



Low Maintenance Summer Garden Templates

Planting in the late spring or early summer.

How to Use the Garden Templates and Coordinating Tables

The templates are divided by growing season. Each template is designed to be a stand-alone garden plan. However, it may be possible to use multiple templates in the same garden space over the course of a year. In a larger garden, several templates could be used each year or even in each season. The templates are not designed to be the only way or even the best way to plant a garden for your specific school. The templates are a guide to get you started with some options for what to plant and when. As you gain experience and confidence from successes, you can adjust and adapt your planting plans as needed.

The layout of the garden templates was designed with several things in mind. Some templates prioritize diversity of plants and others prioritize simplicity. In many cases, the garden layout is not designed to be efficient or high yielding, but rather to allow for effective learning and hands-on activities to be done with various sizes of groups. Some templates are designed for visual interest and inciting wonder in children rather than maximizing the yield.

If your garden is used for middle school or high school age students, planning and designing their own garden layouts can be a critical part of the learning process. These templates could serve as great starting points for students to study plant spacing and planting times, but do consider having them develop their own plans, research different planting options, or develop alternatives to compare results.

Each template tells a little bit about how easy or difficult it would be to implement the garden, as well as what the expected planting and harvesting window would be for the template. Be sure to pay attention to whether a template requires pre-planting indoors or prior to the school year, purchasing plants, or other preparations. The complexity level indicated reflects both the difficulty of managing the planting times and the difficulty of implementing the layout of the garden.

After each template, there are two tables. The first table provides more information about the recommended planting time, how to plant, and short notes are choosing a good variety. The second table gives alternatives to substitute for each plant recommended in the template. This allows for each garden to be adjusted to meet the needs of the school or student group.

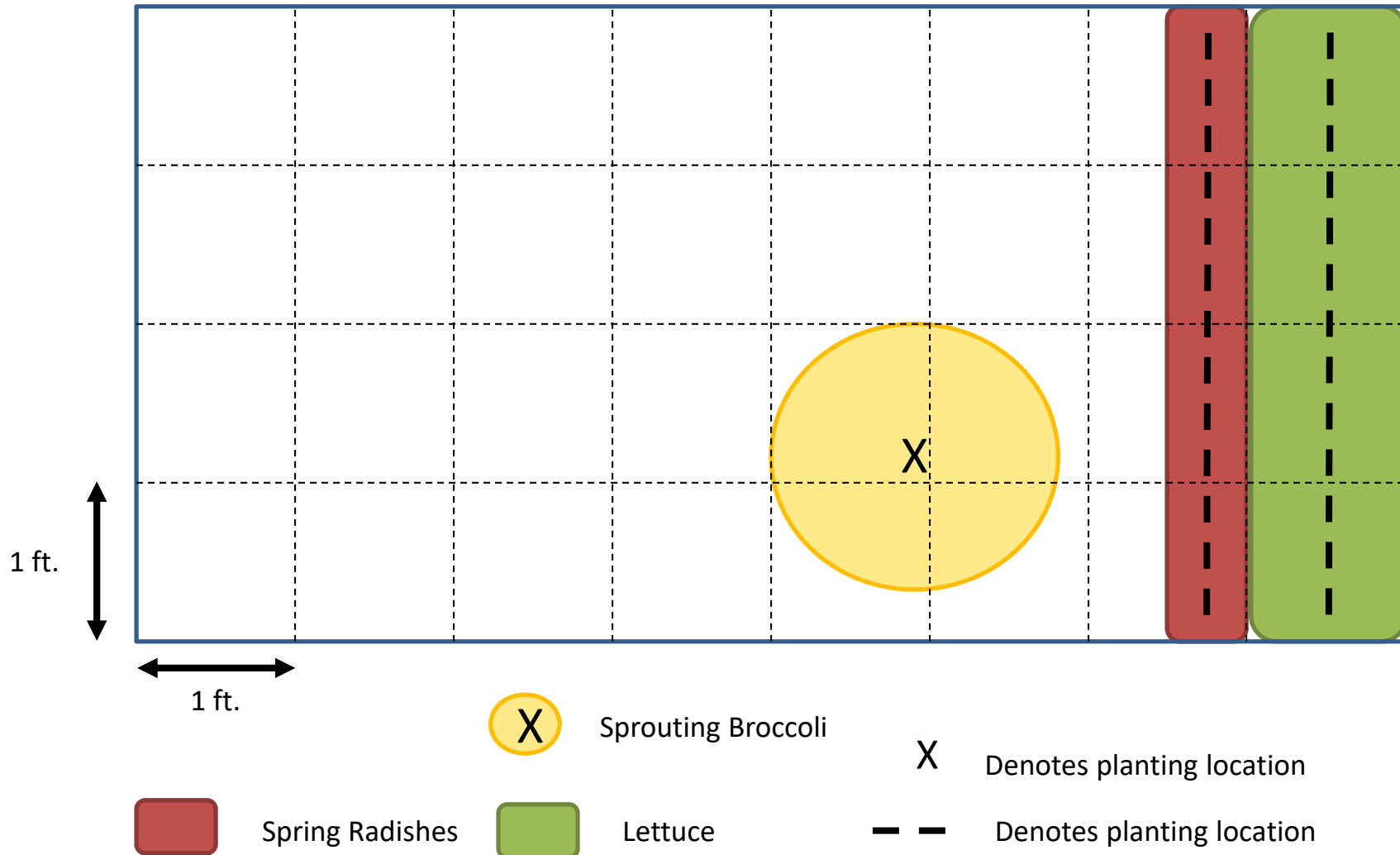
For more information about each recommended plant in the guide, refer to the document, ***Notes on Plant Choices for Kansas School Gardens***. This document will provide more guidance on planting and growing each crop, choosing varieties to grow, things to watch for, and ideas about learning opportunities related to the various plants.

