

Chapter 1 : How to Plant a Square-Foot Garden - Organic Gardening - MOTHER EARTH NEWS

Use the Square Foot Planting Guide (pages) to determine how many squares each type of plant requires and its height. Then write this into your chart accordingly.

One square foot garden unit measuring 16 sq ft 1. A family of four can have fresh greens in abundance throughout the growing season and beyond from only 64 sq ft of growing space 6 sq metres. See below, Sizes and shapes. What makes a good site? Lots of sunshine, and lots and lots of that "well-drained, rich, loamy soil" the seed packets tell you to plant your seeds in, as if the stuff grows on trees. Take up a bit of lawn if you like, the soil under a lawn is usually quite good. Use a sharp spade to cut through the turf: We broke through the cement patio, dug out lots of beach sand and added LOTS of compost You only need to take off a couple of inches. Pile the squares in a block, grass-side down, wet thoroughly as you go, cover the top with a garbage bag to keep it moist, and it will rot down into a useful supply of well-drained, rich, loamy soil. Make it at least six inches thick; if it sinks, add more. After a few weeks the ground will be much softer. Scoop off the mulch you can use it later in the garden or in the compost , and you can begin. Give the surface a good sprinkling first not enough to puddle or muddy it. Keep checking to see the soil is moist, sprinkle again if not. You can use almost any piece of rough ground, if you have nothing else. Just use more compost if you can. If the ground is too hard for digging, build your beds with at least 6" of pure compost on top of the ground, contained by wooden sides, and start growing straight away. Keep adding more compost as you can. See below, The lazy way. No ground at all? Got a cement patio? Is the soil fertile enough? No, in a word. Second best is to use what little you have or can lay your hands on, and add more later. Keith bagging finished compost One of the beauties of square foot beds is that you can treat each square foot separately. You might be able to buy compost at a reasonable price: Sir Albert Howard, the founder of the organic farming movement, said farmyard manure was the great weakness of European agriculture and campaigned to reform the odious "manure pile" that produces it. He failed to reform it, but believe him! If the soil is bad, this is how to fix it once and for all. You only need to do it once, never again. You need a digging spade and probably a digging fork or spading fork. D-handled tools are best for this. If the cutting edge of the spade is blunt and burred, sharpen it. Mark off where you want the beds. Leave space for inch-wide paths. Start by digging a trench across one end of the bed a spade deep and a spade wide. Take thin slices try half an inch , mixing in the compost as you go. Thin slices are much easier on your back and mix the soil better. Put the soil in a bucket or a wheelbarrow and dump it at the far end of the bed. Cover the bottom of the trench with another 3" layer of compost sprinkled with lime. If the soil in the bottom of the trench is fairly soft, use the spade to loosen it, again a spade deep, mixing in the compost as much as possible. Double-digging Now dig a second trench alongside the first one thin slices! Compost the bottom of the second trench, dig it or fork it, then dig a third trench, and so on right down the length of the bed. The lazy way You can "grow" fertile soil from the top down. First build the wooden sides and ends of the beds, about inches high. Then put compost in, straight onto the ground, to a depth of at least 6 inches, preferably more. Go right ahead and plant. Keep adding more compost on top as the surface sinks. Before too long the soil will be soft, deep and fertile. Just keep adding compost. Paths Paths are a waste of soil, and as you walk on them you compact the soil underneath, making it difficult for deep-rooting plants in the beds to send their roots out to the sides. This is how to make use of the path soil. Dig out the side paths thin slices! For the middle path, spread half over one bed and half over the other. Spread the soil from one end path over one bed and from the other over the second bed. The sides The beds are now too high to stand on their own for long, and making sloping sides that will not fall down will greatly reduce the surface area. Some gardeners make rounded mounds and use the whole area, including the sides. New raised beds for the Journey to Forever garden Better to board up the beds so the sides are sheer and stable, with the whole surface area to grow in. We think free boards are best -- recycled container pallets will do, or thicker boards if you can get them. Paint or spray them with vegetable oil, or, better, linseed oil. Or try this year-old recipe for "Everlasting Fence Posts": Put a coat of this over the timber, and there is not a man that will live to see it rotten. Greens growing happily in the beds The soil will settle a bit in time, but it should

