Garden Plan

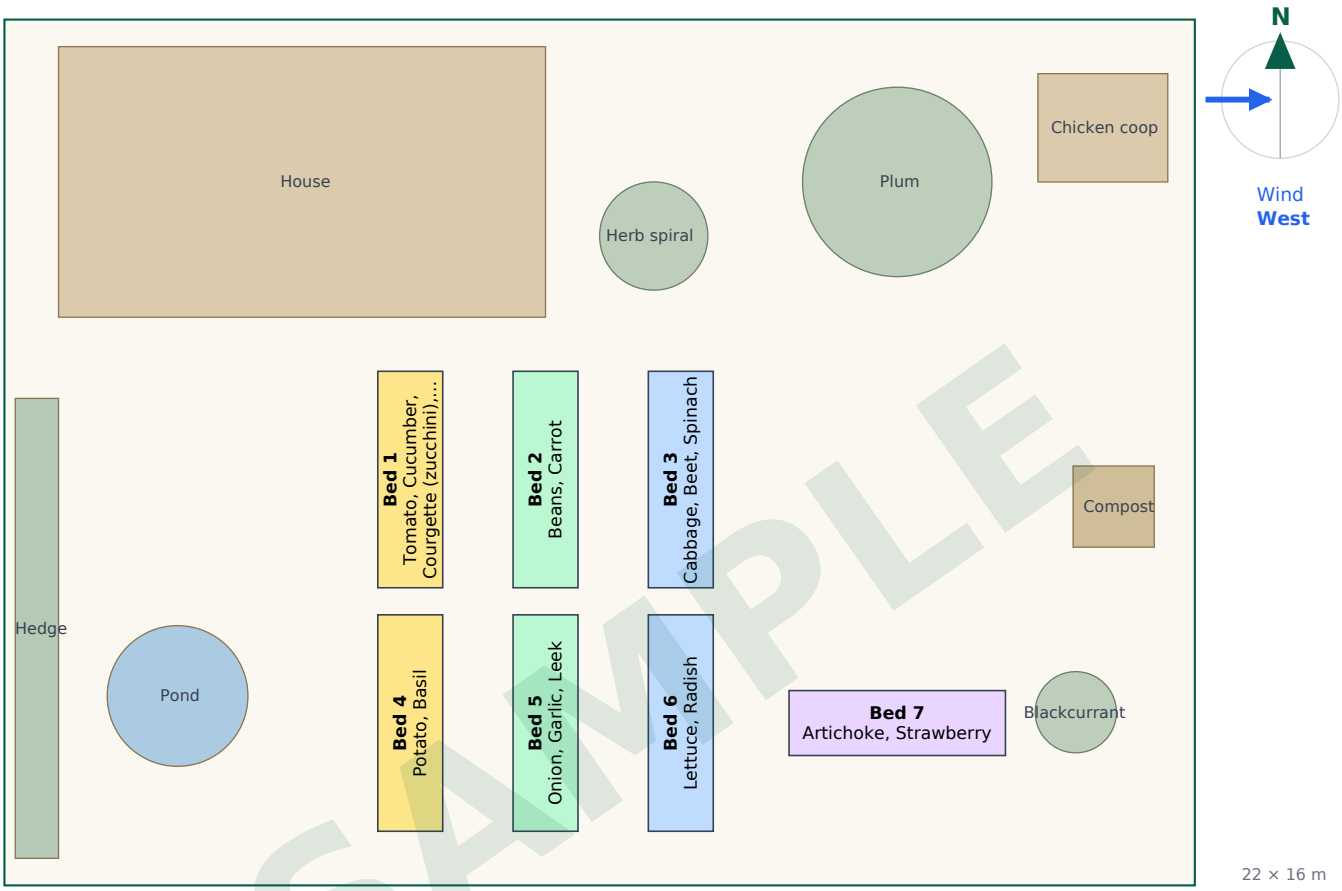
USDA zone 9 · prepared 01.11.2026

Sample: a natural garden near London

Last spring frost ≈ 25 Mar · first autumn frost ≈ 15 Nov

Beds: 7 · 33.6 m² · crops: 18

Plot layout (year 1)