For lesson plans and educational activities, check out ***School Garden Curricula and Lesson Plan Options***.

For tips on starting a garden and related resources, refer to ***Considerations and Resources for School Gardens in Kansas***.

How to Read the Garden Templates

Each template is 4 feet by 8 feet. Each foot is marked by a gridline. A colored block that fills a whole square width is expected to be 1 foot wide, with the planting line denoted in the center of the block – allowing about 6” on either side of the planting location. A colored block that fills half a square is expected to be 6” wide, with planting in the center. These are typically where seeds are planted. A circle or square with an “X” in the center will typically be where a single plant is transplanted. The plant will go on the “X,” with the space of the circle or square the expected mature size of the plant. The key at the bottom shows what plants are planned for each space.



How to Read the Planting Schedule Charts

Each template includes a Planting Schedule chart. This chart lists the ideal window when each type of plant should go into the garden. Bear in mind that every year is different from a weather standpoint, so a planting date that works well one year may not work as well in another year, especially at the extremes.

The planting type – either direct seeding in the garden or transplanting in the garden – is noted. In some cases, there may be special instructions for certain plants.

In the last column are some short variety notes. These notes are specific to the time of year and template, so may change from one chart to another. For more detailed information on variety selection for certain plants, refer to *Notes on Plant Choices for Kansas School Gardens*.

F-1 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Lettuce	Mid-August to early September	Seeds directly in garden	Any leaf, romaine, or butterhead type.
Spring Radishes	Mid-August to mid-September	Seeds directly in garden	Any less than 35 days to maturity.

How to Read the Alternative Plants Charts

Each template includes a chart of alternative plants. These are plants that have similar growth habits, spacing needs, and planting times to the plant originally indicated on the garden template. If there is need to replace a particular plant with another option for whatever reason, this chart will help you determine which other plants you could consider.

In some cases, especially in the summer templates, there are few easy alternatives that have close characteristics to the original plant options. Alternatives may not need the exact same type of trellising or have slightly different planting dates. If you are unsure about a replacement plant, ask an experienced gardener for advice. Also refer to *Notes on Plant Choices for Kansas School Gardens* for more insight into certain types of plants.

F-1 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Lettuce	spinach, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mizuna, mustards, arugula, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Spring radishes	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets), pansies (from purchased plants)

