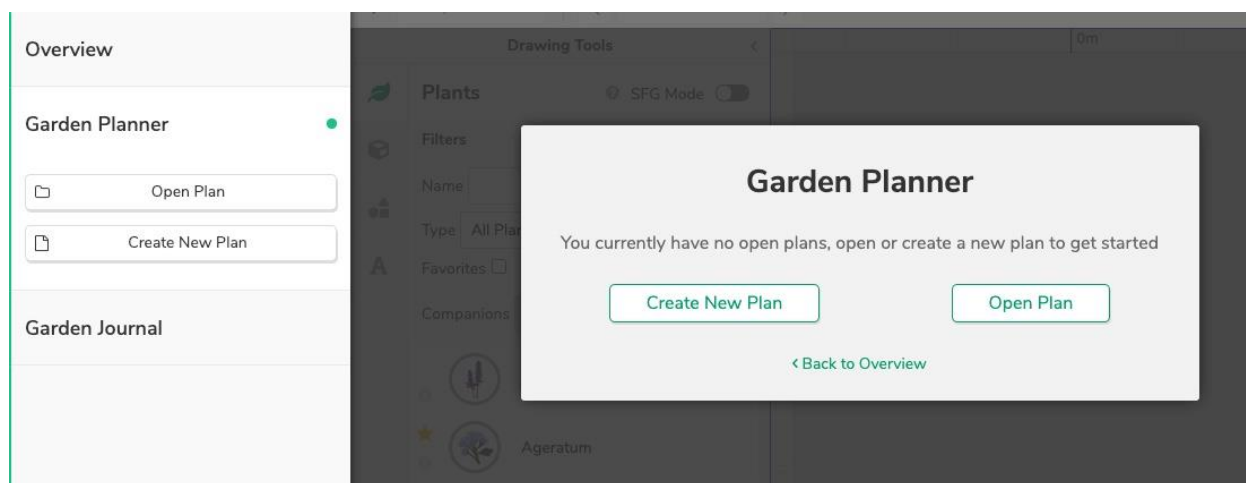
SUPPORT

Please see [Help & Support](#).

GARDEN PLANNER



Click on the Garden Planner button then select [Create New Plan](#).

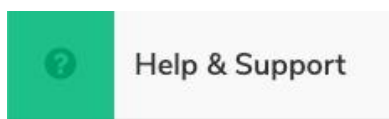


GARDEN JOURNAL



Click on the Garden Journal button to open your Journal. The Garden Journal user guide is coming soon.

HELP & SUPPORT



If you need to contact our customer services team please fill in your name and message, then click **Submit**. We aim to respond within 24 hours.

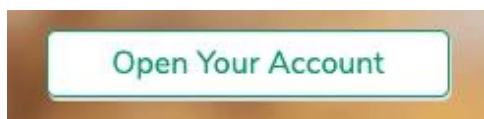
If your message is a request for support, please describe the problem, the steps you have already taken, what you see on the screen, and what you expected to see. We aim to respond quickly to all requests, but this can sometimes take 24 hours or more during busy periods. Please note that we cannot answer general gardening questions. However, there are plenty of resources on our website, Facebook pages, YouTube Channel and internet forums to help you with these.

For both the Garden Planner and Garden Journal you can find:

- **About**
- **FAQ**
- **User Guide**

The **Release History** is also listed here which details the updates that have been issued.

ACCOUNT



We're working on integrating your Account Settings more closely with the Garden Planner. In the meantime, click on Open Your Account to go to your [Account Settings](#) page.

GARDEN PLANS

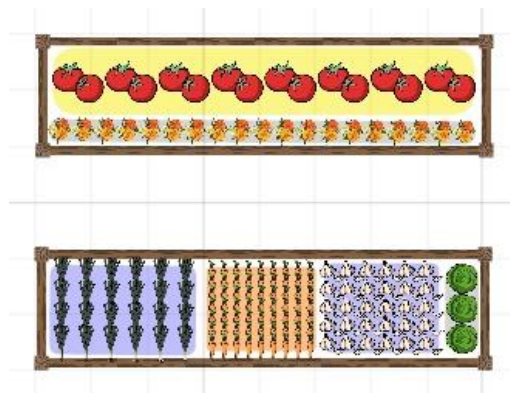
BEFORE YOU CREATE A PLAN...

MEASURE YOUR GARDEN

Before creating your first plan in the Garden Planner it is helpful to measure your garden area. Plan your whole growing space including paths around your planting area as each plan in the Garden Planner can contain multiple growing areas or vegetable beds.

Recording accurate measurements at the start will be much easier than having to correct them later when you have already added plants to your plan(s).

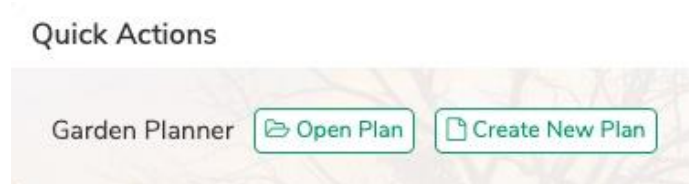
- Know the size and location of your beds and planting areas and the gaps between them.
- Know the size and location of any stationary objects such as sheds and compost bins.



CREATE YOUR FIRST GARDEN PLAN

Log in and click on the **Start the Garden Planner** button.

Click **Create New Plan** under Quick Actions, or alternatively click on **Garden Planner**, then click **Create New Plan**.



TIP: If you are an experienced gardener you may wish to create previous years' plans first and then use the [Follow-on plan option](#) to copy the layout for subsequent years. This gives you the advantage of using the crop rotation feature for the current year's plan.

TIP: You can create up to five plans per year, and each plan can accommodate many vegetable beds and growing areas. If your growing area is large it's a good idea to split it up into several plans. If you feel your growing space requires more plans, please [contact](#) us with details of your requirements.

THE CREATE A NEW PLAN BOX

First, name your garden plan. The year will automatically be added to the name, so it is best to just use a descriptive name (e.g. – ‘Backyard’ rather than ‘2021 Backyard’).

Select the year for which the plan applies by clicking on the Year drop-down box.

If you live in the Southern Hemisphere, the years will be split (i.e. – 2020/21) and they will run from July one year to June of the next.

It is very important that the year is correct as planting reminders will be sent by email only for the current year. There is one exception to this rule: for the last two months of the growing year (November and December in the Northern Hemisphere and May and June in the Southern Hemisphere), planting reminders are sent for plans for the next growing year since most planting will then be for the next season.

Under **Plan Dimensions**, enter the *total* size of your garden. A common mistake is to make a separate plan for each vegetable bed; this isn’t necessary and will lead you to hit the limit of 5 plans per year quickly (one plan during the 7 day free trial period). It is usually best to draw all of your beds onto one plan. However, for larger plans you can also split the growing area into more than one plan in order to limit the amount of scrolling around the screen that you will need to do. If you feel that you need more than 5 plans per year to accommodate your growing space, please contact us.

TIP: If you need to change the name or year of your garden plan, you can do so later by using the [Settings](#) button on the toolbar. Units can be changed using the [Plan Size & Grid](#) button.

Choose whether you would like to use metric measurements or feet and inches.
Click **Create Plan**.

IF YOUR GARDEN AREA IS NOT RECTANGULAR

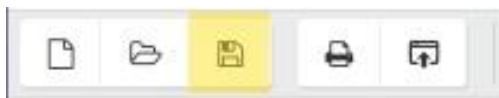
Create a rectangular plan large enough to fit your garden within it.
Draw the boundaries using the line tool (which can found in the Shapes menu) or Fences (see [Garden Objects](#)).



DRAWING YOUR GARDEN PLAN

SAVING YOUR PLAN

After you make any changes to your plan, save it by clicking the **Save** button on the toolbar (highlighted):



It's a good idea to save your plan at every stopping point and always before you close the plan. However, the system will also auto-save every 10 minutes and when you change tabs by default unless you turn this option off in your plan's **Settings**.

NAVIGATING AROUND YOUR PLAN

SCROLLING

There are two ways to scroll around your plan.

1. Left-click and drag on a blank area of your plan.
2. Right-click and drag anywhere on your plan. This is particularly useful for plans that are planned very intensively, to prevent accidental moving of items on your plan.

ZOOM IN AND ZOOM OUT

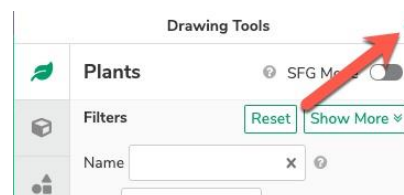
You can click the **Zoom In** button to get a larger, but less inclusive view of your garden plan. Alternatively, use your mouse wheel to adjust the zoom. The **Zoom In** button is useful for smaller gardens or viewing text or detail.

You can click the **Zoom Out** button to view more of your garden plan at a smaller scale. Alternatively, use your mouse wheel to adjust the zoom. The **Zoom Out** button is useful for large gardens that must be scrolled.

MINIMIZE TOOLBARS

You can minimize the Drawing Tools pane to make more space for planning (useful on smaller screens) by clicking on the arrow at the top right of the Drawing Tools.

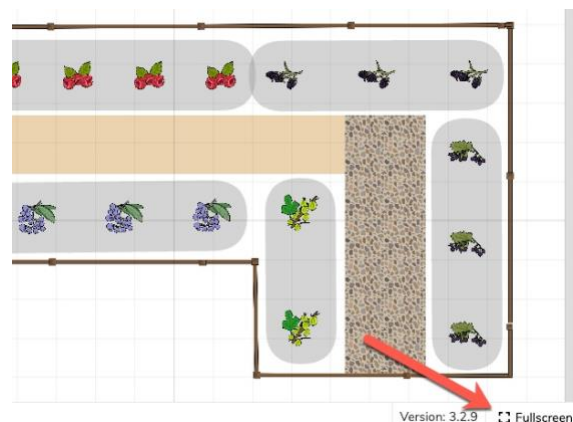
Click on the arrow again to return to viewing toolbars.



FULLSCREEN MODE

You can enter Full Screen mode by clicking on **Fullscreen** at the bottom right corner of your browser window. Full Screen mode removes your web browser's normal toolbars to make more space for planning. You can also [Minimize Toolbars](#) in Full Screen Mode if you need to.

Click **Exit Fullscreen** to return to viewing your browser's normal toolbars.



TOOLBAR FUNCTIONS

FILE AND PRINT

These options allow you to perform basic functions.



The **File and Print** buttons are **New Plan**, **Open Plan**, **Save**, **Print/PDF** and **Publish Plan**.

CREATE NEW PLAN

The **Create New Plan** button allows you add a new plan in a new tab.

Click the **Create New Plan** button on the main menu or hit Ctrl + g (Windows) or Cmd + g (Mac).

Leave the 'Create Follow-on Plan' slider switched off if you're creating a brand new plan. If you're creating a follow-on plan for subsequent years, please see the [Follow-on plan](#) section of this guide.

Name your plan and then select the year. Type your plan dimensions in the boxes provided, and make sure you've selected the correct units of measurement (metric or imperial).

Click **Create Plan** and your new plan will open.

OPENING AND SEARCHING FOR YOUR PLANS

To open an existing plan, click the **Open Plan** button.

You can scroll down using the scroll bar on the right hand side of the list of plans to find the plan you need, or search for the plan name in the search box.

