

# Mini Vegetable Garden 4x4

## Create the Bed

To lay out your bed, use a garden hose to mark the outline. (Or sprinkle flour along the hose for a more temporary mark.) Using a sharp spade, dig along the marked line to set the edge of your bed.

If the spot is currently covered by lawn, remove the sod using a straight-edged shovel or sod cutter. To make this easier, wet the area thoroughly, then use the shovel to cut the lawn into strips that are the width of the shovel and about 3 feet long. (Sharpen the edge of your shovel frequently with a file.) Use the shovel to pry up and roll back the strips of sod. Once the sod is removed, loosen the underlying soil with a shovel or a power tiller.

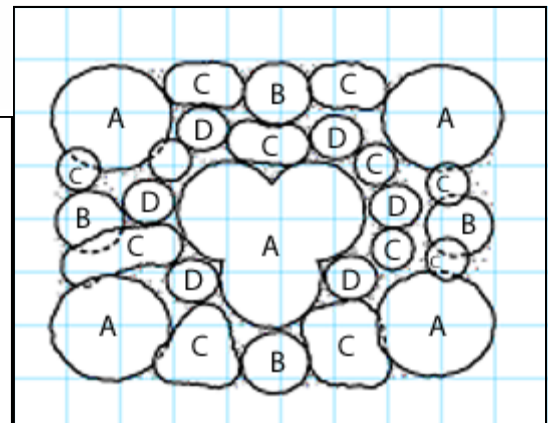
Regardless of how you prepare your bed, use this opportunity to mix in organic matter (such as compost, Pro Mix Planting Soil, or rotted manure) and loosen the soil at least 6 inches deep. Don't mix in fertilizer unless your soil test shows a need; in general, excessive amounts of fertilizer will do more harm than good.

After your bed is prepared, water it thoroughly and wait a week. This will allow weed seeds to germinate. Pull these seedlings or dig them back into the soil.



## PLANT LIST

- A. 7 Cauliflower or Broccoli plants
- B. 4 Chives or Onions
- C. 12 Lettuce plants
- D. 6 Viola or Thyme



## Before You Begin

Preparation is the key to creating a garden that will offer a lifetime of pleasure. Before you head to the nursery, review all garden plan materials. Ask yourself the following questions:

- **Do I have a suitable spot for this plan?** The layout diagram shows the dimensions for the plan. In general, you can enlarge or reduce the size of the garden by adding or eliminating plants, although the character of the garden may change if you alter the size dramatically.
- **Do I have the right growing conditions?** Check the plant list to see if the plan will do best in sun, part shade, or full shade. Be sure that the plants are suited to your USDA Zone.
- **Do I need to amend my soil?** Most plants thrive in moist, but well-drained soil. If you have soil with lots of sand or clay, amend it liberally with lots of organic matter, such as compost.
- **Is my soil's pH and fertility okay?** If you're unsure, inquire about testing at your county's extension service office. Follow the recommendations that come with your test results if you need to correct the soil's pH (how acid or alkaline the soil is) or fertility.