still leave your plants with a root depth of about two feet of highly fertile soil to wriggle their toes in. This will support the kind of cropping intensity and crop quality you require from a square foot garden. Put more boards on the paths, or flagstones, or gravel. Or better fill them with dead leaves or rough mulch top up as it sinks. All these will help protect the soil from compaction as you walk on it, while mulching will steadily enrich it -- useful space for deep-rooting vegetables. Sizes and shapes The original square foot unit is 4x4 ft, 16 sq ft, which can supply one person with vegetables and salads. Many gardeners have found this square block unwieldy. Many people use 3x3 ft beds instead, which works well, with good access all round. Two long beds and baskets made more than 50 square foot spaces We adapted the square foot principle to the space we had, as many do, and ended up with two long parallel beds and several other smaller ones. In general we prefer long beds like the traditional Chinese farmers in the local villages , and this is what we recommend: This is enough for two people, or if you want more or there are three of you, make two units with 6ft-long beds instead of 8ft, or two units with 8ft-long beds, and so on. Paths should normally be wider, wide enough for a wheelbarrow, but these beds are short, so save space and use buckets if you need to. Otherwise have them in line. Or scatter them about wherever you can fit them in. Trellises We made a trellis out of an old bamboo ladder and string Standard square foot trellises at the rear of each unit are a simple hoop made of electrical conduit pipe, two sides and a top, with wires or string running from the top bar to the ground every foot for the plants to cling to or be tied to. This is a neat system, but you can use whatever you like, as long as it fills the function. The standard height is 6ft, but our last tomato crop went up nearly 12ft, and so did the cucumbers, and the beans appreciated as much height as they could get. Cement No ground at all? You can have a small square foot garden on a balcony, a bigger one on a rooftop. Check the weight considerations for your rooftop, and it might be wise to check the local by-laws. City rooftop gardens These miniature green peppers in 9" pots produced heavy crops for months. Depending on the soil, the water content, etc. You can break up a unit any way you like to fit the space available, right down to single one-foot squares, in boxes or baskets or whatever containers you can find. It then merges with container gardening. If you use beds, say two 2x4 ft beds with wooden sides, you can just stand them on the cement. It might stain the cement underneath, and if that bothers you, try putting them in big wooden trays covered with two thicknesses of heavy-duty plastic. Soil But where will you get the soil? Check the municipality and the agricultural extension office for sources of compost suitable for gardening, and , and the local gardening club. Better to make your own compost see Composting indoors and Vermicomposting , but it might take some time to make enough. Try to include some good topsoil, or any soil, mainly for the sake of the clay content. Sawdust can be difficult stuff in garden soil, best avoid it -- especially sawdust from pressure-treated timber, which has poisons in it. Liquid seaweed emulsion is one of the best sources of micronutrients and a real soil and plant health booster. Use some in the watering can every two weeks. Spray transplants with seaweed emulsion before you replant them, especially bare-root transplants. Probably the best fertilizer is diluted urine 1: The decaying leaf medium breaks it down almost instantly so that there is never any odour, and germ survival in material such as this has been shown to be practically nil. This is a key element in this technology, is abundant, with no cost, and easy to manufacture.

Chapter 2 : Builders Square in San Antonio, TX with Reviews - calendrierdelascience.com

Builders Square was a big-box home improvement retailer headquartered in San Antonio, Texas. A subsidiary of Kmart, its format was quite similar to The Home Depot, Menards and Lowe's with floor space of about , square feet (9, m 2), and inventories in excess of 35, different items.