You can also sort the list by the date last edited, the plan year or the plan name by clicking on the **Sort By** button.

When you click on a plan it will display the year, dimensions, date created, and date you last made changes to it on the right-hand side of the Open Plan box.

Click **Open Plan** once you've selected the plan you want to work on.

The 'Open Plan' dialog box is shown with a green header. It contains a 'Filter' section with a 'Name' search box and a 'Sort By' button. Below this is a list of plans:

| Plan Name | Year |
|---------------------------|------|
| Vegetable Garden | 2022 |
| Vegetable Garden | 2020 |
| Vegetable Garden | 2019 |
| Vegetable Garden | 2021 |
| SFG | 2016 |
| Ornamental Kitchen Garden | 2019 |

On the right side of the dialog, the details for the selected 'Vegetable Garden' plan are displayed:

- Year - 2022
- Width - 20m
- Height - 20m
- Created - 2 months ago
- Last Modified - 2 days ago

At the bottom, there are 'Cancel' and 'Open Plan' buttons.

SAVE PLAN

The **Save Plan** button is one of the most important tools as it allows you to save all of the changes you have made to your plan to the Garden Planner server.

Click the **Save Plan** button or hit Ctrl + s (Windows) or Cmd + s (Mac). and your plan will save. The save notification will display in the bottom right of the screen to confirm that the save is successful. By default, autosave is enabled which saves your plan every 10 minutes or when you switch tabs.

PRINT PLAN

You can print out your plan or save it as a PDF file on your computer. For more on this please see the [Print Plan](#) section of this user guide.



PUBLISH

Publishing your plan to a web page makes it easy to share it with others via email, Facebook, Twitter etc or to view your plan on a mobile device. See the [Publish Plan to Web](#) section of this user guide for details. If you select the option for others to be able to view your plan then it will also be viewable in the Garden Plans Gallery (but can't be altered by anyone else).



EDIT OPTIONS



The **Edit Options** are **Undo**, **Redo**, **Cut**, **Copy**, **Paste**, **Delete**, **Selection Box**, and **Edit Item**. Please see below for a description of how each option works.

UNDO AND REDO

The **Undo** button allows you to undo your last action.



You can continue clicking the **Undo** button to delete actions you have taken since the plan was loaded.

Some actions available when using the Settings button cannot be undone.

The **Redo** button allows you to cancel your last **Undo**.

You can continue clicking the **Redo** button to cancel your most recent Undos.

CUT

The **Cut** option allows you to remove a selected plant, text box, shape or garden object to the clipboard.



Select the item(s) you would like to cut so that their handles are displayed (see [Select Shapes, Texts, or Plants](#) if you wish to select more than one item).

Click the **Cut** button.

The object will now be removed from your plan but can be pasted where you wish (see [Paste](#)).

COPY

The **Copy** option allows you to make an exact copy of a plant, text box, shape or garden object to the clipboard.



Select the item you would like to copy.

Click the **Copy** button.

The object has now been copied and can be pasted where you wish (see [Paste](#)).

PASTE

The **Paste** option allows the last item or group of items you cut or copied to be pasted onto your plan.



Click the **Paste** button to insert the item onto your plan.

Click and drag the item to move it to where you would like it on your plan.

The item that you copied or cut does not have to be pasted immediately, but the **Paste** button will *only* paste the most recent cut or copy. You cannot paste from or into a different app.

Because you can paste items multiple times and to different plans, this is a great way to duplicate vegetable beds or other objects.

DELETE AN ITEM

Select the item then click the Delete (trash can) button in the toolbar, or use the Delete key on your keyboard.



NOTE:

You can also move or delete multiple *types* of objects at the same time. For example, you can hold the Shift key, select a text box, two shapes and several plants.

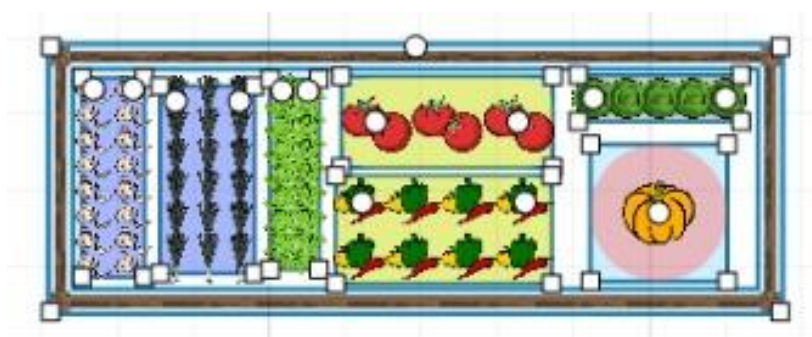
SELECTION BOX

The **Selection Box** button allows you to quickly select a group of items in an area on your plan.



Click once to pick up the Selection Box, move to a corner of the area, and then drag out a selection box over the objects you wish to select.

Any objects enclosed by the selection box will be selected (shown by the handles appearing) and the selection box will disappear.



You can then drag the selected group to a new position, or use **Cut**, **Copy** or **Delete** on the selected group.

EDIT ITEM

Click on an item in your plan once to highlight it (it should display its four corner 'handles') then click on the Edit Item button to open the item's Edit box. Double-clicking on an item in your plan will also open its Edit box.



Click on this as an alternative to double-clicking on an item in your plan to open its Edit box, where you can adjust its properties.

Click on an item in your plan once to highlight it (it should display its four corner 'handles') then click on the Edit Item button to open the item's Edit box. Double-clicking on an item in your plan will also open its Edit box.

VIEW OPTIONS

The **View Options** tools available in the toolbar are described below.

You can also use the **View Menu** to access these tools, plus you can choose to hide the **Edit**, **View**, **Layer**, **Month**, **Crop Rotation**, or **All** toolbars.



ZOOM IN

You can click the **Zoom In** button to get a larger, but less inclusive view of your garden plan. Alternatively, use your mouse wheel to adjust the zoom.



The **Zoom In** button is useful for smaller gardens or viewing text or detail.

ZOOM OUT

You can click the **Zoom Out** button to view more of your garden plan at a smaller scale. Alternatively, use your mouse wheel to adjust the zoom.



The **Zoom Out** button is useful for large gardens that must be scrolled.

TOGGLE GRID

You can turn off the grid for a cleaner look by clicking this button. Click the button again to turn the grid back on.



TOGGLE RULERS

You can turn off the rulers for a cleaner look by clicking this button. Click the button again to turn the rulers back on.



CROP ROTATION

If your plan is a follow-on plan based on a previous year's plan, you'll see the Crop Rotation drop-down menu. Please see [Crop Rotation](#) for more details.

LAYER LOCK

The layer lock is a dropdown list that defaults to **All Layers**. See [Layers](#) for details of how to use this.

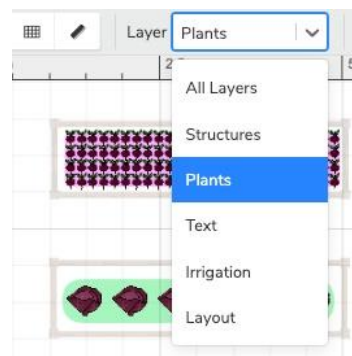
The Garden Planner places each item on one of five layers. From the top down these are:

- **Structures Layer:** This is where large structures and objects that cover plants are placed, such as sheds, greenhouses, row covers etc.
- **Plants Layer:** This is where all plants are placed.
- **Text Layer:** Any text boxes that you add to a plan are placed on this layer.
- **Irrigation Layer:** Drip irrigation parts, rain barrels (water butts) etc all exist on this layer.
- **Layout Layer:** All shapes and other garden objects are placed on this layer, as well as containers.

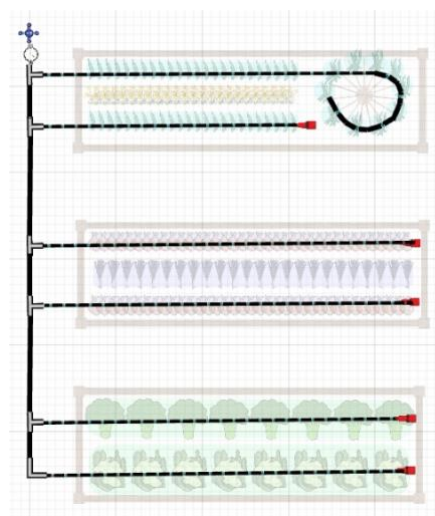
The Garden Planner knows which layer each object should reside on, so greenhouses will always be placed on the Structures layer etc.

By default, all layers are visible on a plan and you can edit all items on any of them.

For more detailed editing, use the Layers drop-down menu on the toolbar to select a particular layer. This brings that layer to the top, dimming the other layers. Only the selected layer can be edited until you return to the All Layers selection.



Here are some examples of how the layers system can be used to make planning easier:



1. You want to edit plants which are under garden objects such as greenhouses or cold frames. Select the **Plants** layer, make the adjustments and then go back to the **All Layers** selection to view the full plan.
2. You wish to plan out drip irrigation. Select the **Irrigation** layer, plan out the drip-irrigation parts required and then go back to the **All Layers** selection to view the full plan.
3. You want to make changes to the garden layout without accidentally selecting plants. Choose the **Layout** layer, edit the shapes and objects, then switch back to the **All Layers** selection.

MONTH SELECTOR

The month selector is a dropdown list that is defaulted at **All Months**.

Simply click the list and choose a month to view your plan for that month.

The month list is used for viewing how your plan changes during the year if you have defined succession planting information ('in ground' months) for your plants (See [Using the Succession Planting Option](#)).

DRAWING TOOLS

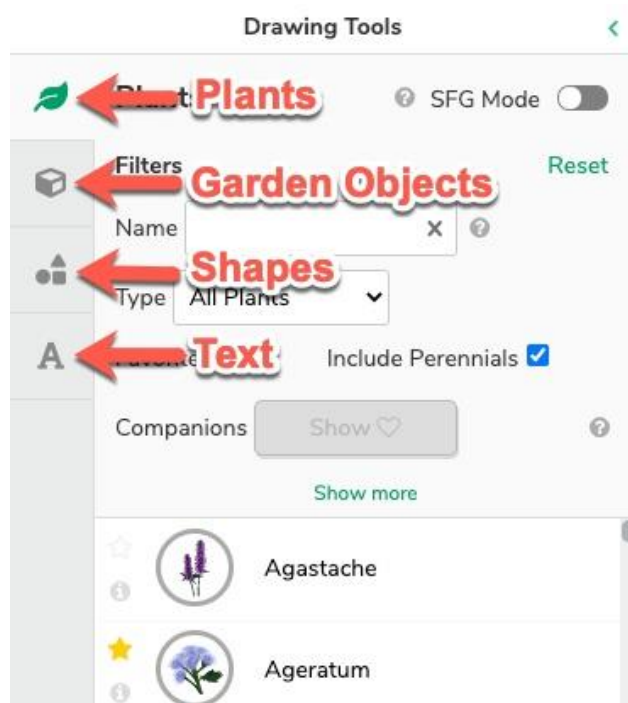
DRAWING TOOLS

The **Drawing Tools** allow you to draw your garden layout and customize your garden plan.

The Drawing Tools are split into the following:

- **Plants**
- **Garden Objects**, including raised beds, greenhouses, paths etc.
- **Shapes** including rectangles, circles, triangles, and lines.
- **Text**

Click on the relevant icon in the left-hand menu to open the Drawing Tools you wish to use to plan out your garden.