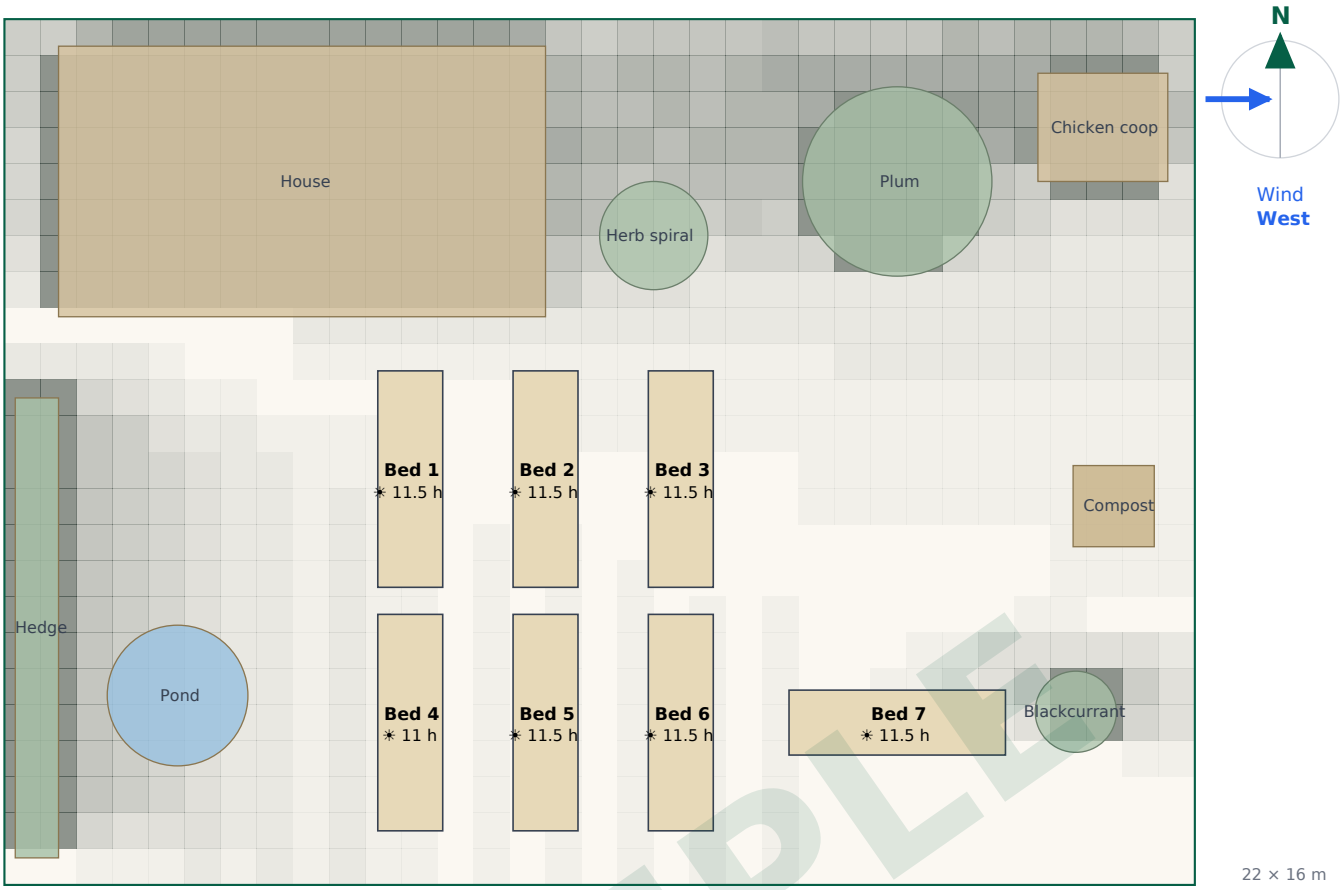


Heavy feeders · Legumes & roots · Brassicas & leafy

Perennials · Shade · Rest year

As on your plot drawing; a bed's colour is its year-1 crop group, its crops are written on it.

Plot drawing



Shading: the darker, the fewer hours of direct sun on a summer day. ☀ — hours of sun on the bed.

• Rain from the roofs (49.8 m²): about 450 l from every 10 mm of rain — enough reason for a water butt for dry spells.
• Permaculture zones: put what you pick every day (salad, herbs, tomatoes) closest to the house, potatoes, pumpkins and garlic further away. Closest to the house: Bed 1; furthest: Bed 7.
• Fruit tree guild: white clover under the crown (nitrogen), borage or comfrey to cut and leave as mulch, dill, phacelia and chamomile for helpful insects, a ring of garlic or chives by the trunk against pests, strawberries and nasturtiums as ground cover. Keep grass out of a 1 m circle round the trunk.
• Herb spiral (Mollison): a mound of stones and soil about 2 m across and 1 m high, planted along a spiral. Dry-loving herbs at the sunny top — rosemary, lavender, savory, hyssop; mint, chervil and parsley at the damp foot, by a small pond if you have one. Put it next to the kitchen door: you pick herbs every day.
• Chicken coop: hens are good garden workers in autumn — after the harvest, let them onto the beds for a few weeks: they eat pests, slugs and weed seeds and scratch in their manure. In spring and summer keep them off the beds (or fence the beds). Their droppings go to the compost, never fresh onto the beds.

3-year rotation

Bed	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Bed 1	Heavy feeders Tomato, Cucumber, Courgette (zucchini), Pepper	Legumes & roots Beans, Carrot	Brassicas & leafy Cabbage, Beet, Spinach
Bed 2	Legumes & roots Beans, Carrot	Brassicas & leafy Cabbage, Beet, Spinach	Heavy feeders Tomato, Cucumber, Courgette (zucchini), Pepper
Bed 3	Brassicas & leafy Cabbage, Beet, Spinach	Heavy feeders Tomato, Cucumber, Courgette (zucchini), Pepper	Legumes & roots Beans, Carrot
Bed 4	Heavy feeders Potato, Basil	Legumes & roots Onion, Garlic, Leek	Brassicas & leafy Lettuce, Radish
Bed 5	Legumes & roots Onion, Garlic, Leek	Brassicas & leafy Lettuce, Radish	Heavy feeders Potato, Basil
Bed 6	Brassicas & leafy Lettuce, Radish	Heavy feeders Potato, Basil	Legumes & roots Onion, Garlic, Leek
Bed 7	Perennials Artichoke, Strawberry	Perennials Artichoke, Strawberry	Perennials Artichoke, Strawberry