Additional Resources Accurately forecasting the cost of future projects is vital to the survival of any business or organization contemplating future construction. Cost estimators develop the cost information that business owners or managers, professional design team members, and construction contractors need to make budgetary and feasibility determinations. There were about , cost estimators in according to the U. Most construction estimators have considerable experience gained through working in the building construction industry. This guide will be confined to cost estimating in the building construction industry. Construction cost estimators can be contractually hired in many different ways. They estimate building costs through all the stages of design and the construction of the project. On large projects it is common for estimators to specialize in disciplines that parallel design discipline specialization. It is very important to have the cost estimator involved right from the start of the project to ensure that the project budget reflects the decisions made by the rest of the project team throughout the integrated design process. The practice of construction estimating is a highly technical and professional discipline. It also involves abiding by certain standards of ethical conduct and moral judgment that go beyond the technical aspects of the discipline. Estimators are often the most familiar with the complete project. They must exercise sound moral and professional judgment at all times when preparing the project estimate. Estimators sometime receive pressure from other members of the construction team to make expedient short-term decisions that can result in an unsound bid. Examples of expedient behavior litter the history of inaccurate construction estimating. Deficient estimates can also cause strife and litigation between members of the construction team. The American Society of Professional Estimators ASPE has stated the following ethical, moral and technical precepts as basic to the practice of estimating. Estimators are expected to use standards of confidentiality in a manner at least equal to that of other professional societies. The estimator shall keep in strictest confidence information received from outside sources. The practice, commonly called "bid peddling", is a breach of ethics and is condemned by the ASPE and that of other societies and construction organizations. Judgment is a skill obtained by estimators through proper training and extensive experience. Estimators should always use sound judgment and common sense when preparing estimates. Proper use of judgment may mean the difference between profit and loss for the company or client. Estimators should approach each estimate with a professional attitude and examine in thorough detail all areas of the work. They will set aside specific times each day for entry of estimate quantities and data without interruption. Total mental concentration is a basic requirement for preparing accurate cost estimates. An estimator will allow enough time to research and become familiar with the background and details of the project and then promptly complete the quantity survey. They will review the various aspects of the project with the other disciplines involved. The estimator with the most thorough knowledge of a project best serves the owner and project team, and has the best competitive advantage when preparing a bid. Examine the general and special conditions of the contract and determine the effect these requirements have on indirect costs. Consider alternate methods of construction for the projects. Review all sections of the drawings and division specifications to ascertain an accurate perspective of the total project scope, level of design discipline coordination, adequacy of details, and project constructability. Make other members of the project team aware of any problems with the project documents. Communicate and coordinate information to other project team members in a timely manner. The estimator should develop a good system of estimating forms and procedures that exactly meet the requirements of the project, and that is understood and accessible by all team members. This system should provide the ability to define material, labor hour and equipment hour quantities required for the project. Material, labor, and equipment unit costs are then applied to the quantities as developed in the quantity survey. Apply amounts for overhead and profit, escalation, and contingency in the final summaries. These methods also must meet the specific need of the company or client.