SELECT PLANTS, GARDEN OBJECTS, SHAPES OR TEXT

Clicking a shape, text box, plant or garden object on your plan will select it. (Make sure to click on the outline of shapes such as outline rectangles and raised beds.) You know you have selected an object when the handles appear. Click on another part of your plan to deselect the item.



Holding down **Shift** while clicking multiple objects will enable you to select more than one at a time.

You can also use a **Selection Box** to select several objects at once like a raised bed or vegetable box – See [Selection Box](#). You can then move or copy all of the selected objects at once, which is useful for duplicating or rearranging groups of objects or vegetable beds.

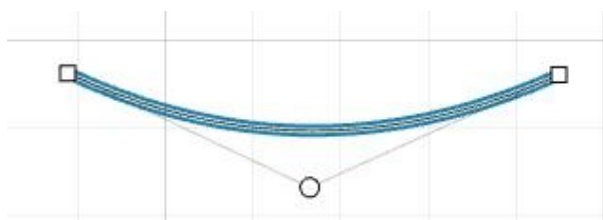
TIP: To keep a tool or plant selected (e.g. if you wanted to add a number of lines one after the other without having to return to the toolbar each time) hold down the Ctrl button on your keyboard as you finish dragging out each shape.

MOVING ITEMS

Click on the item (or outline of the item) and drag your shape or group of shapes to move it.

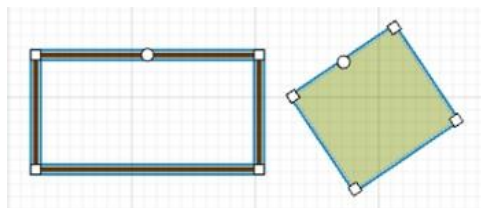
Click again if you need to deselect it.

ADJUSTING LINES



Drag the end handles to resize the line or use the middle handle to create a curve. Almost any vegetable bed shape can be created by building it from lines.

ADJUSTING SHAPES



Use the square corner handles to resize the shape by clicking one, then dragging out the shape.

Rotate the shape by clicking on the round center handle, and moving in the direction that you would like to rotate the shape.

To set exact dimensions or change other properties such as the color, double-click the shape to bring up the edit box where you can make changes.



Alternatively, click on the shape to highlight it, then click on the Edit Item button in your plan's toolbar to open the item's properties box.

ADDING PLANTS TO YOUR PLAN

SEARCHING FOR A PLANT

Select **Plants** in the **Drawing Tools** pane.

Browse plants by scrolling down through the plant selector using your mouse wheel, trackpad, or finger if using a tablet, or find specific plants quickly using the **Filters**.

Start typing the name of the plant you need and all matching plants will be displayed in the plant selector. You can use the common name or scientific (Latin) name of the plant.


If a plant is not currently available you can add it as a variety of one of the generic icons – see [Adding Unlisted Plants](#).


Name ✕ ?


Type All Plants ▼

Favorites ☐ Include Perennials ☒

Companions Show ♥ ?

☆ i  **Tomatillo**

☆ i  **Tomato (Small)**

☆ i  **Tomato (Large)**

For more on adding plants and setting varieties, please see [Customizing Plants](#).

TYPES OF PLANTS

The Garden Planner includes many plants that fall into the following categories:

- Vegetables
- Fruits & Nuts
- Herbs
- Flowers
- Green Manures (Cover Crops)

INFORMATION BUTTONS

Clicking the **i** button next to the plant will bring up the plant's information box, which provides all you need to know to grow that plant successfully. See **Plant Grow Guides** below.

CROP FAMILIES

The color of the circle around each plant in the plant selector represents the crop family it belongs to. The example here shows the green circle around cauliflower, indicating that it is a member of the cabbage family.



Green is for the Brassica (cabbage) family.

Light Blue is for the Legume (pea and bean) family.

Pink is for the Chenopodiaceae (beet) family.

Lilac is for the Allium (onion) family.

Salmon is for the Cucurbit (squash) family.

Yellow is for the Solanaceae (potato and tomato) family.

Grey is for Miscellaneous (other plant families which don't require rotating).

CHOOSING PLANTS USING FILTERS

The Filter options at the top of the plant menu helps you to select plants that match your requirements.

There are several options for filtering plants:

- Search by **Name**
- **Type**: Choose to display just vegetables, herbs, fruits and nuts, flowers, or green manures (cover crops).
- Show only **Favorites**
- De-select the **Include Perennials** box if you only want to view annual plants.

The screenshot shows the 'Plants' filter menu. At the top, there's a green leaf icon, the title 'Plants', and an 'SFG Mode' toggle switch. Below this is a 'Filters' section with a 'Reset' button and a 'Show More' button with a dropdown arrow. The 'Name' field is empty with a search icon and a close 'x' button. The 'Type' dropdown is set to 'All Plants'. At the bottom, there are two checkboxes: 'Favorites' (unchecked) and 'Include Perennials' (checked).

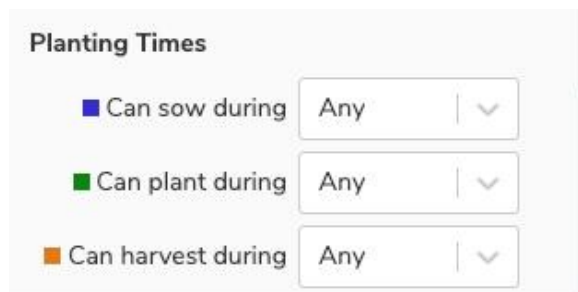
Click **Show More** to display further options (you may need to scroll down to view all of the options depending on your screen size):

- Crop Rotation Family: Choose to display just plants from a particular crop family such as brassicas (cabbage family).
- Easy to Grow
- Frost Tolerant
- Partial Shade Tolerant
- Suitable for Fall/Autumn Planting.

These options are very useful if you are starting your first garden, trying to find plants for a particular bed which is shady or need to list just plants that can be grown late in the season.

This screenshot shows the 'Plants' filter menu with more options visible. It includes the 'Reset' and 'Show Less' buttons. The 'Name' field is still empty. The 'Type' dropdown remains 'All Plants'. The 'Favorites' checkbox is unchecked, and 'Include Perennials' is checked. Below these are 'Companions' (with a 'Show' button and heart icon) and 'Crop Rotation Family' (a dropdown menu currently showing '-'). At the bottom, there are four more checkboxes: 'Easy To Grow' (unchecked), 'Frost Tolerant' (unchecked), 'Partial Shade Tolerant' (unchecked), and 'Suitable for Autumn Planting' (unchecked).

Scroll down to view the **Planting Times** filter. These filters enable you to show only plants that can be sown, planted, or harvested during a specific month. Click on the drop-down box next to the relevant filter to set the month you wish to see plants for.



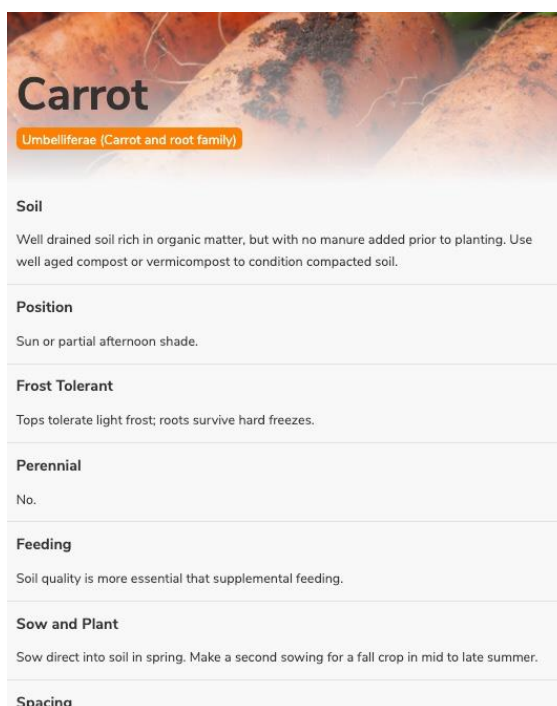
Planting Times

- Can sow during Any | v
- Can plant during Any | v
- Can harvest during Any | v

Click **Show Less** to minimize the Filter options.

Click **Reset** to clear all filters and return to viewing all plants.

PLANT GROW GUIDES



Carrot
Umbelliferae (Carrot and root family)

Soil
Well drained soil rich in organic matter, but with no manure added prior to planting. Use well aged compost or vermicompost to condition compacted soil.

Position
Sun or partial afternoon shade.

Frost Tolerant
Tops tolerate light frost; roots survive hard freezes.

Perennial
No.

Feeding
Soil quality is more essential than supplemental feeding.

Sow and Plant
Sow direct into soil in spring. Make a second sowing for a fall crop in mid to late summer.

Spacing

Click on the ‘i’ Information button next to a plant to view its Grow Guide which contains essential growing information:

Plant family – Plants are generally divided into 7 major families for crop rotation purposes. Any plants not in one of these families are represented by the Miscellaneous (gray) family.

Soil – Any preferences for soil type for success with this plant.

Position – Whether the plant requires direct sunlight or will grow in shade.

Frost tolerant – How hardy the plant is and whether it will survive frosts.

Feeding – Instructions, if necessary.

Companions – See [Companion Planting](#).

Spacing – Two sets of spacings are shown: for single plants (also used for blocks) and for rows. The reason for separate spacings for row planting is that some plants are commonly spaced closer together along the row with a wider gap between rows. This gives the gardener more space to access the plants for weeding and harvesting while still allowing enough room for the plants' roots.

Sow and Plant – How and when to sow or plant it.

Notes – Expert notes on the plant and tips to grow it well.

Harvesting – How to know when the plant is ready to harvest and the best ways to harvest it.

Troubleshooting – Hints and tips for pest and disease control, etc.

PLACING A PLANT ONTO YOUR PLAN

Click once to pick it up from the plant menu. Do not try to drag it, as this will not pick up the plant.

Move the plant to where you would like it to be on your plan.

Click again to place a single plant, drag to pull out a row. As the row is dragged out, its length is shown (from the center of one end plant to the center of the other end plant) and the number of plants that will fit into that row is also displayed.

Blocks of plants can be created by dragging a corner handle.

Move individual plants, rows, or blocks by clicking on the plant(s) and dragging.

Placing plants in rows and blocks is much more efficient than adding single plants.

To set the exact position of a plant, add a label, specify the variety etc, see [Customizing Plants](#).

TIP: When a row is converted to a block the Garden Planner uses the 'Spacing between plants' number in all directions, not the row spacing. If you want a block of rows then you need to add them as individual rows. Holding down the Ctrl key as you finish each row will keep the plant selected and speed up this process.

THE COLORED AREA BEHIND THE PLANT

The size of the background area behind the plant indicates the amount of space that the plant needs so that you can be sure to give each plant an adequate growing area.

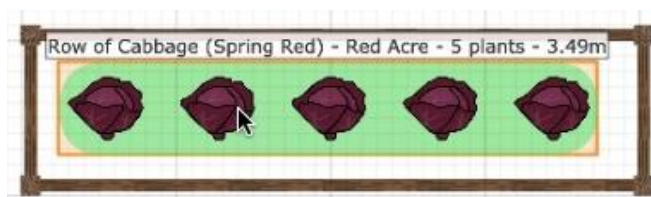


The color of the background area indicates which crop family the plant belongs to, which can be used for [crop rotation](#) purposes, as plants from the same family should be moved to different areas each year. See the [crop families](#) section for details of the color coding.