SAMPLE

Heavy feeders (nightshades, squash, corn) → Legumes, roots & onions → Brassicas & leafy greens → Heavy feeders (nightshades, squash, corn)

Year 1: what to do and when

Month	Jobs
January	Sow seedlings indoors: Tomato (late Jan), Pepper (late Jan), Cabbage (late Jan)
February	Sow in the ground: Spinach (late Feb – late Mar), Lettuce (late Feb – late Apr), Radish (late Feb – late Apr) Plant out seedlings: Cabbage (late Feb – late Mar), Leek (late Feb – late Mar) Plant sets, tubers, cloves or plants: Onion (late Feb – late Mar) Green manure between crops: Mustard (mid-Feb – late Feb)
March	Sow seedlings indoors: Basil (early Mar) Sow in the ground: Cucumber (late Mar – late May), Courgette (zucchini) (late Mar – late May), Beans (late Mar – late Jun), Carrot (early Mar – late May), Beet (early Mar – late May) Plant out seedlings: Tomato (late Mar – late May), Pepper (late Mar – late May), Basil (late Mar – late May) Plant sets, tubers, cloves or plants: Potato (early Mar – late Apr), Artichoke (early Mar – late Apr), Strawberry (early Mar – late Apr) Plant the herb spiral: Rosemary, Lavender, Thyme, Hyssop, Summer Savory, Oregano, Chives, Basil, Coriander (cilantro), Parsley, Chervil, Mint, Wild strawberry (late Mar – late Apr)
April	Green manure between crops: Buckwheat (early Apr – early May)
May	Green manure between crops: Buckwheat (late May – early Jun)
June	Lift what was planted last autumn, then sow a green manure there: Garlic (early Jun) Green manure between crops: Buckwheat (early Jun – mid-Jul)
August	Sow again for an autumn harvest: Carrot (late Aug – early Sep), Cabbage (late Aug – early Sep)
September	Sow again for an autumn harvest: Beet (early Sep – mid-Sep), Spinach (late Sep – mid-Oct), Lettuce (mid-Sep – mid-Oct)
October	Sow again for an autumn harvest: Radish (early Oct – late Oct) After the harvest, sow green manure: Oats, Phacelia, Common vetch, Barley, Field Peas Plant before winter, for next year's harvest: Garlic (late Oct – mid-Nov)
December	Sow seedlings indoors: Leek (late Dec)

Year 1: what grows where

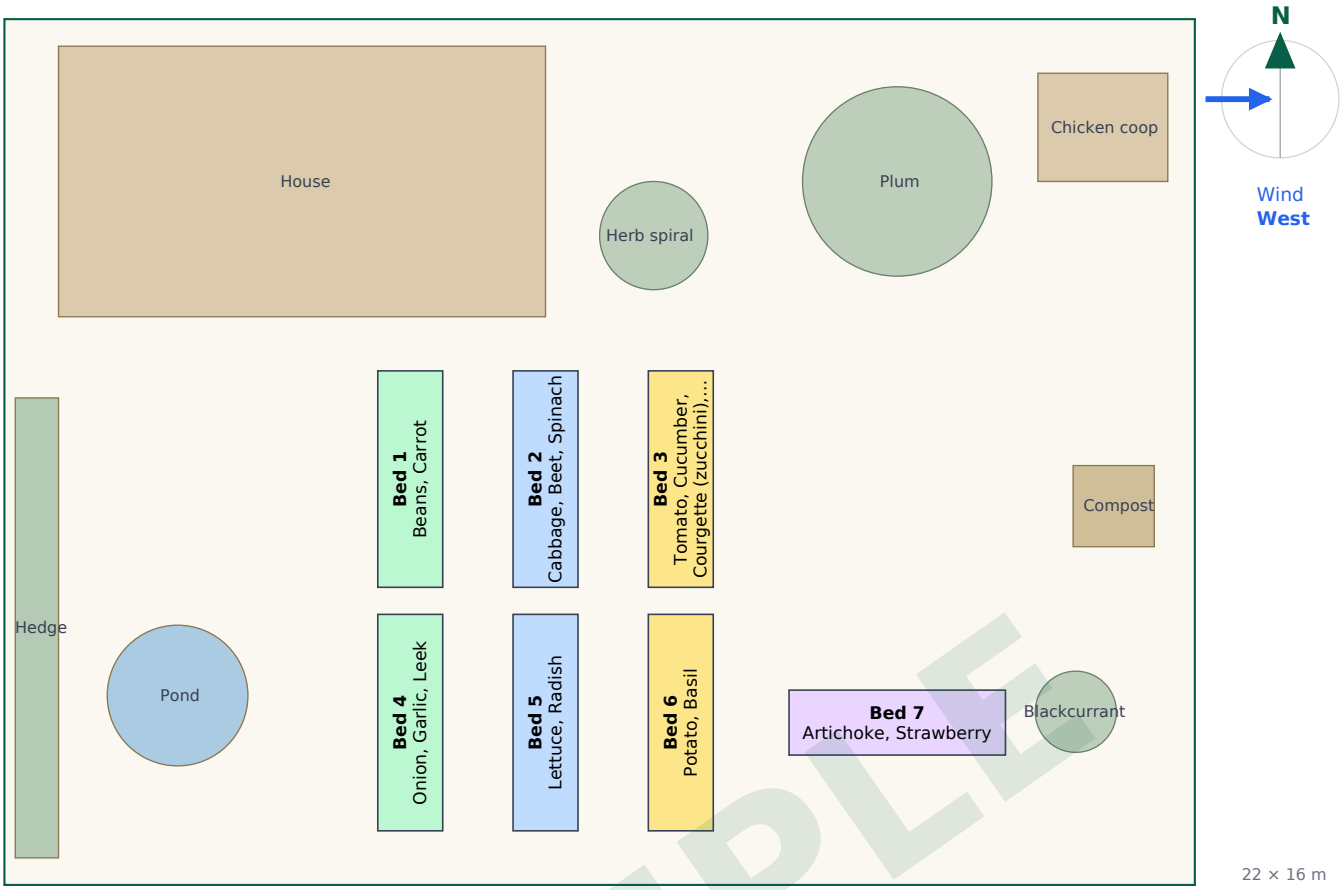
Bed	Crop	m²	Qty	In the ground	Placement	Protectors (edge)
Bed 1	Tomato	1.85	7	late Mar – late May · seedlings: late Jan	tall to the north: Tomato, Cucumber	Basil × 6, Dill × 6, Marigold × 5
	Cucumber	1.11	6	late Mar – late May		
	Courgette (zucchini)	1.11	1	late Mar – late May		
	Pepper	0.74	4	late Mar – late May · seedlings: late Jan		
Bed 2	Beans	2.88	130	late Mar – late Jun		Summer Savory × 9, Rosemary × 8 (in a pot)
	Carrot	1.92	770	early Mar – late May		