Use of consistent methods allows several estimators to complete various parts of the quantity survey, or be continued later by another estimator. Consistency also aids the identification of cost increases and decreases in certain areas as the project progresses through the design stages. Combine these surveys into the final account summaries. The method and logic employed in the quantity survey must be in a form, which can provide independent method of proof of the accuracy of any portion of the survey. Document all portions of the estimate in a logical, consistent, and legible manner. Estimators and other personnel may need to review the original estimate when the specific details are vague. The documentation must be clear and logical or it will be of little value to the reader. Such instances may occur in change order preparation, settlements of claims, and review of past estimates as preparation for new estimates on similar projects. When the estimate involves the use of bids from subcontractors, check the bids for scope and responsiveness to the project. Investigate the past performance records of subcontractors submitting bids. Determine the level of competence and quality of performance. The detailed application of labor hours to a quantity is primary in governing the accuracy and sufficiency of an estimate. The most accurate method for including these costs is to define labor hours and wage rates; then apply percentages to the labor costs. Structure the estimate to aid in researching and developing alternative methods that will result in cost optimization. These alternative methods can include different construction methodology, replacement materials, etc. Using the same level of detail in both the value engineering studies and the base estimate is extremely important. This provides a more precise comparison of costs for proposed alternate methods. Provide methods for listing and calculating indirect costs. Project scope governs the costs of overhead items such as insurance, home office plant, and administrative personnel. Determine these costs in a manner consistent with quantity survey applications. Determine amounts for performance bonding, profits, escalation, and contingencies. Develop methods for analyzing completed estimates to ascertain if they are reasonable. When the estimate is beyond the normal range of costs for similar projects, research the detail causes for possible errors. Develop methods of analysis of post-bid estimates to find the reasons for the lack of success in the bidding process. Calculate the variation of the estimate from the low bid and low average bids. Determine from an outside source if there were subcontract or material bids provided only to certain bidders. Determine if bids were submitted by a representative number of contractors for the level of construction quality expected. Determine if the low bidder may have made omissions in the estimate. Properly document this information for future use and guidance. Show estimating procedures that allow conversion of the estimate to field cost systems so management can monitor and control field activities. These procedures include methods of reporting field costs for problem areas. Make reports daily or weekly rather than at some point in time after the project is complete. Field cost reporting, when consistent with estimating procedures, enables estimators to apply the knowledge gained from these historical costs to future estimates, and help train field personnel in labor hour and cost reporting that provide the level of accuracy required. Apply the highest level of detail from information provided or available to the estimator. State quantities and costs for all material, labor, equipment, and subcontract items of work. Define amount for overhead, profit, taxes, and bond. Specific itemization of change order proposals is essential in allowing the client to determine acceptability. Upon approval, use the estimate detail as the definition of scope of the change order. These changes will require estimates to be prepared at different levels during the design process with increasing degrees of information provided. It should also be noted that within each level of estimate preparation, not all portions of the design would be at the same level of completeness. This is common through the design process, but should always be noted in the estimate narrative. In addition to construction costs, estimates for process or manufacturing areas require information related to the involved processes such as product line capacity, process layout, handling requirements, utility requirements, materials and storage required, service requirements, flow diagrams, and raw materials access. The following descriptions constitute the different levels of an estimate. Estimates within each of these levels may be prepared multiple times during the design process as more information becomes available or changes are made to the scope. As the level of the estimate increases it will become more detailed as more information is provided; "unknowns" are eliminated; fewer assumptions are made; and the pricing of the quantities become more detailed. Contingencies for the aforementioned will be reduced as more design documentation is produced. The levels

of the construction cost estimate correspond to the typical phases of the building design and development process and are considered standards within the industry. These levels are as follows: Level 1 - Order of Magnitude The purpose of the Level 1 estimate is to facilitate budgetary and feasibility determinations. It is prepared to develop a project budget and is based on historical information with adjustments made for specific project conditions. Project information required for estimates at this level usually might include a general functional description, schematic layout, geographic location, size expressed as building area, numbers of people, seats, cars, etc. An estimate at this level may be used to price various design schemes in order to see which scheme best fits the budget, or it may be used to price various design alternatives, or construction materials and methods for comparison. The goal at the end of schematic design is to have a design scheme, program, and estimate that can be contained within budget. The Level 2 estimate is based on the previous level of information available at Level 1, in addition to more developed schematic design criteria such as a detailed building program, schematic drawings, sketches, renderings, diagrams, conceptual plans, elevations, sections and preliminary specifications. Level 3 - Design Development Estimates prepared at Level 3 are used to verify budget conformance as the scope and design are finalized and final materials are selected. The Level 3 estimate provides a greater amount of accuracy, made possible by better defined and detailed design documentation. Estimates at this phase may be used for value engineering applications before the completion of specifications and design drawings. Level 4 - Construction Documents Level 4 estimates are used to confirm funding allocations, to again verify the construction cost as design is being completed, for assessment of potential value engineering opportunities before publication of the final project design documentation for bids, and to identify any possible "design creep" items, and their costs, caused by modifications during the completion of the construction documents. This final construction document cost estimate will be used to evaluate the subcontract pricing during the bid phase. Level 5 - Bid Phase The purpose of this level estimate is to develop probable costs in the preparation and submittal of bids for contract with an Owner.