Low Maintenance Summer Garden – Planting in Late Spring

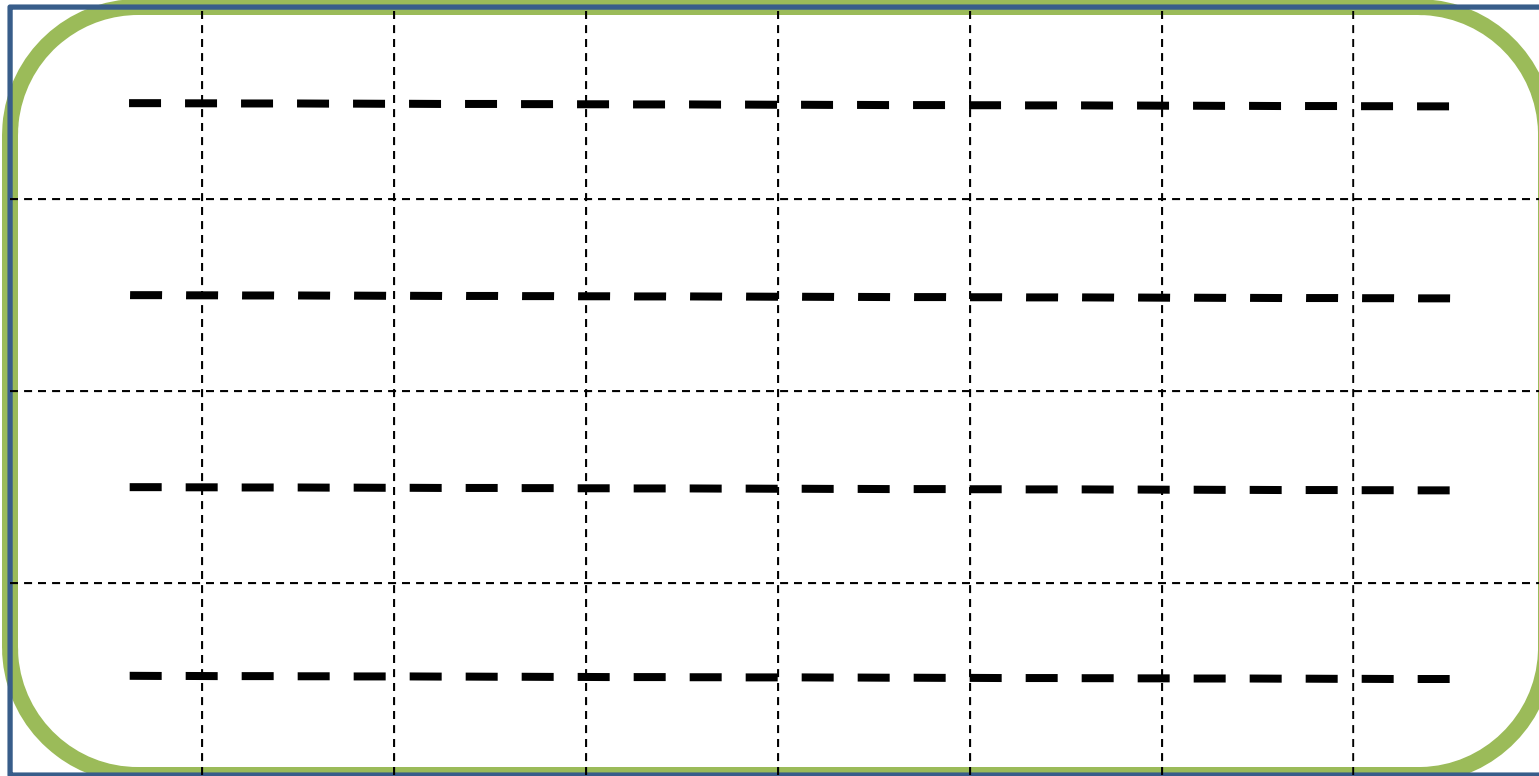
- Planted in May, near the end of the school year.
- Minimal maintenance over the summer. Watering will vary depending on location and summer weather.

LMS-1 Low Maintenance Summer Garden

Very simple planting plan

Planted in May, near the end of the school year.

Minimal maintenance over the summer. Watering will vary depending on location and summer weather. Plants can be removed and composted before the school year starts or with students when school starts.



Cowpeas



Denotes planting location

LMS-1 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Cowpeas	May to early June	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety. May want to look for eating varieties rather than forage varieties.