USING THE TOOL-TIP

When you hover your cursor over a plant, a box will appear that tells you how many of your selected plants can be grown in a given area.

This serves as a quick and easy reference tool.



If you're using a tablet, you'll be able to see this information when you resize the row or block.

COMPANION PLANTING

The Garden Planner can recommend other plants which are beneficial to grow alongside your crops. To see recommended companions, first click on a plant in your plan to highlight it, then click on **Show Companions**. All suitable companion plants will then appear in the plant selector, making it easy to add them to your plan.



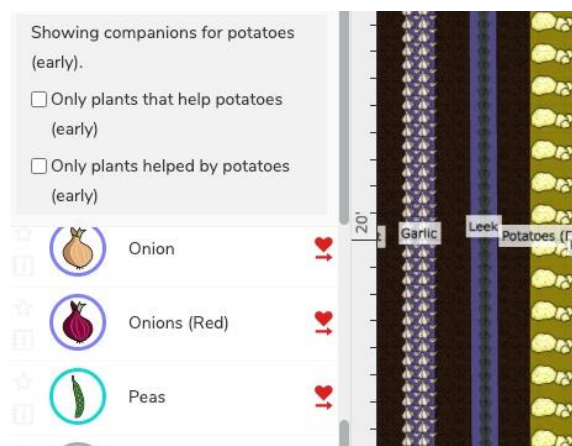
If necessary, check the relevant box to view only plants that help the highlighted plant, or only plants that are helped by it.

Click on **Close Companions** to return to viewing all plants.

The arrow to the right of the plant in the plant selector indicates which way the companion planting benefit runs. A double-ended arrow means both plants are mutually beneficial.

Because there is a lot of conflicting evidence for companion planting combinations, we only list companions for each plant where there is scientific evidence to support the association.

(If you wish to use other companion planting charts, you are free to do so and will find that the Garden Planner makes it easy to rearrange the plant positions until you get the perfect layout even though specific combinations are not enforced.)



EFFECTIVE COMPANION PLANTING STRATEGIES

Extensive scientific research has proven that mixing up plants from different crop families is often effective as it can confuse pests. The colored background of each plant will enable you to do this easily.

You can attract beneficial insects by mixing in flowering plants such as calendula, marigold, flowering herbs, many cover crops, and wildflowers specific to your area.

Staggering your plants according to height and location can help provide shade and support to other plants.

FAVORITES

You can select which plants are your **Favorites** – the ones you grow year after year – to make it quick and easy to add them to your plan.

Click on the star button to the left of a plant in the plant selector. This will highlight the star and save the plant to your Favorites list.



To view your Favorites list, select the **Favorites** check box. Only your starred Favorites will then be displayed in the plant selector.

De-select the **Favorites** check box to return to viewing all plants.

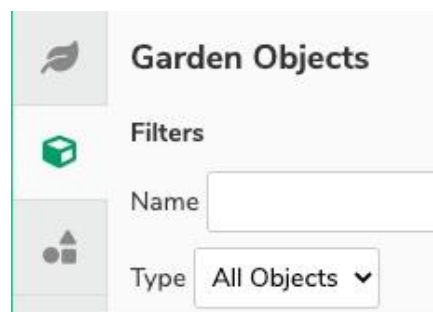
To remove a plant from your Favorites, click on the star again to de-select it.

You can also choose your Favorites in your [Plant List](#).

ADDING GARDEN OBJECTS TO YOUR PLAN

To view the range of **Garden Object** icons, click on the Garden Objects button in the **Drawing Tools** pane. All Objects will be displayed by default, but you can search for an item by name or click on the **Type** drop-down menu to view only **Irrigation**, **Structures** or **Layout**.

To add a Garden Object, click on it once to select it, then click once on your plan to add it. Click on and drag one of its corner or end 'handles' to resize it.



Click the **i** button beside the Garden Object to view useful information to consider when adding it to your plan, such as materials it can be made of and considerations when positioning it on your plan.

TYPES OF GARDEN OBJECT

There are several different types of Garden Objects, which behave differently:

- **Fixed Size Objects:** Objects like drip irrigation connectors are always the same size, so click once to pick it up from the Selection Bar, then move to where you want it and click to place it on the plan. Several of these objects can be rotated once placed and holding down the **Shift** key restricts rotation to 45 degree increments.
- **Fixed Width Objects:** Some objects are extendable in one dimension only. For example, many garden buildings such as sheds, greenhouses and tunnels are commonly produced in fixed widths of 4, 5, 6, 8 or 10 feet. To add one to your plan, click once to pick it up from the Garden Objects menu, then move to where you want to place the object. Click once to place it and then resize it using the handles. These objects are initially laid out horizontally but can then be rotated and moved as required.
- **Scalable Objects:** Many objects are scalable in both dimensions. To add one to your plan, click once to pick it up from the Selection Bar, then move to where you want to place the object. Click once to place it and then resize it using the handles.
- **Line Objects:** Row covers, drip irrigation tubing, fences and paths are all added to your plan in the same way that Lines are drawn: click once on the object, then move to where you wish the object to start. Click and drag to pull out a line of that object. Although you can't alter the width of the object, this has the advantage of



making it very quick to add a line of the garden object at any angle – particularly good for objects that extend across beds, over rows of plants etc.

Another advantage of line objects is that many of them can be curved using the middle handle, just like the Line tool can be.

SEASON-ADJUSTING GARDEN OBJECTS

Several types of garden objects are used to lengthen the growing season – either by protecting plants from late frosts in spring (effectively bringing forward the dates they can be sown) or by protecting them from early frosts in fall/autumn (effectively extending the harvest dates later into the year). These are known as Season-Adjusting Garden Objects and they fall into several categories:

- **Cloches:** These are plastic or glass protection placed over individual plants or small groups of plants to protect them from light frosts or harsh winds.
- **Cold Frames:** Commonly used to harden off tender plants raised indoors, or to start early seedlings of more hardy plants such as brassicas.
- **Row Covers / Tunnel Cloches:** These are covers, usually fixed over hoops or frames which run along a row of plants and provide frost and wind protection.
- **Greenhouses:** The classic protection for raising young plants and growing tender plants in cooler climates.
- **Heated Greenhouses:** As for greenhouses but heat is provided at night and during cold weather to raise the temperature further, allowing for earlier sowing and extended harvests.
- **Hoop Houses / Polytunnels:** Cheaper and often larger than greenhouses, these are commonly used for extending the season and growing a wide range of vegetables and fruit.
- **Heated Hoop Houses / Polytunnels:** As with heated greenhouses, extends the growing season further.

When one of these season-adjusting garden objects is placed over a plant on a plan, the plant will be marked separately on the Plant List and in the planting reminders sent by email. The Garden Planner adjusts the dates recommended for sowing, planting and harvesting for plants that are under them.

TIP: For the adjustment to be applied, the whole plant or row must be under the object. If part of the plant (including its handles) is outside the season-adjusting object then the plant won't be 'tagged' as being under it.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|----|------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|  | Lettuce (Leaf) [Cold Frame] | 9 | 10cm | 10cm x 15cm | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|  | Lettuce (Leaf) | 17 | 10cm | 10cm x 15cm | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |

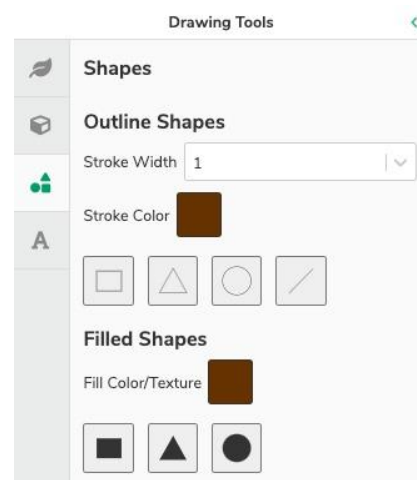
ADDING SHAPES TO YOUR PLAN

To view which shapes can be added to your plan, click on the **Shapes** button in the **Drawing Tools** pane.

To use an Outline Shape, click on the **Stroke Width** drop-down box and select the width you require.

Click on the **Stroke Color** palette. Click once to select.

This applies to the outline shapes you add. Choose from Outline Rectangle, Triangle, Circle, and the Line tool.



The color can be changed between shapes.

To select Filled Shape colors or textures, click on the Fill Color/Texture palette. Click once to select.

This applies to the filled shapes you add. Choose from Filled Rectangle, Triangle and Circle.

Once you have chosen the shape or line you'd like to add, move to where you would like to place it on your plan.

Click and drag out the shape.

TIP: If you wish to specify a different color from those available you can enter the 'hex value' of the color in the box at the top and then press enter.



You can edit a shape's properties once it is on your plan by either double-clicking on the shape, or alternatively click once on the shape to highlight it, then click on the Edit Item button in your plan's toolbar to open the item's properties box.

ADDING TEXT TO YOUR PLAN

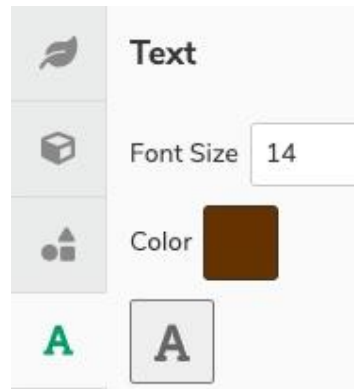
To add **Text**, first click on the letter A in the **Drawing Tools** pane.

Select your preferred Font Size in the drop-down menu, then click on the Color Palette and choose your color.

Click on the letter A in the text menu, move to where you want it on your plan, then drag out the text box.

To change the text, double-click inside the box to bring up the edit box where you can make changes to the text, color, font, position and dimensions if you wish. (Or alternatively, click once to highlight the text box, then click the **Edit Item** button in your plan's toolbar.

To move the text box, click the box to select it, then drag it.



Edit Text

Text

This variety is delicious!

Text Properties

Text Color

Font Size
14

Position & Dimensions

Center Position

X
6.75
m

Y
5
m

Width
2.06
m

Height
0.6
m

Rotation
0
°

Cancel

Done



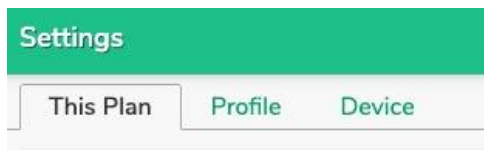
TIP: To change the size of plant labels, use the [Settings](#) box.

SETTINGS

To open your plan's Settings, click on the cog icon in your plan's toolbar.



The Garden Planner **Settings** tab allows you to make adjustments to plan name, year, size, crop rotation history, plant labels and backgrounds. It also enables you to delete the plan, adjust autosaving, customize season extenders, and make changes that can help speed up loading and scrolling for larger plans.



SETTINGS FOR THIS PLAN

This section contains options that allow you make basic adjustments that apply to only the currently open plan.

GENERAL

Change your plan name by clicking inside the text area and typing.

Scroll down and click **Save Plan Settings** when finished or continue adjusting other settings.

General

Plan Name

Plan Year ▼

Change the year of the plan by clicking the arrow next to the year and selecting from the dropdown list.