Chapter 3 : Rainscaping Guide: Design & Build a Rain Garden

square feet, but very small gardens have little plant variety. If a rain garden is larger than square feet it takes a lot more time to dig, is more difficult to make level, and could be hard on your budget.

Most gardens are planted in long rows separated by three foot aisles. You just walk on it. You then can plant a different crop in each of the squares. For example, you might plant 16 carrots in one box, four beans in another, and one cabbage in another. That leaves you with 13 other boxes to fill! Here are some of the reasons why I love square foot gardening. Rocky or sandy it makes no difference. You build your own perfect soil. It requires just three ingredients. Peat Moss Compost Vermiculite Just mix these three ingredients in equal proportions and you have the finest soil you could imagine. And all these ingredients can be found at you local garden center. Plus, any weed seeds that might happen to blow in are easily removed because the soil is so light and loose. I think I might have pulled out five weeds from my garden last year. That means you can be more productive with the space you have. Inexpensive I just built two square foot gardens this spring and here were my costs: Free I used scrap Vermiculite: And once your initial garden is set up, you only need to add a little compost each year. Ready to build your own? Lay down your newspaper, cardboard, or landscape fabric on the ground where you wish to place your gardens. This will prevent existing grass or weeds from pushing up into your garden. Lay your box on top of the newspaper, cardboard, or landscape fabric. Mix the compost, peat moss, and vermiculite together in equal portions. An easy way to do this is to pile the ingredients on a large tarp and roll them back and forth in the tarp. Then carry the tarp to your garden and pour it in. You may want to water down the ingredients as they are rather dusty when dry. Once the soil has filled the box to the top, place the lattice on top, nailing each piece of lattice in place so that there are sixteen equal squares. And there you have it.

Chapter 4 : # Square Foot Cabin Plans

Choose a layout that is easily accessible. The joy of square foot gardening is the easy access to the raised garden beds. The usually recommended measurement is 4 feet (m) by 4 feet (m), 16 sq ft (cm x cm, m2) beds, providing for easy access and good growing space.

The key is understanding plant spacing and planting in grids to maximize the amount of crops that can be grown in a single square foot. With the informed garden planning and intensive planting techniques used in this method, your garden will save you time, money and labor. This simple step prevents you from planting too much. Picture a large plant like a head of cabbage. That single cabbage will take up a whole square foot so you can only plant one per square foot. Sixteen can fit into a single square foot. Plants come in all four sizes: The extra large, of course, are those that take up the entire square foot – plants like cabbages, peppers, broccoli, cauliflower and geraniums. Next are the large plants – those that can be planted four to a square foot, which equals 6 inches apart. Large plants include leaf lettuce, dwarf marigolds, Swiss chard and parsley. This category includes parsley, basil, and even the larger heads of leaf lettuce and Swiss chard. Medium plants come next. They fit nine to every square foot, which equals 4 inches apart. Medium plants include bush beans, beets and large turnips. Continue Reading To help keep up with this, you may want to print out the handy plant spacing chart in the Image Gallery, so you always have it handy. Some people even have it laminated so they can take it outdoors without worrying about the weather destroying it. Another Plant Spacing Technique Another way to get the proper spacing and number of plants per square foot is to be a little more scientific and do a little arithmetic, as shown below. You can see that one, four, nine, or 16 plants should be spaced an equivalent number of inches apart. This is when the grid becomes handy. All you do is draw lines in the soil with your fingers! For one plant per square foot just poke a hole in the middle of the square with your finger. For four per square foot, draw a vertical and horizontal line dividing the square in half each way. The plants go right in the center of these four smaller squares. You can continue this pattern up to the densest planting of 16 plants per square foot. How Much to Plant I recommend, especially at the beginning, that you plant only what you want to eat. Occasionally try something new, of course, but especially at first only grow those vegetables and herbs that you normally eat. Remember, plant each adjoining square foot with a different crop. Here are several reasons: It prevents you from overplanting any one particular item. It allows you to stagger your harvest by planting one square foot this week and another of the same crop in two weeks or so. It promotes conservation, companion planting, crop rotation, and allows better plant hygiene and reduced pest problems. It automatically helps to improve your growing soil three times a year in very easy, small steps. Besides all of the above, it looks pretty. Just like a patchwork quilt, the different colors, leaf textures, plant densities, shapes and heights, plus the visible grid, will give you a very distinctive, photogenic garden. Square-foot gardening begins with visualizing the harvest. Proof of the pudding. Do I really want more? Would it be better to plant another square foot of the same thing in a week or two or three? For most of the country, you could start planting in any season other than winter. What time of the year is it right now for you and where are you in the sequence of a yearly gardening cycle? Think of it like the movie theater before the main feature. In the gardening year, this is usually the equivalent of springtime. What if you came in the middle of the picture? For gardening that would be summertime. You can still plant a warm-weather crop even if you missed the spring crop. Start whenever you get the urge to plant. Some parts of the country, like Texas and Florida, can grow all year long. Seasonal Plants You can get at least three crops a year in every square foot of your square-foot garden. Every choice is going to be fun, exciting and tasty. Of course, your selection depends on the time of year, and what you and your family need and want. There are two types of crops when you consider weather. They are just like people. Some can stand the heat, cold or humidity better than others. Each of the four seasons has three time periods – the early season, midseason and late season. It takes a little while to get used to which is which, and how best they fit in with your planting schedule. In the spring we need to know the date of the last frost in our area. That will help us determine when to plant. Each different crop – whether cool-season or warm-season – will need to be planted so many weeks before or after that