LMS-1 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

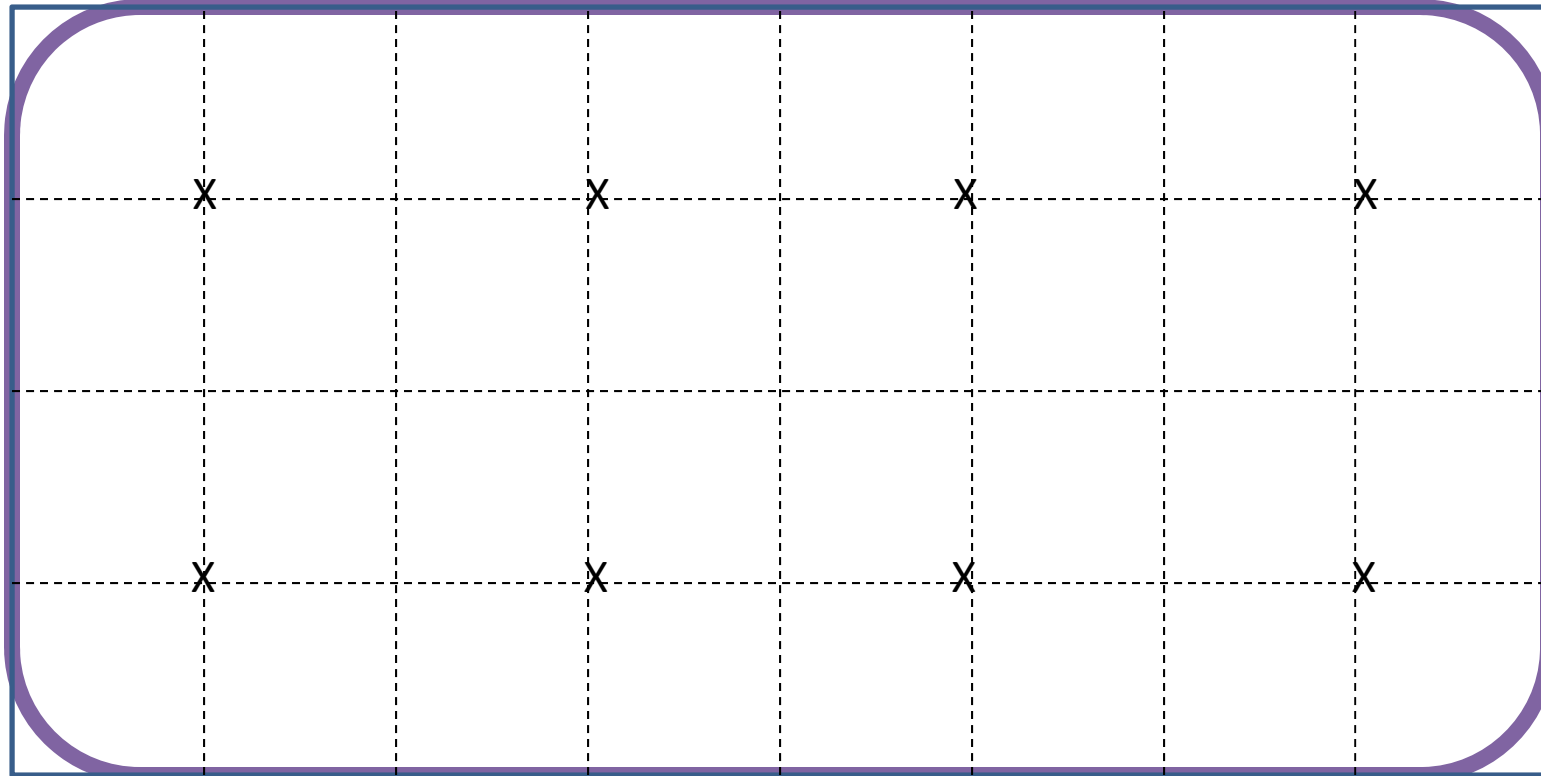
Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Cowpeas	sorghum, millet, amaranth, corn (not sweet corn), sesame, soybeans

LMS-2 Low Maintenance Summer Garden

Very simple planting plan

Planted in May, near the end of the school year.

Minimal maintenance over the summer. Watering will vary depending on location and summer weather. Plants can be removed and composted before the school year starts or with students when school starts.



Sweetpotato



Denotes planting location

LMS-2 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Sweet potato	May to early June	Plant from slips (cuttings) directly in the garden.	Any variety. Consider growing slips in the classroom from a sweet potato to plant.

