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GARDENER'S SUPPLY COMPANY news

## Gardening by the Foot

### "Square-Foot" Technique More Popular Than Ever

Backyard vegetable gardening is one of the hottest trends around, and here at Gardener's Supply, we're doing everything we can to help you be successful. We've expanded the Kitchen Garden Planner, our free, fun, online planning tool. And, we're introducing a new raised bed kit, created in collaboration with "Square Foot Gardening" guru Mel Bartholomew.

Mel developed the concept of square-foot gardening 35 years ago, and it has revolutionized the way people think about planting their gardens. His idea was simple: Think about the garden in *blocks* instead of *rows*. Each block is planted and managed as a tiny garden unto itself.

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Mel Bartholomew

## Plant A Cutting Garden This Year

By Kathy LaLiberte

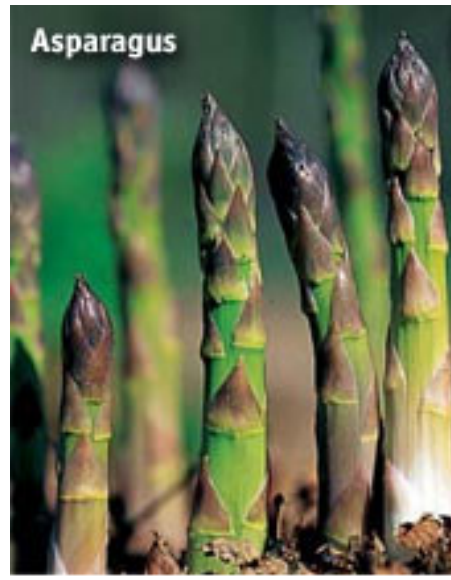
Assembling a bouquet of flowers is one of summer's greatest pleasures. With scissors in one hand and flower stems in the other, it's hard to do any weeding, and easy to simply focus our complete attention on the flowers: from the season's first shivering daffodils to autumn's last frosty mums.



Though there's no shortage of eligible flowers in my perennial gardens, it wasn't until I planted a cutting garden that I felt like I had enough to make lots of big bouquets. That's partly because I find it hard to cut the flowers in my perennial borders. Every one of them seems to have a role in creating the total picture.

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## 5 Best Perennial Food Crops



Asparagus

When people first get interested in food gardening, they tend to stick with traditional vegetable crops such as tomatoes, beans and lettuce. But there are many other terrific food crops that yield a bountiful harvest with far less effort. Perennial fruits and vegetables, such as asparagus, blueberries and rhubarb, get planted once and then go on producing food for several years and in some cases, a lifetime.

Some of these plants, such as asparagus and strawberries, work best when planted in standard beds, in or around the vegetable garden. Others, including blueberries and rhubarb, are shrub-like and can be integrated into your landscape along with other shrubs and trees.

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**Vicki Nowicki**, Downers Grove, Illinois

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### How to Protect Your Tomatoes from Late Blight

Like many gardeners who lost last year's tomato crop to late blight, I'm wondering: How can I make sure it doesn't happen again this year? Unfortunately, there's no silver bullet. The most important thing you can do: be alert, be prepared.

The first step is learning to recognize the weather conditions that foster the spread of late blight: cool wet weather. If the forecast looks cloudy, you need to be ready to act.

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