

January, 2010

ORGANIC GROWING: ONE SEASON AT A TIME

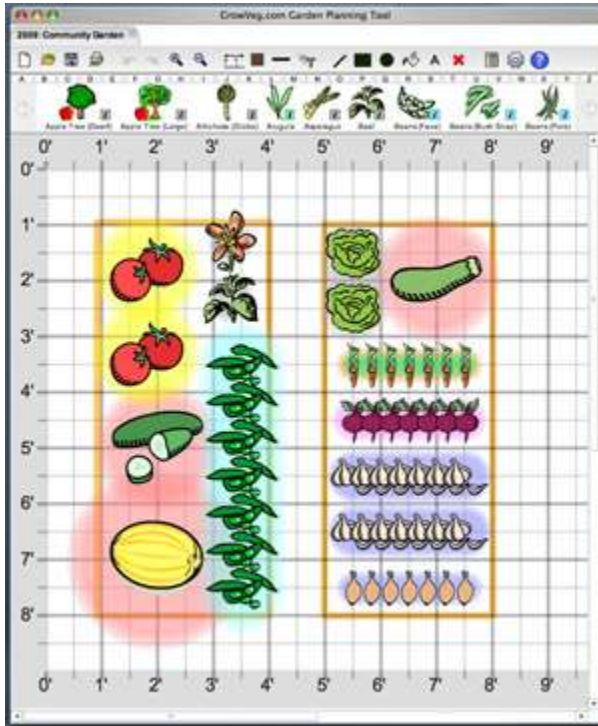
1. Evaluate Your Situation
2. Prepare
3. Spring
4. Summer
5. Fall

1. Evaluation

- Identify common weeds, diseases, other problems on your plot
- What are the strengths of your plot?
- Where did you grow each type of plant last year?
- Do a soil test



2.Preparation



- Choose plants with disease resistance
- If you have a major insect problem, consider when to time plantings
- Play to your strengths
- Draw where your crops will go for proper rotation

3. Spring

- Double-dig
- What are your main weeds? Ideal tilling practices are different for different types of plants.
- Apply well-rotted manure, compost, lime, etc.



4. Summer

- Mulch!!
- Insect control as needed (try to avoid broad-based insecticides, even if organic)
- Remove damaged plants
- Intersperse plants that attract beneficials
- Fertilize if needed



5. Fall



- Destroy diseased or infested plants
- Compost everything else
- Take notes about what worked well and what didn't
- Consider a cover crop

Top Organic Tips

- Talk to old-timers
- Think about your garden's strengths, not just its problems
- Mulch
- Do everything you can to build healthy soil
- Above all, prioritize enjoying your harvest