Scroll down and click **Save Plan Settings** when finished or continue adjusting other settings.

UNITS & DIMENSIONS

Switch between metric or imperial measurements by clicking on the radio buttons.

Type in the boxes to change the dimensions of your plan. Extra space will be added to or removed from the right hand side and bottom of your plan, so you may need to use the [Selection Tool](#) to adjust the position of items on your plan.

Units & Dimensions

Length Units ☒ Metric ☐ Imperial

Width m

Height m

Sizes must be between 1m and 300m.

Scroll down and click **Save Plan Settings** to save your changes.

DELETE THIS PLAN

This option permanently deletes the plan from your Garden Planner account.

Click **Delete This Plan**, then click **Confirm Deletion**.

Note that deleting your plan cannot be undone.

Delete This Plan

Delete This Plan

PLAN HISTORY

All previous linked plans are listed in your plan's history, and the Garden Planner will display flashing crop rotation warnings using the listed plans for up to 5 years.

The listed plans are automatically added when you create a follow-on plan.

Plan History

Plan history is used for crop rotation for up to 5 years. Add older plans to this plan's history to see crop rotation indicators on your plan. Creating a follow-on plan will automatically set the plan history, but you can retroactively create and add older plans to this list. You can also remove plans, for example if you don't have space for a full five year crop rotation.

| | | | | |
|-------------|---|------|------------------|---|
| Most Recent | ▼ | 2020 | Vegetable Garden | × |
| | ▲ | 2019 | Vegetable Garden | × |
| ⋮ | | | | |
| Oldest | | | | |

2021 Vegetable Garden
▼

Add To History

Reset

Save Plan Settings

ADD OR REMOVE PLANS FOR CROP ROTATION

If you wish to include some plans in your crop rotation history, but not others, refer to this option.

To add a plan, click on the dropdown menu and select one.

Click **Add to History** next to the list to add it to the crop rotation list.

To delete a plan, click on the **X** to the right of the plan in the crop rotation list that you wish to remove.

You can click on the up or down arrow next to each plan to change the order in which the plans are linked. The older a plan is the further down the list it will usually appear and the fainter the crop rotation warnings will appear. Up to five plans can be listed for crop rotation purposes.

Click **Save Plan Settings** when finished or continue adjusting other settings.

NOTE:

This option is often useful if you used the follow-on plan option to create a copy of a garden layout for a previous year. You can then use this box to change the way the plans are linked so the crop rotation warnings for the previous year's plan are displayed in the current year's plan. It can also be used to delete links to other plans for crop rotation purposes.

PROFILE SETTINGS

This section includes the options that apply to all of your plans.

Profile Settings

These settings apply to all plans on your account.

Plants

Label Font Size

☒ Add Labels to New Plants

Note: Also see - *Add Labels to New SFG Plants* in Device Settings

☒ Use Plant Variety as Default Label

☒ Show Colored Plant Backgrounds

LABEL FONT SIZE

Click the drop-down box and select a font size to change the displayed size of plant labels.

Scroll down and click **Save Profile Settings** when finished or continue adjusting other settings.

ADD LABELS TO NEW PLANTS

Check the box if you would like plant labels to be displayed on your plan for all new plants that you add to your plan.

If the box is selected, you can additionally choose whether or not you would like the plant variety (for the plants you specified a variety for) to show up as the label as opposed to just the plant name by checking or un-checking the box.

Scroll down and click **Save Profile Settings** when finished or continue adjusting other settings.

USE PLANT VARIETY AS DEFAULT LABEL

Check the box if you'd prefer to see the variety name displayed on the plan rather than the plant name. Both will still be shown in your Plant List.

Scroll down and click **Save Profile Settings** when finished or continue adjusting other settings.

SHOW COLORED PLANT BACKGROUNDS

Check the box if you would like the plant background colors to show up on your garden plan. Keep in mind that these background colors denote not only the plant family, but the amount of space that the plant needs.

Scroll down and click **Save Profile Settings** when finished or continue adjusting other settings.

SAVING

The **Autosave** box is checked by default, which tells the Garden Planner to automatically save your work every ten minutes. Uncheck if you wish to disable automatic saving.

Scroll down and click **Save Profile Settings** when finished or continue adjusting other settings.

SEASON EXTENDERS

Season-extending Garden Objects such as greenhouses, cold frames and cloches can be used to stretch your growing season by an extra few weeks. The default effective last and first frost dates for each type of season extender is listed here, but they can be fine-tuned by clicking on the drop-down menus and selecting a different number of weeks at each end of the growing season.

| | | | |
|------------|---|---------|---|
| Cold Frame | Brings effective last frost date earlier by | 2 Weeks | ▼ |
| | Brings effective first frost date later by | 3 Weeks | ▼ |

To return all season extender settings to their default number of weeks, click the **Reset Season Extenders to Defaults** button.

Reset Season Extenders to Defaults

Scroll down and click **Save Profile Settings** when finished or continue adjusting other settings.

DEVICE SETTINGS

These settings are local to the computer or device you're using. If you use more than one device you may need to adjust these settings for each device.

This Plan Profile Device

INTERACTION

You can turn **Touch Mode** on or off if you're using a touchscreen device. Touch Mode makes it easier to move and resize items on your plan using your finger.

You can turn off **mouse-wheel zooming** if you find you zoom in or out of your plan accidentally. If you turn this off you can still zoom using the Zoom In and Zoom Out buttons in your plan's toolbar.

Interaction

☒ Enable mouse-wheel zooming

☐ Snap to Grid

☐ Automatically enable 'Snap to Grid' when entering SFG mode and disable 'Snap to Grid' when exiting SFG mode

Select **Snap to Grid** to make it easier to 'snap' items to the nearest gridline when positioning them for maximum accuracy. (This doesn't snap existing items on your plan to the nearest gridline.)

You can also choose to **Automatically enable Snap to Grid when entering SFG mode and disable 'Snap to Grid' when exiting SFG mode**. If you have both SFG and traditional row and block planting on your plan this makes it easier to move between SFG mode, where pinpoint accuracy in plant positioning is usually required, and normal mode.

Click **Save Local Settings** when you're finished, or continue adjusting other settings.

When Snap to Grid is enabled you'll see the Snap to Grid tag at the bottom left of your plan.

Snap To Grid Enabled

Scroll down and click **Save Device Settings** when finished or continue adjusting other settings.

PLANTS

Select **Add Labels to New SFG Plants** if you want to display the plant or variety label for each SFG block of plants on your plan. This is turned off by default because in an SFG layout the plan can quickly begin to look cluttered with lots of plant labels close to each other.

Plants

☐ Add Labels to New SFG Plants

Note that this will only add labels to new plants; it won't add labels to plants already on your plan.

Scroll down and click **Save Device Settings** when finished or continue adjusting other settings.

PLANT ICONS

If you have very large plans, a slower Internet connection or an older device you may find that adjusting how the **plant icon graphics** are displayed helps the Garden Planner to load faster. This doesn't change the actual number of plants in a row or block – only what is displayed on your screen.

You can select **Corners, Edges & Inside** to show all the plants in a row or block.

Select **Corners & Edges** to speed things up a little.

Select **Corners** only to display the fewest plants in a row or block.

You can also choose the **Maximum number of plant icons** to display in a row or block. Limiting this number can help speed up loading.

Plant Icons

This controls where plant icons display on plants in your plan and how many can be displayed, showing more plants may make plans load slower.

Limiting the number of plants per area will significantly help slower and older devices display large plans with many plants. A value of 100 is default, with 50-500 being recommended.

Display Plant Icons

- ☐ Corners
- ☐ Corners & Edges
- ☒ Corners, Edges & Inside

Maximum number of icons per Area

Must be between 4 and 10,000 (50 - 500 recommended)

Scroll down and click **Save Device Settings** when finished or continue adjusting other settings.

PRINTING AND PUBLISHING YOUR PLAN

PRINT PLAN

Print Plan

Plan printing is done by generating a PDF in your browser which you can print. Please keep in mind that larger plans and larger print sizes will take longer to generate.

Paper Size

Fit to

☒ Single Page

☐ Pages Across

☐ Pages Down

Orientation

☒ Portrait

☐ Landscape

The **Print/PDF** button allows you to print your garden plan or create a PDF that you can save to your computer.

Click the **Print/PDF** button and select your Print Layout and Options (if necessary).

Paper Size: Select the Paper Size you wish to print to in the drop-down box.

Fit to Single Page: if your plan is small enough to be printed on a single sheet and still be clear. If your plan is wider than it is high it is recommended that you check the **Landscape Orientation** option.

Fit to 1 (or more) Pages Across: This is useful for wide plans where you wish to have the plan print on 2 or more pages from top to bottom, filling the full width of each sheet. For an even larger printout select the **Landscape Orientation** option as this increases the paper width.

Fit to 1 (or more) Pages Down: This is useful for tall plans where you wish to have the plan print on 2 or more pages from left to right, filling the full height of each sheet. For a smaller printout select the **Landscape Orientation** option as this reduces the paper height.

Check the **Landscape Paper Orientation** button if your plan is wider than it is high so that it makes best use of space on your paper.

Click **Preview** to view a PDF of your plan that you can save to your computer.

Click **Print** to print your plan.

PRINTING PROBLEMS

If you have difficulty printing your plan, first make sure that you are clicking the Print button on the Garden Planner toolbar and not using your browser's regular print function. Then try adjusting the print options.

If you still experience problems you can use [Publish Plan to Web](#) to view the plan as a full size image which can be printed from your browser or can be copied into any other program for printing.

PUBLISH PLAN TO WEB

PUBLISHING YOUR PLAN

Publishing your plan uploads it to a web page which you can share for others to view.

Click the **Publish** button in your plan's toolbar.



Under **Published Page Information** set your garden's location. You can make this as specific as you like, for instance your country, state or county, or your town or zipcode/postcode.

Add a **Description** of your garden to help people understand your plan.

Choose your **Options** (optional):

- Allow others to find my garden on a map (includes a pin showing your garden's location when other gardeners search their area)
- Include map and location marker (shows a pin in a map showing your garden's location on your plan's published page)
- Include Plant List
- Include Notes

Publish Plan

Publish Plan

By publishing your plan it becomes available on a web page which you can share for others to view.

Please Note: If you make changes to your plan you will need to re-publish it for the webpage to update.

Published Page Information

Location *

Kentucky, USA

Please include the area your garden is located in. This can be very broad (e.g. your county, state or country).

Description *

Small garden in the mountains.

Please add a description of your garden to help people understand your plan.

Options

☒ Allow others to find my garden on a map

☒ Include map and location marker

☒ Include Plant List

☒ Include Notes

Type of Garden

Type of Garden Backyard / back garden

Planting Layout Traditional layout - rows etc

Sun or Shade Partial Shade

Soil Type Light / Sandy soil

Advanced Settings

☐ Low Memory Mode - Publishing plans will take longer but will reduce issues

Cancel

side feedback by emailing us.