SAMPLE

Bed	Crop	m²	Qty	In the ground	Placement	Protectors (edge)
Bed 3	Cabbage	2.4	9	late Feb – late Mar · seedlings: late Jan		Mint × 6 (in a pot), Catnip × 6 (in a pot), Chamomile × 5
	Beet	1.44	140	early Mar – late May		
	Spinach	0.96	95	late Feb – late Mar		
Bed 4	Potato	4.66	38	early Mar – late Apr		Horseradish × 9 (in a pot), Marigold × 8
	Basil	0.14	2	late Mar – late May · seedlings: early Mar		
Bed 5	Onion	2.4	240	late Feb – late Mar		Chamomile × 9, Celery × 8
	Garlic	1.2	83	late Oct – mid-Nov · planted the autumn before, lifted in July		
	Leek	1.2	53	late Feb – late Mar · seedlings: late Dec		
Bed 6	Lettuce	3.2	51	late Feb – late Apr		Borage × 9, Chervil × 8
	Radish	1.6	640	late Feb – late Apr		
Bed 7	Artichoke	1.92	1	early Mar – late Apr	tall to the north: Artichoke	Chamomile × 9, Borage × 8
	Strawberry	2.88	32	early Mar – late Apr		

SAMPLE

Year 2: what grows where



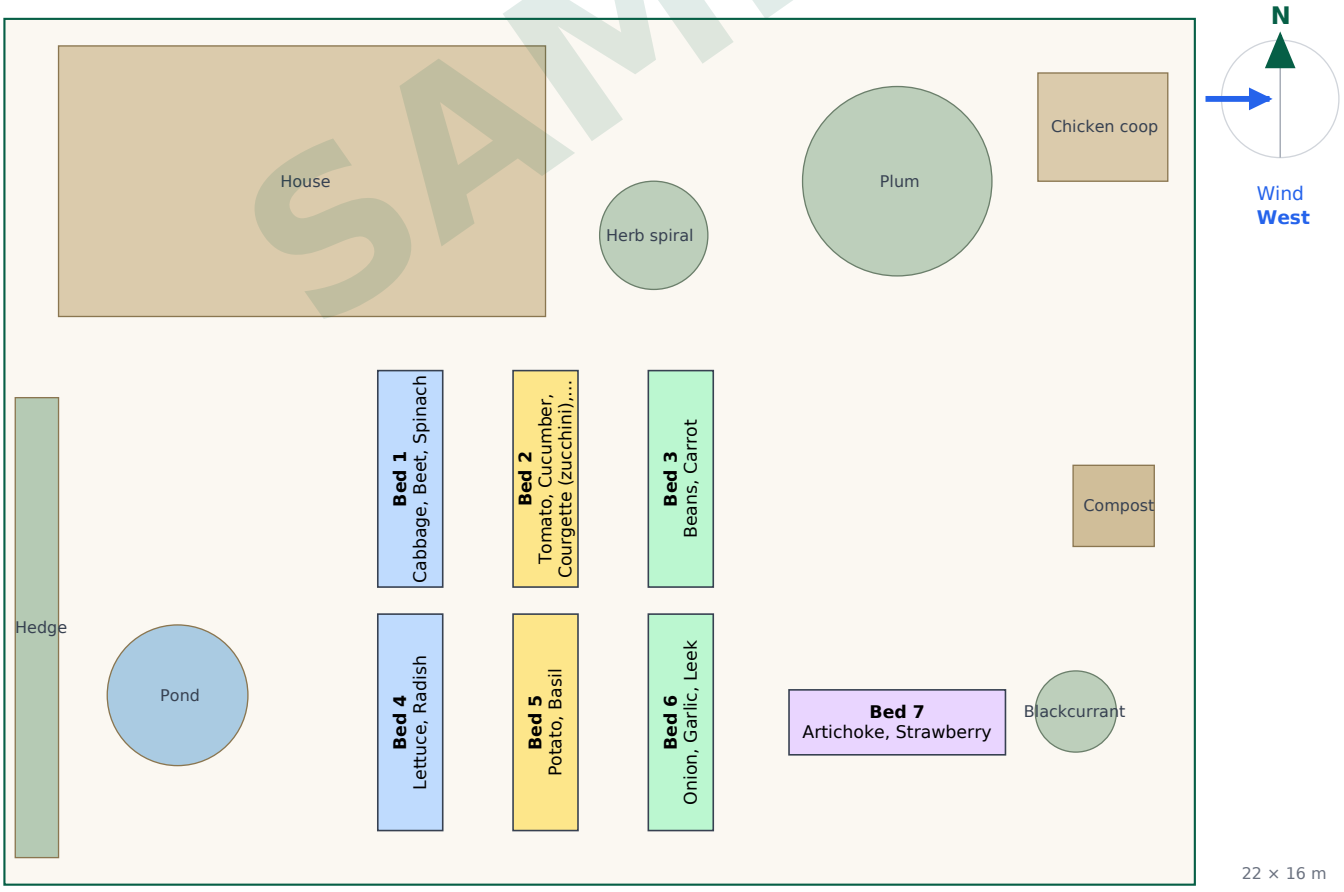
Bed	Crop	m²	Qty	In the ground	Placement	Protectors (edge)
Bed 1	Beans	2.88	130	late Mar – late Jun		Summer Savory × 9, Rosemary × 8 (in a pot)
	Carrot	1.92	770	early Mar – late May		
Bed 2	Cabbage	2.4	9	late Feb – late Mar · seedlings: late Jan		Mint × 6 (in a pot), Catnip × 6 (in a pot), Chamomile × 5
	Beet	1.44	140	early Mar – late May		
	Spinach	0.96	95	late Feb – late Mar		
Bed 3	Tomato	1.85	7	late Mar – late May · seedlings: late Jan	tall to the north: Tomato, Cucumber	Basil × 6, Dill × 6, Marigold × 5
	Cucumber	1.11	6	late Mar – late May		
	Courgette (zucchini)	1.11	1	late Mar – late May		
	Pepper	0.74	4	late Mar – late May · seedlings: late Jan		

SAMPLE

Bed	Crop	m²	Qty	In the ground	Placement	Protectors (edge)
Bed 4	Onion	2.4	240	late Feb – late Mar		Chamomile × 9, Celery × 8
	Garlic	1.2	83	late Oct – mid-Nov · planted the autumn before, lifted in July		