LMS-2 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

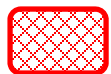
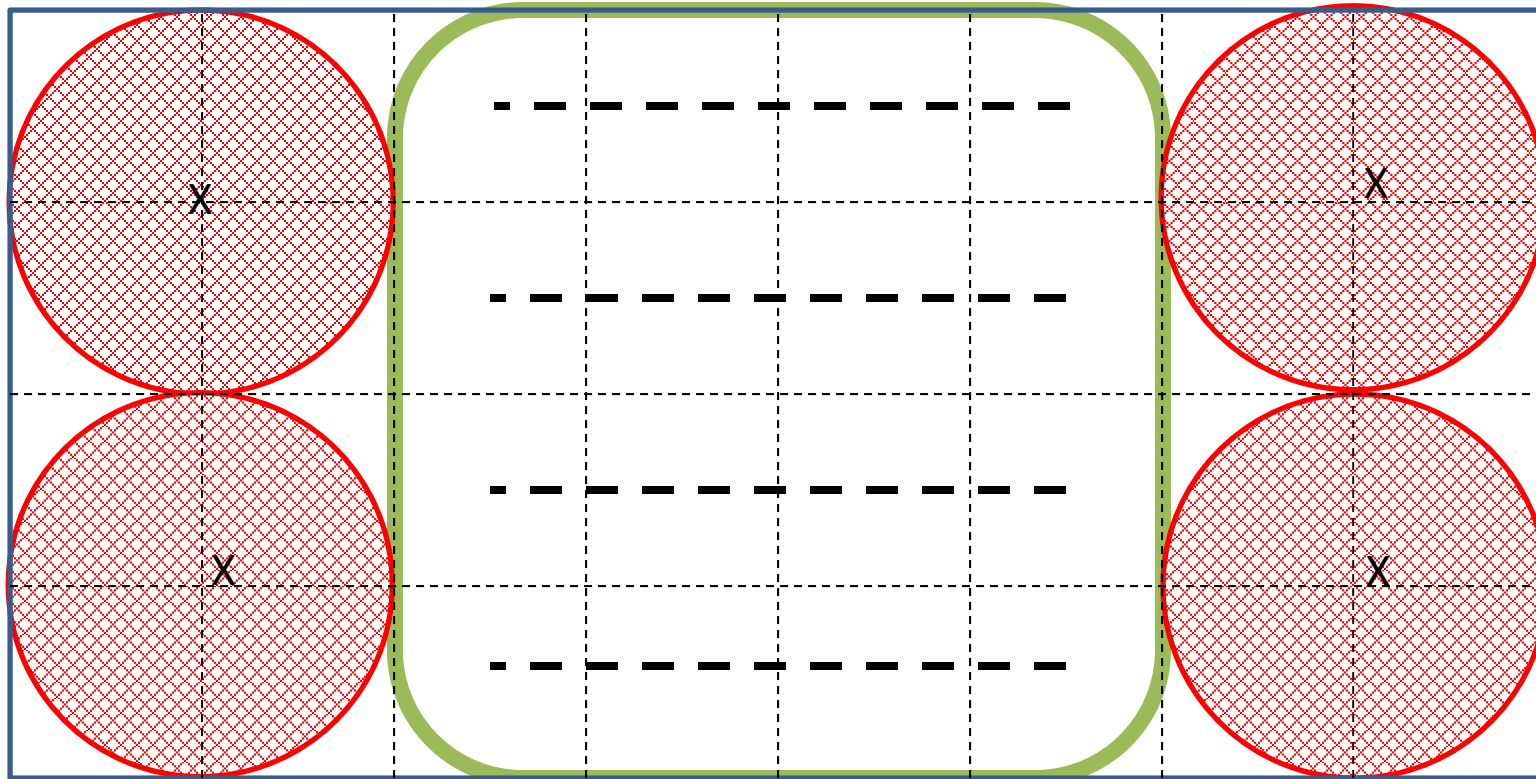
Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Sweet potato	No comparable alternatives.

LMS-3 Low Maintenance Summer Garden

Very simple planting plan

Planted in May, near the end of the school year.

Minimal maintenance over the summer. Watering will vary depending on location and summer weather.



Tomato



Cowpeas



Denotes planting location



Denotes planting location

LMS-3 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Cowpeas	May to early June	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety. May want to look for eating varieties rather than forage varieties.
Tomato	May	Transplants in garden	Any variety, but indeterminate cherry tomatoes will give best results with low maintenance.