last day of frost. For plants, the fall growing season begins not with the first calendar day of fall Sept. The average dates of your first and last frost depend on where you live in the country and the regional and local variations of weather. All we can do is go by the past and hope it will be similar this year. To help, the government collects dates for your area and calculates the average date from the past years. Of course, the average is only a guide. How do you find your local frost dates? The Internet is the best resource for detailed information. You can also call your local county extension agent or most area nurseries. Did I leave out dandelions? Start noticing the sequence in your location. It would include trees, shrubs, flowers and even weeds. I read a book once about following spring North. Summer crops include beans, peppers, eggplants, tomatoes and squash. These crops are frost-hardy, meaning that both young and mature plants withstand frost. The seeds you plant at the end of summer will sprout quickly because the soil is warmer. Transplants can begin outdoors and grow much faster than the same crop planted in spring. The fall crop gains an extra advantage from late summer weather. The problem with cool-weather plants in the spring is not cool weather but warm weather at harvest time. If you wait too long to harvest lettuce, the stalk will shoot up, and the same thing happens to other crops like cabbage. The head splits open, a stalk shoots up, develops flowers and then turns to seed. All the energy goes toward the seed and the plant begins to taste rather tough, coarse, and bitter. In cooler weather, this process is delayed. The plant feels no urgency to complete the growing cycle. So in the fall, the plant slows its maturation process, allowing it to maintain flavor for a longer length of time as temperatures continue to grow cooler and cooler. Some plants can endure some freezing and still provide a crop for harvesting. Fall is a great time to plant if you put in the right crops. Soil Temperature Soil temperatures vastly influence sprouting times. For example, if you plant carrot seeds in summertime when the temperature of the soil is between 60 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit, the seeds will sprout in less than a week. But if you plant the same seeds in early spring when the ground temperature is perhaps 40 degrees, they will take a month and a half to sprout. Just another 10 degrees warmer and they will sprout in a little over two weeks. They could rot, or fungus could attack them. They could break their dormancy and then go dry. They could be attacked by insects or dug up by animals or birds. So, the quicker you can get them to sprout the better off they will be. So you have to buy from nurseries or raise your own transplants indoors ahead of time. The same situation applies to the warm-weather summer crops like tomatoes, peppers and eggplants. They take so long to produce that you must plant your garden with transplants. The fall crop is better for raising your own transplants because you will be able to start the seeds in summertime, raise the transplants outdoors in your garden and then move them into their permanent spot in the early fall for late fall harvest. Starting Seeds and Growing Seedlings There are plenty of advantages to growing your own transplants and storing the remaining seeds in their packet until next year. First, seeds cost pennies while transplants cost dollars. There are many more varieties offered in seed catalogs than as transplants at the nurseries.