	Leek	1.2	53	late Feb – late Mar · seedlings: late Dec		
Bed 5	Lettuce	3.2	51	late Feb – late Apr		Borage × 9, Chervil × 8
	Radish	1.6	640	late Feb – late Apr		
Bed 6	Potato	4.66	38	early Mar – late Apr		Horseradish × 9 (in a pot), Marigold × 8
	Basil	0.14	2	late Mar – late May · seedlings: early Mar		
Bed 7	Artichoke	1.92	1	early Mar – late Apr	tall to the north: Artichoke	Chamomile × 9, Borage × 8
	Strawberry	2.88	32	early Mar – late Apr		

SAMPLE

Year 3: what grows where



Bed	Crop	m²	Qty	In the ground	Placement	Protectors (edge)
Bed 1	Cabbage	2.4	9	late Feb – late Mar · seedlings: late Jan		Mint × 6 (in a pot), Catnip × 6 (in a pot), Chamomile × 5
	Beet	1.44	140	early Mar – late May		
	Spinach	0.96	95	late Feb – late Mar		
Bed 2	Tomato	1.85	7	late Mar – late May · seedlings: late Jan	tall to the north: Tomato, Cucumber	Basil × 6, Dill × 6, Marigold × 5
	Cucumber	1.11	6	late Mar – late May		
	Courgette (zucchini)	1.11	1	late Mar – late May		
	Pepper	0.74	4	late Mar – late May · seedlings: late Jan		
Bed 3	Beans	2.88	130	late Mar – late Jun		Summer Savory × 9, Rosemary × 8 (in a pot)
	Carrot	1.92	770	early Mar – late May		
Bed 4	Lettuce	3.2	51	late Feb – late Apr		Borage × 9, Chervil × 8
	Radish	1.6	640	late Feb – late Apr		
Bed 5	Potato	4.66	38	early Mar – late Apr		Horseradish × 9 (in a pot), Marigold × 8
	Basil	0.14	2	late Mar – late May · seedlings: early Mar		
Bed 6	Onion	2.4	240	late Feb – late Mar		Chamomile × 9, Celery × 8
	Garlic	1.2	83	late Oct – mid-Nov · planted the autumn before, lifted in July		
	Leek	1.2	53	late Feb – late Mar · seedlings: late Dec		
Bed 7	Artichoke	1.92	1	early Mar – late Apr	tall to the north: Artichoke	Chamomile × 9, Borage × 8
	Strawberry	2.88	32	early Mar – late Apr		