Click on the drop-down menu to select your **Type of Garden** (optional):

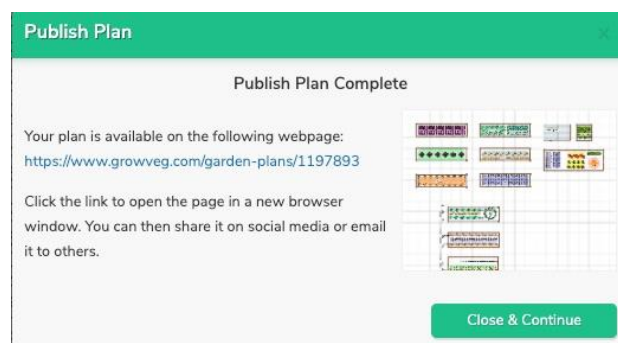
- Type of garden
- Planting Layout
- Sun or Shade
- Soil Type

Click **Publish** to upload your plan or click **Cancel** to close the Publish Plan window.

The plan may take a minute or two to upload, depending on your Internet connection speed and the size and complexity of your plan.

When the plan has been published you will see the link to view the published page. Click on the link to open the page in a new browser window. You can then share it with others or social media or by email.

You will also be emailed the link to the published plan.



Click **Close & Continue** to close the Publish Plan box.

You can find the link to your plan at any time by opening the plan then clicking on the **Publish** button.

RE-PUBLISHING YOUR PLAN

If you make changes to your plan you will need to re-publish it for those changes to be reflected in the plan's web page. Click the **Publish** button, make any changes to the Published Page Information, Options or Type of Garden that you wish, then click **Publish**.

CUSTOMIZING PLANTS

To edit a plant, double-click on the plant in your plan to open the **Edit Plant** box.

Alternatively, click once on the plant to highlight it, then click on the **Edit Item** button in your plan's toolbar.

The **Edit Plant** box enables you to view and edit the plant variety, show or hide the plant label, set in-ground dates (for [Succession Planting](#)), and set exact co-ordinates for that plant or variety.

You can also view the plant's sowing, planting and harvesting times, spacing requirements, and recommended companions here, and make notes about that plant.

WORKING WITH PLANT LABELS AND VARIETIES

Edit Plant - Asparagus

Label and Variety

Label: Asparagus

Show Label: ☒

Variety: -

In-ground Date

Specify in-ground:

From: January

Position

First Plant in Row:

Last Plant in Row: x 9.71 m
y 3.44 m

Cancel Done

ADJUST PLANT LABELS

Labels can be positioned by clicking them, then dragging.
They can be changed or removed using the **Edit Plant** box.

Under the **Label and Variety** heading, check or uncheck the box.

If you wish to rename the plant, click the text area and type the plant name. Please note this only changes the plant label displayed on your plan; not the plant type or variety.

Click **Done** when finished.

CHOOSE PLANT VARIETY

To choose or define a variety, open the **Edit Plant** box and select your variety from the dropdown list in the **Variety** box or click **Add Variety** to create your own.

CREATING YOUR OWN VARIETY

You can create your own varieties, customize the spacing between plants, or adjust the planting and harvest time by completing the following steps.

In the **Edit Plant** box, click **Add Variety**.

Enter the plant or variety name or select a variety and click **Add**.

The **Default Variety** for each plant is indicated by a dash (-), and you can adjust the spacing or planting times for plants that have no variety selected by editing this.

Click on **Customize Varieties** if you wish to set your own spacings and growing dates.

Check **Edit**, then click **Use Custom Spacings**. Set the values for **Between plants** (used for growing plants in a block at equidistant spacings) and/or the values for **Between plants in rows** and **Between rows** if growing in individual rows.

Scroll down and check the **Use Custom Times** box and select the months for sowing, planting, and harvesting (each month is divided into two boxes for the beginning and the end of the month to make the process more accurate). Click **Save All Changes** when finished with a variety.

After a variety is saved to the list, you can click **Customize Varieties** to make changes again.

Click **Cancel** if you decide not to save your changes.

Varieties can be deleted by selecting them and clicking **Delete**. However, pre-loaded varieties from suppliers will still be loaded next time the Garden Planner is started.

Click **Done** when you are finished making all changes.

Varieties cannot be renamed. The only way to do this is to delete the variety and recreate it by clicking **Add Variety**.

Remember to click **Done** to save your plan after adding or editing varieties.

The screenshot displays the 'Customize Raspberry Varieties' interface. A modal window titled 'Add Raspberry Variety' is open, featuring a text input field for 'Variety Name' and two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Add'. The background interface is dimmed but visible, showing a 'Show Varieties From' dropdown menu set to 'All Sources', a 'Variety' dropdown menu set to '-', and an 'Add New' button. Below these, there is a 'Suppliers' section with the text 'Select a variety to see suppliers'. The 'Spacing' section is visible, with a checkbox for 'Use Custom Spacings' that is checked. It includes three input fields: 'Between plants' (70 cm), 'Between plants in rows' (60 cm), and 'Between rows' (90 cm). At the bottom, the 'Sow, Plant and Harvest Times' section has 'Cancel' and 'Save All Changes' buttons.

IMPORT VARIETY DATA

The Import feature enables you to use your own custom spacing and growing dates for multiple varieties, so you don't need to enter them for each variety you're growing.

You can copy the spacings and sow/plant/harvest times from another variety in the following way:

1. Double-click on the plant in your plan then click on **Customize Varieties**.
2. Click on **Import**.
3. Click on the **Variety to copy** from drop-down menu and select the variety whose properties you want to copy.
4. Select the **Copy Spacing** and/or **Copy Sow, Plant and Harvest Dates** box.
5. Click **Import Properties**.
6. Click **Save All Changes**, then click **Done**.

ADDING UNLISTED PLANTS AS A VARIETY

If you wish to add a plant to your plan that isn't currently in the Garden Planner's database you can do so by adding it as a variety of another icon. Follow these steps:

1. Choose a plant that is similar to the plant you want it to represent, or select one of the generic plant icons (fruit bush, flower, tree, other etc)
2. Add the plant to your plan where you want it to be and double-click on it or click once on it to highlight it, then click the Edit Plant box.
3. Click on **Add New**. Name your variety and click **Add**. You can also click **Customize Varieties** if you want to change the spacings or sowing, planting and harvesting times.
4. Click **Save All Changes** when done.

IN-GROUND DATES

This section is used for [succession planting](#).

POSITION AND DIMENSIONS

Under the **Position and Dimensions** heading, you can set the exact position of your plant on your plan if you wish.

Set the **x** and **y** positions for the first plant in the row, then set the **x** and **y** positions for the last plant in the row.

Click **Done** to save your changes.

For plants in blocks, you can also set the **Block Height**, which is the distance between the middle of the top plant in the block and the middle of the bottom plant in the block.



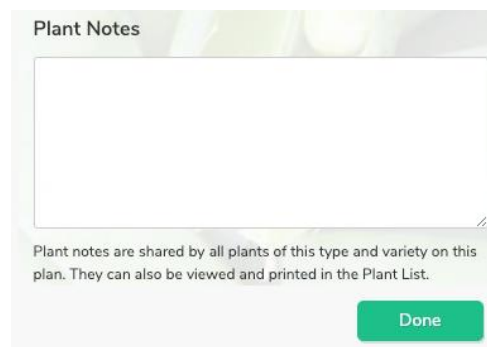
The 'Position and Dimensions' form contains the following fields:

| Field | Unit | Value |
|----------------------|------|-------|
| First Plant in Row x | m | 0.88 |
| First Plant in Row y | m | 0.12 |
| Last Plant in Row x | m | 0.9 |
| Last Plant in Row y | m | 1.15 |
| Block Height | m | 0.79 |

PLANT NOTES

Use the Plant Notes box to store any extra information or observations you want to include about that plant. Plant notes are shared by all plants of the same type and variety on the same plan.

Plant Notes will also be available in the right-hand column of your Plant List.



The 'Plant Notes' form includes a large text area for notes and a 'Done' button. Below the text area, a note states: 'Plant notes are shared by all plants of this type and variety on this plan. They can also be viewed and printed in the Plant List.'

MORE INFO & JOURNAL HISTORY

Click the **More info & Journal history** link to view the plant's growing guide and your personal Journal history for that plant.

Under the **Information** tab you'll find all the information you need to successfully grow that plant.

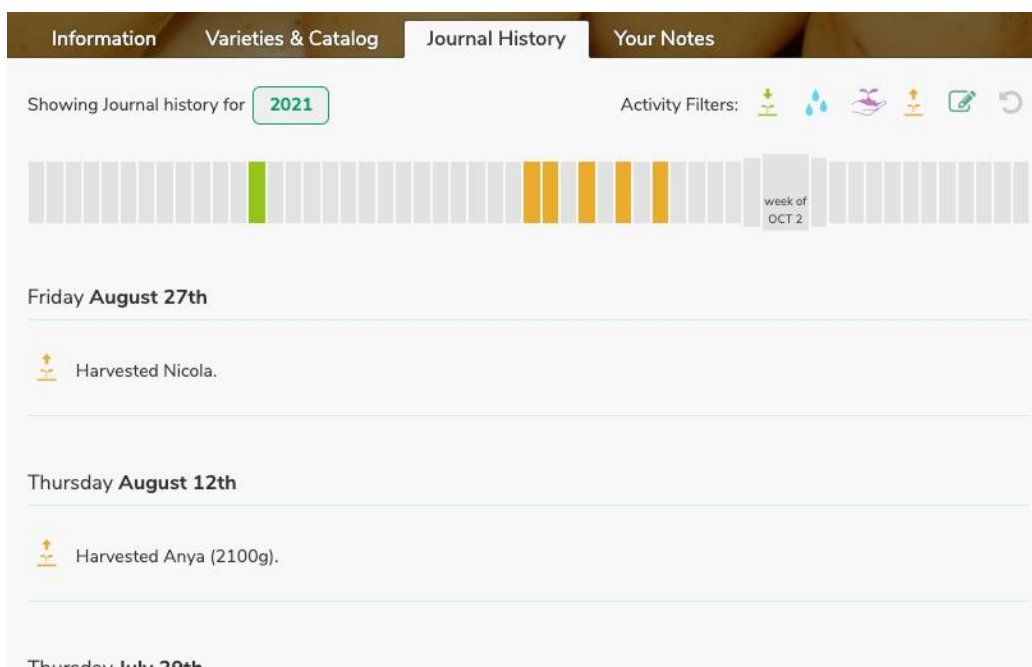
Under the **Varieties & Catalog** tab you'll find all the varieties of that plant that the Garden Planner currently lists.

Under the **Journal History** tab you'll find all of the notes and tasks relating to that plant from your Journal.

Under the **Notes** tab you'll find the notes you've made about that plant in your Plant List or in the Plant Edit box.

JOURNAL HISTORY

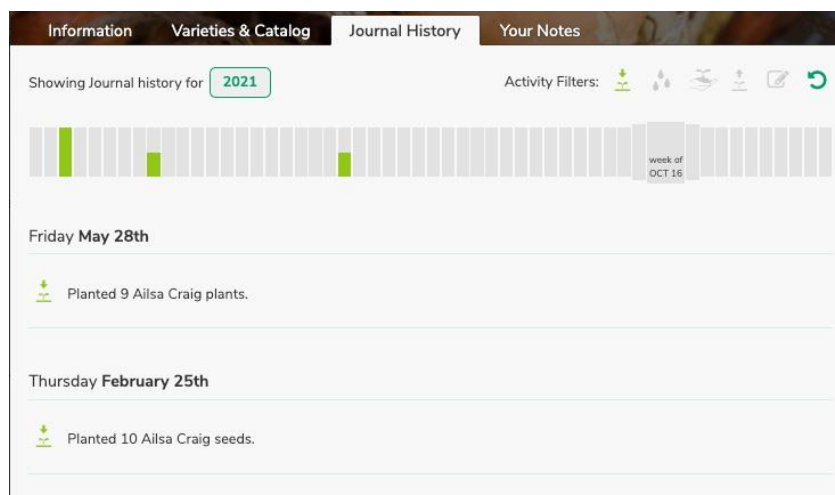
The **Journal History** tab includes all of the information you've recorded about that plant in your Journal, including dates you planted, watered, tended or harvested it. If you've tagged the plant in your notes, these will be shown here too.