Chapter 5 : Garden Grid, watering systems | Garden In Minutes

Square Foot Gardening: How To Build And Plant A Square Foot Garden - Kindle edition by Julian Byrd. Download it once and read it on your Kindle device, PC, phones or tablets. Use features like bookmarks, note taking and highlighting while reading Square Foot Gardening: How To Build And Plant A Square Foot Garden.

Dig a trench as wide and deep as the manufacturer recommends. Line the bottom with an inch or so of sand, rake it level, and compact it with a tamper. Place some of the soil you remove on the downhill side of the trench to level the slope. Line the back and bottom of the trench with landscape fabric. Unroll enough fabric to cross back over the trench later, plus about a foot more than the height of the wall. If you have to piece together lengths of landscape fabric, overlap any adjoining edges by 3 to 4 inches. Lay the first course Some manufacturers instruct you to set the first block lip up; others instruct lip down. Lay the first block and check its level from side to side and front to back. Tap with a rubber mallet to make small adjustments. Put sand under the block to solve bigger problems. Lay the remaining blocks one at a time. Make sure each block is level, checking both side to side and front to back. Put the level across the new block and at least one of its neighbors to make sure the tops of the blocks are level with each other. The spaces at the ends of the course may not require a full block. Buy smaller blocks or trim larger ones to fit. Lay the second course If the first course ended with a full block, begin the second course with a half block. If you started the first course with a partial block, trim a full block so it overlaps the seam below by at least 3 inches. Lay a second course of blocks with their lips pointing down, over the back of the wall. Position each block so it spans a joint in the course below. As you work, verify that the blocks are level; if not, shim the low end with asphalt shingle or some landscape fabric. As you come to the end of the wall, trim a block to fit in the opening. When you begin building the rest of the wall, alternate so one row begins with a full block and the next with a half block. Lay the third course the same way you laid the second course, leaving an exit point for the drainpipe at one end of the wall. Add a bit more gravel behind the wall to create a flat surface, and tamp the gravel. Tuck a drainpipe behind the wall. Fill in completely behind the wall to the top of the course and tamp. Continue building the wall, adding gravel and tamping after every course. Lay capstones The keystone shape of the blocks leaves triangular gaps between the stones, which are covered up with special blocks called capstones. Apply a bead of construction adhesive along the top of the wall and set the capstones in place. Put topsoil in the space between the landscape fabric and the top of the wall and fill what remains of the trench in front of the wall. Rake to make a flat surface and tamp. Got questions about this article or any other garden topic? Go here now to post your gardening ideas, questions, kudos or complaints. We have gardening experts standing by to help you!

Chapter 6 : How to Practice Square Foot Gardening: 11 Steps (with Pictures)

WBDG is a gateway to up-to-date information on integrated 'whole building' design techniques and technologies. The goal of 'Whole Building' Design is to create a successful high-performance building by applying an integrated design and team approach to the project during the planning and programming phases.

Chapter 7 : Builders FirstSource | Building Supplies & Materials

Building cost rates per square metre - a disclaimer Estimated building costs only provide an indicative value of the likely cost of rebuilding a building within that category. While a single rate does provide a reasonable guide in many instances it should not be relied on to set a declared value or sum insured for a building.

Chapter 8 : Welcome to the PLANTS Database | USDA PLANTS

The square foot method eliminates that 80% of your garden that you don't use by planting in blocks. Using the square

foot gardening method, you divide a 4' x 4' box into sixteen 1 foot square gardens.

Chapter 9 : Cost Estimating | WBDG Whole Building Design Guide

The bed frame can be as simple as 2 x 4s on top of the ground, or even patio retaining wall blocks. The size is up to you. A bed that's at least 6 inches high provides ease of access and gives roots plenty of room to grow.