SAMPLE

Herb spiral

Level	Herbs and how many
Top: dry, full sun, sandy soil with stones	Rosemary × 1, Lavender × 1, Thyme × 3, Hyssop × 2, Summer Savory × 3
Middle: sun, ordinary soil	Oregano × 3, Chives × 4, Basil × 4, Coriander (cilantro) × 12
Foot: moist, light shade	Parsley × 7, Chervil × 7, Mint × 2 (in a bottomless bucket: it runs), Wild strawberry × 4

Plant after the last spring frost (basil is tender). Herbs that would freeze in your zone go in a pot sunk into the spiral and come indoors in autumn. Perennial herbs stay for years: trim them after flowering; sow the annuals (basil, coriander, savory, chervil) again each spring.

For your family: 1 people

Crop	Needed, m²	In the plan, m²	Enough?
Tomato	2.5	1.9	enough
Pepper	1	0.7	enough
Cucumber	1.5	1.1	enough
Courgette (zucchini)	1.5	1.1	enough
Potato	10	4.7	**too little**
Basil	0.3	0.1	**too little**
Carrot	2	1.9	enough
Beans	3	2.9	enough
Onion	2	2.4	enough
Garlic	1	1.2	enough
Leek	1	1.2	enough
Cabbage	2.5	2.4	enough
Lettuce	1	3.2	**more than you eat**
Beet	1.5	1.4	enough
Radish	0.5	1.6	**more than you eat**
Spinach	1	1	enough
Strawberry	3	2.9	enough
Artichoke	2	1.9	enough

Rough figures: fresh vegetables in season and some to keep for winter. Lettuce, radish and spinach sown again every 2–3 weeks give more from the same bed; a surplus can be dried, frozen or shared.

SAMPLE

Cover crops: between plantings and after the harvest

Bed	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Bed 1	Spring, before planting (tomato, cucumber, courgette (zucchini), pepper): Mustard 15 g, sow mid-Feb – late Feb, as soon as the ground thaws, cut by 17 Mar Autumn, after the harvest: Oats — 87 g	Spring, before planting (beans): Mustard 9 g, sow mid-Feb – late Feb, as soon as the ground thaws, cut by 17 Mar Summer, after harvesting (beans): Buckwheat 58 g, sow late Jun – early Jul, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 17 Sep · sowings this summer: 2 Autumn, after the harvest: Phacelia — 8 g	Summer, after harvesting (beet): Buckwheat 29 g, sow late May – early Jun, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 23 Aug · sowings this summer: 2 Summer, after harvesting (spinach): Buckwheat 29 g, sow late Apr – early May, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 13 Sep · sowings this summer: 3 Autumn, after the harvest: Mix: Common vetch 48 g + Oats 39 g