Click on the year to show your Journal history for a different year.

Showing Journal history for 2021

Click on any of the **Activity Filters** to display only entries relating to that filter, for instance Planting. Click the arrow to return to viewing all activities.

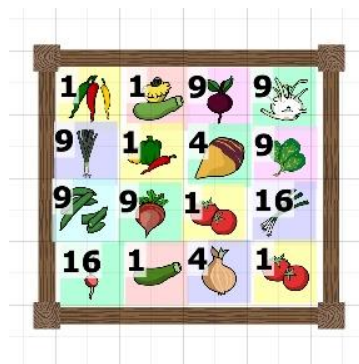


USING SQUARE FOOT GARDENING MODE

THE SQUARE FOOT GARDENING METHOD


The Square Foot Gardening method is useful for small gardens with raised beds.

It consists of dividing your beds into 1 ft. x 1 ft. squares and growing a different vegetable in each square in a quantity of between 1 and 16, depending on the plant. The Square Foot Gardening method requires a specific deep, free-draining soil mix (known as Mel's Mix) to grow plants at much higher densities than is normally advised.



The **Square Foot Gardening (SFG)** mode on the Garden Planner enables you to easily arrange 1 ft. squares of plants on your plan. The plant icons are automatically produced as squares, and a number in the top left corner of the icon tells you how many of that plant to grow in your 1 ft. area based on the specific plant's needs. (This can be manually adjusted if you wish by editing the default variety. See [Creating Your Own Variety](#) for further instructions.)

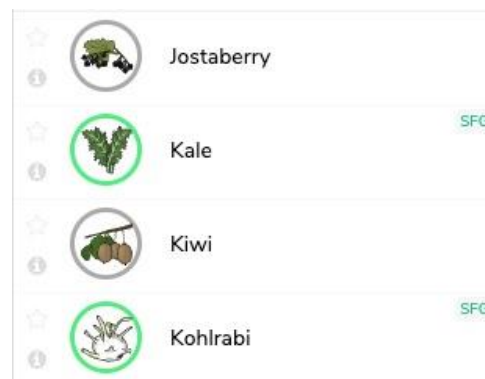
To turn on **SFG** mode in the Garden Planner, click the **SFG** slider at the top of the **Plant Menu**.

 When SFG mode is enabled you'll see the SFG tag displayed at the bottom left of your plan.

If you only wish to show plants that are suitable for growing using the Square Foot Gardening method, click on **Show More** at the top right of the plant selector then select the **Only Show SFG Plants** box. If you leave this box unchecked, plants that are too large to fit in a single square foot of space will also be displayed in the plant menu, but when you add them to your plan they will be added at their normal spacings.

Only Show SFG Plants ☐

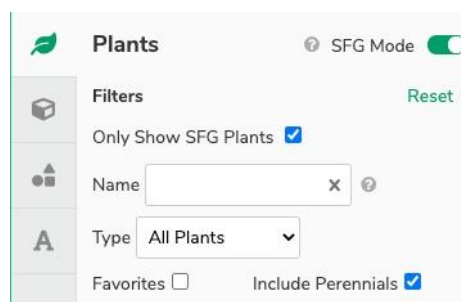
Plants that are suitable for growing using the SFG technique are indicated by the letters **SFG** on the right hand side of the plant in the plant selector. This is only displayed while using SFG mode.



In SFG mode each plant is added in single square-foot blocks. It's not possible to drag out a row, however to quickly add multiple blocks of the same plant, hold down the Ctrl key on your keyboard when selecting a plant. This will keep the plant selected, so you can click multiple times to place more of the same plant.

More information on this efficient gardening method is available at the official Square Foot Gardening website, which you can access by clicking the link in the Square Foot Gardening Mode box or clicking [here](#).

You can easily exit **SFG** mode by clicking the **SFG** slider again.



The image shows a 'Plants' filter panel with a sidebar on the left containing icons for a cube, a grid, a letter 'A', and a trash can. The main panel has a title 'Plants' with a green leaf icon and a toggle for 'SFG Mode' which is currently turned on. Below the title is a 'Filters' section with a 'Reset' button. The filters include: 'Only Show SFG Plants' with a checked checkbox; a 'Name' search field with a clear button and a help icon; a 'Type' dropdown menu currently set to 'All Plants'; and 'Favorites' with an unchecked checkbox and 'Include Perennials' with a checked checkbox.

THE PLANT LIST

Plant List

To view a summary of the plants in your plan click the **Plant List** button on the toolbar. The **Plant List** allows you to view spacing and sowing, planting, and harvesting information for the plants on your garden plan and to add notes.

UNDERSTANDING THE PLANT LIST

You will see a list of your plants, followed by a chart with dates that begin in January for the Northern Hemisphere and July for the Southern Hemisphere.

Display Options

Show Summary

Show Perennials

| Plant | | Count | Spacing | Spacing in Rows | Planting Times | | | | | | | | | | | | Notes |
|-------|----------------------------------|-------|---------|-----------------|----------------|----------|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-------|
| | | | | | Indoors | Outdoors | Harvest | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Asparagus | 8 | 45cm | 45cm x 45cm | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Beans (Bush Snap) | 18 | 25cm | 15cm x 35cm | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Beans (Fava) | 27 | 20cm | 15cm x 25cm | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Beans (Pole) | 10 | 25cm | 15cm x 35cm | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Beet | 100 | 15cm | 10cm x 20cm | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Broccoli | 8 | 45cm | 45cm x 45cm | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Cabbage (Spring Red) Red Acre | 6 | 60cm | 60cm x 60cm | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Carrot Baltimore | 259 | 10cm | 10cm x 15cm | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Cauliflower | 8 | 50cm | 45cm x 60cm | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Garlic | 16 | 15cm | 10cm x 25cm | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Leek | 96 | 20cm | 15cm x 30cm | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Lettuce (Crisphead) | 5 | 25cm | 20cm x 30cm | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

The list gives you a useful summary of important information for growing and harvesting your plants.

- **Count** – the number of plants of that type on your plan. This helps you to decide how many seeds or plants to buy or how many seedlings to raise (although it's usually a good idea to grow a few more plants than you need when starting from seed to allow for any failures).
- **Spacing** between plants (for individual plants or blocks of plants) **Spacing in Rows** of plants (the recommended distance between plants along a row x the distance between the rows). If you are using [SFG mode](#) then the number of plants per square foot will be displayed instead. To adjust the spacing please see [Creating Your Own Variety](#).
- **When to sow, plant, and harvest** your plants –see [Colored Bars on the Plant List](#) below.

You can select your **Favorite** plants by clicking on the star button to the left of a plant in the plant selector. This will highlight the star. You can then select the **Favorites** check box in the plant selector, and only your starred Favorites will be displayed.



To remove a plant from your Favorites, click on the star again to de-select it.

Click the **i** button to view the plant's [Grow Guide](#).

PLANT LIST OPTIONS

The **Plant List Display Options** button enables you to choose to remove perennials from the Plant List, making it easy to view only annual crops that need to be planted again every year.

The **Show Planting Dates in Text** option provides an alternative display that some users may prefer to view instead of the planting bars.

| | Plant | Count | Spacing | Spacing in Rows | Planting Times |
|--|-------------------|-------|---------|-----------------|--|
| | Asparagus | 8 | 45cm | 45cm x 45cm | Sow: Mid January → mid January, Mid January → mid January Plant: Mid February → mid April, Mid January → mid January Harvest: April → end of May, Mid November → mid November |
| | Beans (Bush Snap) | 18 | 25cm | 15cm x 35cm | Sow: Mid January → mid January, Mid January → mid January Plant: Mid April → end of May, Mid August → end of August Harvest: June → end of July, October → mid November |
| | Beans (Fava) | 27 | 20cm | 15cm x 25cm | Sow: Mid January → mid January, Mid January → mid January Plant: Mid March → end of April, Mid January → mid January Harvest: Mid May → mid June, Mid November → mid November |
| | Beans (Pole) | 10 | 25cm | 15cm x 35cm | Sow: April → mid April Plant: May → end of June Harvest: Mid June → mid November |
| | Beet | 100 | 15cm | 10cm x 20cm | Sow: Mid January → mid January, Mid January → mid January Plant: Mid March → end of April, Mid August → end of August Harvest: June → end of June, Mid October → end of November |

Check the **Show Summary** box to simplify the Plant List to group by plant rather than showing individual varieties. This will also remove the Notes column from view in your Plant List.

The **Show Perennials** option can be de-selected if you only wish to view the plants on your plan that will need to be sown or planted afresh each year. This is useful if your plan contains lots of established perennials such as fruit trees or bushes that you don't need to view sowing and planting information for.

PLANT LIST NOTES

You can add notes easily by clicking the blank **Notes** space next to the plant you wish to take note of and typing. This is useful for tracking information about how well a plant or variety performed or any details which you need to remember.

Any Notes you enter here can also be viewed by double-clicking on the plant in your plan (or click once on it to highlight it, then click once on the Edit Item button in your plan's toolbar).

Click the **Save** button when finished.

There is also a general Notes area in your plan's toolbar that allows you to make notes about your entire garden plan. Please see [Notes](#).

PLANTING TIMES ON THE PLANT LIST

The colored bars on the **Plant List** give recommended dates for when to sow, plant, and harvest your plants.

The planting dates are calculated based on the frost dates you set (see [Set Your Frost Dates](#)). These dates are also referred to when the system sends you planting reminders by email twice a month.

If there are no bars for a certain plant and Plant List displays 'Sorry, no planting data available for this plant in your location at this time', this means that the Garden Planner has calculated that your growing season is not long enough to accommodate it. However, using protection such as a greenhouse or cold frames you may still be able to grow it successfully - see [Creating Your Own Variety](#) for details of how to override this and define dates.

NOTE:

Manual date adjustments made to individual plants using the Custom Varieties feature will show up on your Plant List and be reflected in the email planting reminders.

All dates are recommendations based on averages for your area. You should also consult seed packets or local gardening advice to ensure that you are aware of the best times to plant for your local conditions.



BLUE BARS

The blue bars indicate when to start planting indoors or undercover if you choose to do so.

Not all plants have a blue bar as some are commonly planted directly in the ground and not started indoors.

GREEN BARS

The green bars indicate when to transfer the plant into the ground or when to sow seed directly into the soil.

ORANGE BARS

The orange bars indicate the expected harvest dates of the plants.

SOWING AND PLANTING REMINDERS

You will receive emails twice a month with sowing and planting reminders (unless you have deselected that option in your [Account Settings](#).) These planting reminders are located at the bottom of the newsletter emails and include all of your plants from plans for the current year that can be sown or planted during the following two weeks. They are sent on the first and third Friday of each month.