Bed	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Bed 2	Spring, before planting (beans): Mustard 9 g, sow mid-Feb – late Feb, as soon as the ground thaws, cut by 17 Mar Summer, after harvesting (beans): Buckwheat 58 g, sow late Jun – early Jul, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 17 Sep · sowings this summer: 2 Autumn, after the harvest: Phacelia — 8 g	Summer, after harvesting (beet): Buckwheat 29 g, sow late May – early Jun, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 23 Aug · sowings this summer: 2 Summer, after harvesting (spinach): Buckwheat 29 g, sow late Apr – early May, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 13 Sep · sowings this summer: 3 Autumn, after the harvest: Mix: Common vetch 48 g + Oats 39 g	Spring, before planting (tomato, cucumber, courgette (zucchini), pepper): Mustard 15 g, sow mid-Feb – late Feb, as soon as the ground thaws, cut by 17 Mar Autumn, after the harvest: Oats — 87 g
Bed 3	Summer, after harvesting (beet): Buckwheat 29 g, sow late May – early Jun, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 23 Aug · sowings this summer: 2 Summer, after harvesting (spinach): Buckwheat 29 g, sow late Apr – early May, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 13 Sep · sowings this summer: 3 Autumn, after the harvest: Mix: Common vetch 48 g + Oats 39 g	Spring, before planting (tomato, cucumber, courgette (zucchini), pepper): Mustard 15 g, sow mid-Feb – late Feb, as soon as the ground thaws, cut by 17 Mar Autumn, after the harvest: Oats — 87 g	Spring, before planting (beans): Mustard 9 g, sow mid-Feb – late Feb, as soon as the ground thaws, cut by 17 Mar Summer, after harvesting (beans): Buckwheat 58 g, sow late Jun – early Jul, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 17 Sep · sowings this summer: 2 Autumn, after the harvest: Phacelia — 8 g
Bed 4	Spring, before planting (basil): Mustard 1 g, sow mid-Feb – late Feb, as soon as the ground thaws, cut by 17 Mar Summer, after harvesting (potato): Buckwheat 94 g, sow mid-Jun – late Jun, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 17 Sep · sowings this summer: 2 Autumn, after the harvest: Barley — 65 g (not on the 1.2 m² of garlic planted for next year)	Summer, after harvesting (onion, garlic): Buckwheat 72 g, sow early Jun – mid-Jul, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 17 Sep · sowings this summer: 2 Autumn, after the harvest: Mix: Field Peas 58 g + Oats 29 g	Summer, after harvesting (lettuce): Buckwheat 97 g, sow late Apr – early May, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 6 Sep · sowings this summer: 3 Summer, after harvesting (radish): Buckwheat 49 g, sow early Apr – mid-Apr, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 17 Sep · sowings this summer: 3 Autumn, after the harvest: Phacelia — 8 g
Bed 5	Summer, after harvesting (onion, garlic): Buckwheat 72 g, sow early Jun – mid-Jul, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 17 Sep · sowings this summer: 2 Autumn, after the harvest: Mix: Field Peas 58 g + Oats 29 g	Summer, after harvesting (lettuce): Buckwheat 97 g, sow late Apr – early May, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 6 Sep · sowings this summer: 3 Summer, after harvesting (radish): Buckwheat 49 g, sow early Apr – mid-Apr, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 17 Sep · sowings this summer: 3 Autumn, after the harvest: Phacelia — 8 g	Spring, before planting (basil): Mustard 1 g, sow mid-Feb – late Feb, as soon as the ground thaws, cut by 17 Mar Summer, after harvesting (potato): Buckwheat 94 g, sow mid-Jun – late Jun, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 17 Sep · sowings this summer: 2 Autumn, after the harvest: Barley — 87 g
Bed 6	Summer, after harvesting (lettuce): Buckwheat 97 g, sow late Apr – early May, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 6 Sep · sowings this summer: 3 Summer, after harvesting (radish): Buckwheat 49 g, sow early Apr – mid-Apr, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 17 Sep · sowings this summer: 3 Autumn, after the harvest: Phacelia — 8 g	Spring, before planting (basil): Mustard 1 g, sow mid-Feb – late Feb, as soon as the ground thaws, cut by 17 Mar Summer, after harvesting (potato): Buckwheat 94 g, sow mid-Jun – late Jun, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 17 Sep · sowings this summer: 2 Autumn, after the harvest: Barley — 65 g (not on the 1.2 m² of garlic planted for next year)	Summer, after harvesting (onion, garlic): Buckwheat 72 g, sow early Jun – mid-Jul, cut as it starts to flower, last cut by 17 Sep · sowings this summer: 2 Autumn, after the harvest: Mix: Field Peas 58 g + Oats 29 g

Item	When	Why
Barley	Spring; cut at earing	Branched roots crowd out weeds; grows even on poor soil; works well in a mix with vetch or peas.

SAMPLE

Item	When	Why
Buckwheat	After frost, late spring–summer	Biomass in 30–40 days; unlocks phosphorus; smothers weeds.
Common vetch	Spring or late summer; cut at the start of flowering	Fixes a lot of nitrogen — gardeners compare it with manure; grows fast and smothers weeds. Sow it mixed with oats, which hold it up.
Field Peas	Early spring or August	Quick nitrogen boost before heavy feeders such as cabbage.
Mustard	Early spring or after harvest (Aug–Sep)	Cleans the soil and deters wireworm. Never sow before brassicas.
Oats	Early spring or Aug–Sep	Builds soil structure; in cold zones dies over winter into ready mulch.
Phacelia	Spring to late summer; blooms in 6–8 weeks	Fits before any crop (unrelated to vegetables); top bee plant; loosens soil.

Shopping list for year 1

Item	Quantity
Seeds to sow in the ground	
Beans	seeds for 2.88 m² (≈130 plants)
Beet	seeds for 1.44 m² (≈140 plants)
Carrot	seeds for 1.92 m² (≈770 plants)
Courgette (zucchini)	seeds for 1.11 m² (≈1 plants)
Cucumber	seeds for 1.11 m² (≈6 plants)
Lettuce	seeds for 3.2 m² (≈51 plants)
Radish	seeds for 1.6 m² (≈640 plants)
Spinach	seeds for 0.96 m² (≈95 plants)
Seedlings (buy or grow your own)	
Basil	2 plants · sow indoors: early Mar
Cabbage	9 plants · sow indoors: late Jan
Leek	53 plants · sow indoors: late Dec
Pepper	4 plants · sow indoors: late Jan
Tomato	7 plants · sow indoors: late Jan
Planting stock (onion sets, tubers, cloves, plants)	
Artichoke	1 plants
Garlic	83 plants
Onion	240 plants
Potato	38 plants
Strawberry	32 plants
Cover crop seed	
Barley	65 g
Buckwheat	425 g
Common vetch	48 g
Field Peas	58 g
Mustard	24 g
Oats	154 g
Phacelia	15 g
Protector plants	
Basil	6 plants
Borage	17 plants

SAMPLE

Item	Quantity
Catnip	6 plants
Celery	8 plants
Chamomile	23 plants
Chervil	8 plants
Dill	6 plants
Horseradish	9 plants
Marigold	13 plants
Mint	6 plants
Rosemary	8 plants
Summer Savory	9 plants
Herb spiral (young plants, plants, seeds)	
Basil	4 plants
Chervil	7 plants
Chives	4 plants
Coriander (cilantro)	12 plants
Hyssop	2 plants
Lavender	1 plants
Mint	2 plants
Oregano	3 plants
Parsley	7 plants
Rosemary	1 plants
Summer Savory	3 plants
Thyme	3 plants
Wild strawberry	4 plants

SAMPLE

Advice for your plot

Don't dig — loosen. Turning the soil over kills worms and soil life and wakes up weed seeds. In spring, as soon as the snow is gone, loosen the beds 2–5 cm deep with a flat hoe (Fokin's flat cutter) without turning the layer; keep the soil covered with mulch or a cover crop the rest of the year. Worms and roots do the deep work (Ovsinsky, Fokin).

Bed direction. Beds running north–south get even light on both sides — best for most crops. On east–west beds put tall crops along the north edge and low ones along the south edge so they don't shade each other.

Compost heap. Your beds need about 1200 litres of compost a year (5 cm under hungry crops, 2–3 cm elsewhere). Put the heap in half shade, on bare soil, close to the beds; about 1 × 1 × 1 m or two bins side by side. Layer green (peelings, fresh grass, cover-crop tops) and brown (dry leaves, straw, cardboard) about 1:2, keep it as damp as a wrung-out sponge, turn it every few weeks. Ready in 6–12 months, when it smells of forest soil. Well-rotted manure can go in too — never fresh manure on the beds.

Bee plants. Bees and bumblebees pollinate cucumbers, squash, strawberries and tomatoes — keep something in flower from spring to autumn. In your plan they will find: Basil, Borage, Catnip, Common vetch, Courgette (zucchini), Cucumber, Mint, Phacelia, Rosemary, Strawberry, Summer Savory. Let a few cover-crop patches (phacelia, buckwheat, clover) flower before you cut them, and never spray when plants are in bloom.

Green manures between crops. Don't leave the soil bare for weeks: in spring, before the warm-season crops go out, mustard or oats; in summer, after an early harvest, buckwheat or phacelia. Cut them as they start to flower, before they set seed, and leave them on the bed as mulch; sow the next crop 1–2 weeks later, once the fresh mass has settled. Where summer is long, sow again after cutting.

Legumes and nodule bacteria. Beans, peas, vetch, lupin and clovers fix nitrogen only with nodule bacteria (Rhizobium) on their roots. Where legumes haven't grown for years there may be none: before sowing, moisten the seed with a bacterial preparation for that very crop (sold as rhizobium inoculant, «rhizotorphin», «nitragin»), sow the same day, out of the sun. It noticeably raises the yield and the nitrogen left for the next crop. Check pink nodules on the roots in midsummer — a sign that it works.

Soil acidity. Most vegetables want soil close to neutral (pH 6–7). Check with test strips from a garden shop, or simply: a lump of soil that fizzes with vinegar is alkaline, one that fizzes with a paste of baking soda and water is acidic. Horsetail, sorrel and moss hint at acid soil. On acid soil (pH below 6), every 2–3 years in autumn spread dolomite lime 300–500 g/m² or wood ash 100–200 g/m², not together with manure. On alkaline soil use no ash: add compost and a mulch of leaves and pine needles.

Sowing again and in between. Sow lettuce, radish, dill and spinach a little every 2–3 weeks until midsummer: you harvest all season instead of all at once. Put quick crops between slow ones: radish in the carrot rows (it comes up first and marks them), lettuce between young cabbages and tomatoes, dill along the edge. By the time the main crop fills out, the quick ones are picked.

Perennials. Don't cut asparagus for the first two years, let it build its roots; from the third year cut for 4–6 weeks in spring, then let the ferns grow. Renew strawberries every 3–4 years with young plants from the runners in a new place. In cold zones cut artichokes back and cover them for the winter. Every autumn give perennial beds a layer of compost and mulch, no digging.

Watering. Water less often but deeply: in hot weather 10–20 litres per m² every 5–7 days, in the morning and at the roots, not over the leaves: the roots go deep and the leaves stay healthy. Check with a finger: dry 5 cm down means it's time. A 5–10 cm mulch roughly halves the watering. Drip tape or a clay olla buried by the plants save water and time; warm rainwater from a butt is best.

Prevailing wind: west. You already have shelter on that side — a hedge, trees or buildings: behind it it's calmer and warmer, and tall crops can go on that edge too. Shelter breaks the wind for about 10 times its height — beyond that, still stake tall plants. Mulch: wind dries the soil.

This plan is a recommendation based on general permaculture and companion planting practice. Sowing dates are approximate: go by your local last-frost date and soil temperature. Results depend on weather, soil and care.

SAMPLE