TIP: For the last two months of the growing year (November and December in the Northern Hemisphere and May and June in the Southern Hemisphere), planting reminders are sent for plans for the next growing year since most planting will then be for the next season.

The reminders are usually based on the average frost dates for your area unless you have customized the [dates for a plant or variety](#).

BUYING SEEDS AND PLANTS - **COMING SOON!**











THE PARTS LIST

Parts List

The Parts List is similar to the Plant List but it summarizes the garden objects that represent physical items you need to make or purchase for your garden.

UNDERSTANDING THE PARTS LIST

Parts List Notes ⚙️ • Vegetable Garden 2020

| Part | Quantity |
|--|----------|
|  Raised Bed (Wood) | 11 |
|  Cold Frame (Wood) | 1 |
|  Teepee (Bamboo) | 1 |
|  Spigot | 1 |
|  Timer | 1 |
|  Tee | 5 |
|  Elbow | 1 |
|  Dripline (1/4") | 23.87m * |
|  Supply Tubing (1/2") | 3.48m * |
|  End | 5 |

Depending on the type of object, the quantity will be displayed either as a number, a length or an area.

For any landscaping projects or drip irrigation it is usual to add an additional minimum 10% to lengths or quantities when purchasing, in order to allow for unforeseen circumstances ‘on the ground’. Make sure that you have sufficient extra quantity before purchasing.

NOTES

The Notes tab is a great place to store general notes about your plan. You can print your Notes or save it as a PDF by clicking on the Print button in the Notes toolbar.

USING THE SUCCESSION PLANTING OPTION

Succession planting is the practice of growing more than one plant in the same area at different times during a growing season.

It allows you to achieve maximum harvest from a given area and is particularly useful for those with small gardens or long growing seasons.

SET WHICH MONTHS EACH PLANT IS IN THE SOIL

To set up succession planting for a selected plant, double-click the plant on the plan (or click on it once to highlight it, then click the Edit Item button in your plan's toolbar) to pull up the **Edit Plant** box.

Under the **In-ground Dates** heading, select the months during which the plant will be grown by selecting from the dropdown lists.

Click **Done** when you are finished.

Edit Plant - Leek

Label and Variety

Label

Show Label ☒

Variety

[Add Variety](#) [Customize Varieties](#)

In-ground Dates

Specify in-ground dates ☒ ?

From To

VIEW AND EDIT YOUR GARDEN PLAN MONTH-BY-MONTH

To view how your garden will look during a particular month of the year click the **Months** dropdown list in your plan's toolbar. By default this shows **All Months**.

When you select a month, only plants that are marked as being in the ground for that month or for all of the growing season will be shown on the plan. (You will always need to do this to prevent viewing plant overlap if you are succession planting).

You can then fill in the blank spaces on the garden plan with another type of plant if you wish and adjust the in-ground dates (see [Set Which Months Each Plant is in the Soil](#)). Continue viewing each month until you are happy with the succession planting.

If you would like the **Plant List** to also show the different dates for each succession-planted crop separately, you need to define them as specific varieties (for example, Carrots – early or Carrots – late) and specify [custom dates for each variety](#).

OVERWINTERING PLANTS

If you enter dates for succession sowing that are over winter (for example, September to May for a garden in the Northern Hemisphere), they will be copied across to next year's plan when you use the follow-on plan option (see [Follow-On Plan](#)) and select for **perennial plants** to be copied (the default option).

When copied to the new plan, they will be marked as being in the ground from the start of the new year (for example, from January through May).

STARTING NEXT YEAR'S PLAN AND CROP ROTATION

To start a plan for the next year, either click the **New Plan** button in your plan's toolbar, or click the **Create New Plan** button in the Garden Planner main menu.

FOLLOW-ON PLAN

To copy your garden layout for the next year and link the plans for [crop rotation](#) select the **Create Follow-on Plan** option. You will need to have a current subscription in order to create a follow-on plan since the free trial is limited to one plan.

The new plan will have the same name, but a new year listed. You can change this if you wish by clicking on the Year drop-down menu.

The default settings will transfer your garden layout, irrigation, text, structures and perennials, but this can be adjusted if you wish.

CHOOSING FOLLOW-ON PLAN OPTIONS

When you select **Create Follow-on Plan**, you will have the option to copy plan layout, irrigation, text, structures, and plants. Check the box next to the item to transfer it. For most gardens, the default options shown above are best.

If you select plants, choose whether you would like to transfer all plants or only your perennials.

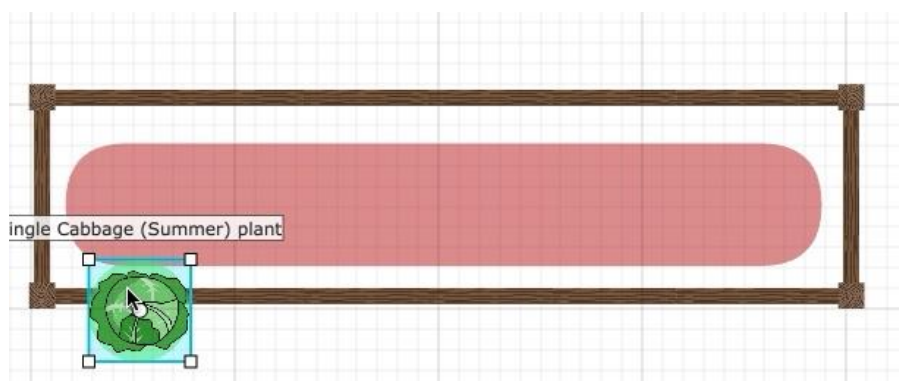
If you used the succession planting feature in your last plan, any plant that you have marked as overwintering in the ground (from October through March, for example) will automatically carry over.

CROP ROTATION

Crop families are indicated in the Garden Planner by the colored area behind each plant. See the [crop families](#) section for details of the color coding.

By creating follow-on plans, the Garden Planner automatically links up to five plans and provides crop rotation warnings. This helps you to avoid growing plants from the same crop family in the same area in the following season, which can cause soil nutrient deficiency, pest buildup, and plant disease.

When you select a plant in a follow-on plan, areas of your plan will flash red to warn you of where you grew plants from that crop family on last year's plan. This makes it easy to find the best place to plant without having to remember the crop family of each plant.



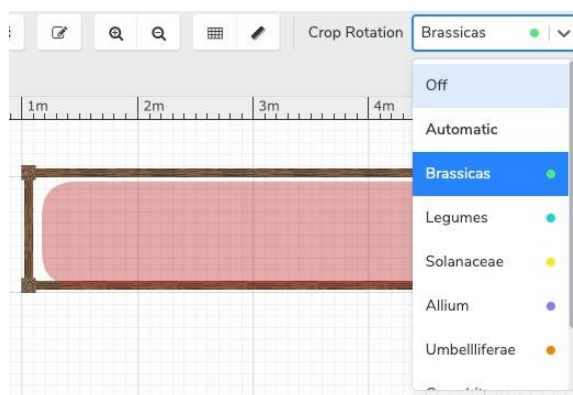
You can choose to ignore the warnings if required, for instance if you have a small garden with too little space for full crop rotation.

Warnings become dimmer with every new plan, so a crop rotation warning from a plant that was on a plan 3 years ago will be dimmer than a warning for a plant from the previous year (this reflects the reduced likelihood of disease or nutrient depletion as time goes on). The crop rotation warnings disappear once the plant is placed.

Crop rotation options can be switched off or manually adjusted (see [Settings for This Plan](#)). This is particularly useful if you decide to enter the plans for a previous year's planting after creating the current year's plan.

The **Crop Rotation** drop-down menu in your plan's toolbar can be used to show where crops from a specific family grew previously, without the need to select a plant.

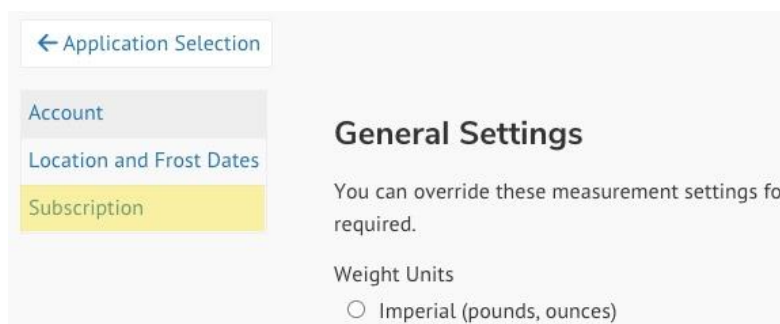
Click on the **Crop Rotation** menu and select a crop family. Your plan will then display flashing red warnings to show where you grew crops from that family previously. (See the [crop families](#) section for details of the color coding.)



The Miscellaneous category is not included in this list because these plants do not typically require rotation.

SUBSCRIBING TO THE GARDEN PLANNER

If your 7-day free trial or subscription expires, you will no longer be able to view or edit plans or receive planting reminders. However, you will still receive the newsletters twice a month if you have selected that option in your [Account Settings](#), and you will be able to continue to use the Garden Journal for free.



To add a subscription or to check the number of remaining days on your account, click on **Your Account** on the welcome page or at the bottom left of the Garden Planner, then click on **Subscription** in the left-hand menu.

Click on **Add Subscription** to visit our secure subscription page. You can choose between a recurring annual subscription, a 1 year subscription, or a 2 year subscription.

SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS

You can pay for your subscription by credit/debit card or PayPal account which are transacted via our secure payment server using industry standard encryption and security. For added security, no financial details are stored on our servers. Gift certificates are also available and may be used as a means of payment for a subscription.

If you still have days remaining on your free trial when you're ready to subscribe, you will not lose them. Your subscription will simply be added to the end of your free trial.

APPENDICES

A. KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

Ctrl + ... and Cmd + ... indicates you should hold down the Ctrl or Cmd key on the keyboard and then tap the letter.

For Windows computers please use **Ctrl + ...**

For Mac, please use **Cmd + ...**

KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS FOR WINDOWS AND MAC

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Ctrl + g Cmd + g | New plan |
| Ctrl + i Cmd + i | Open plan |
| Ctrl + s Cmd + s | Save plan |
| Ctrl + x Cmd + x | Cut selected items (shapes, text, garden objects or plants) |
| Ctrl + c Cmd + c | Copy selected items (shapes, text, garden objects or plants) |
| Ctrl + v Cmd + v | Paste selected items (shapes, text, garden objects or plants) |
| Del | Delete selected items (shapes, text, garden objects or plants) |
| Ctrl + e Cmd + e | Edit item |
| Ctrl + z Cmd + z | Undo |
| Ctrl + y Cmd + y | Redo |
| Ctrl + +[| Zoom In |
| Ctrl + -] | Zoom Out |

When adding items (plants, garden objects, shapes or text) to your plan:

- Holding down **Ctrl** will keep the current object selected so you can add another without having to go back up to the toolbar.

When selecting items (plants, garden objects, shapes or text):

- Holding down **Shift** will enable you to select more than one object so you can move, cut, copy or delete them all at the same time.

When placing or adjusting lines, rows or blocks of plants:

- Holding down **Shift** will keep the line, row or block horizontal or vertical on your plan.

When rotating shapes and garden objects:

- Holding down **Shift** will keep rotations to increments of 45 degrees.