LMS-3 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

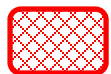
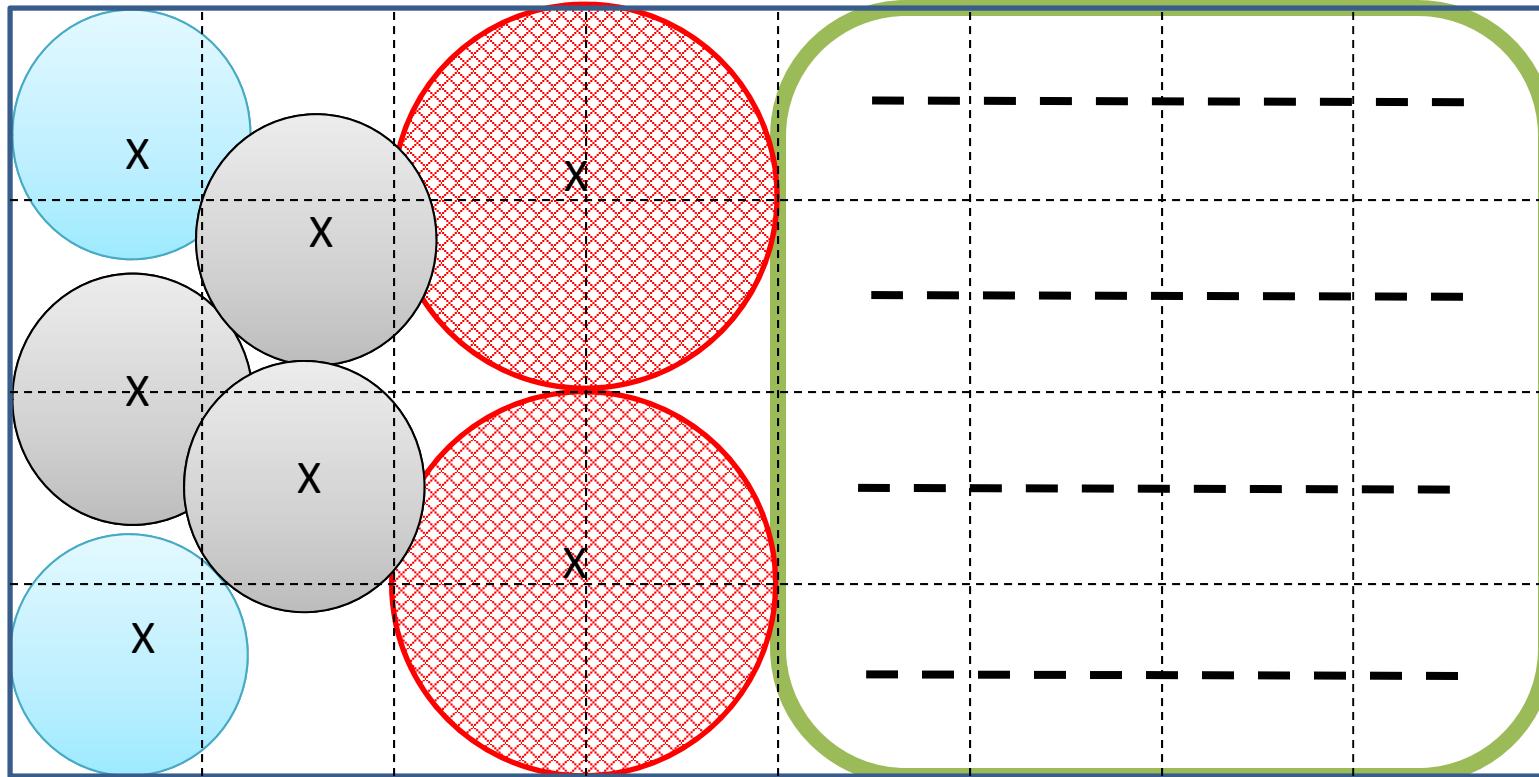
Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Cowpeas	sorghum, millet, amaranth, corn (not sweet corn), sesame, soybeans
Tomato	amaranth; malabar spinach grown on a tomato cage; a single tomato plant could be replaced with 2-3 pepper plants

LMS-4 Low Maintenance Summer Garden

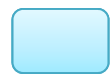
Moderately simple planting plan

Planted in May, near the end of the school year.

Minimal maintenance over the summer. Watering will vary depending on location and summer weather.



Tomato



Pepper



Denotes planting location



Cowpeas



Herbs



Denotes planting location

LMS-4 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Cowpeas	May to early June	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety. May want to look for eating varieties rather than forage varieties.
Tomato	May	Transplants in garden	Any variety, but indeterminate cherry tomatoes will give best results with low maintenance.
Pepper	May	Transplants in garden	Any variety. Smaller fruited sweet or hot peppers are likely to give better results with low maintenance.
Herbs	May	Transplants in garden	Any variety. Suggestions would include basil, thyme, oregano, agastaches, flowering sages, etc.

LMS-4 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

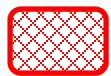
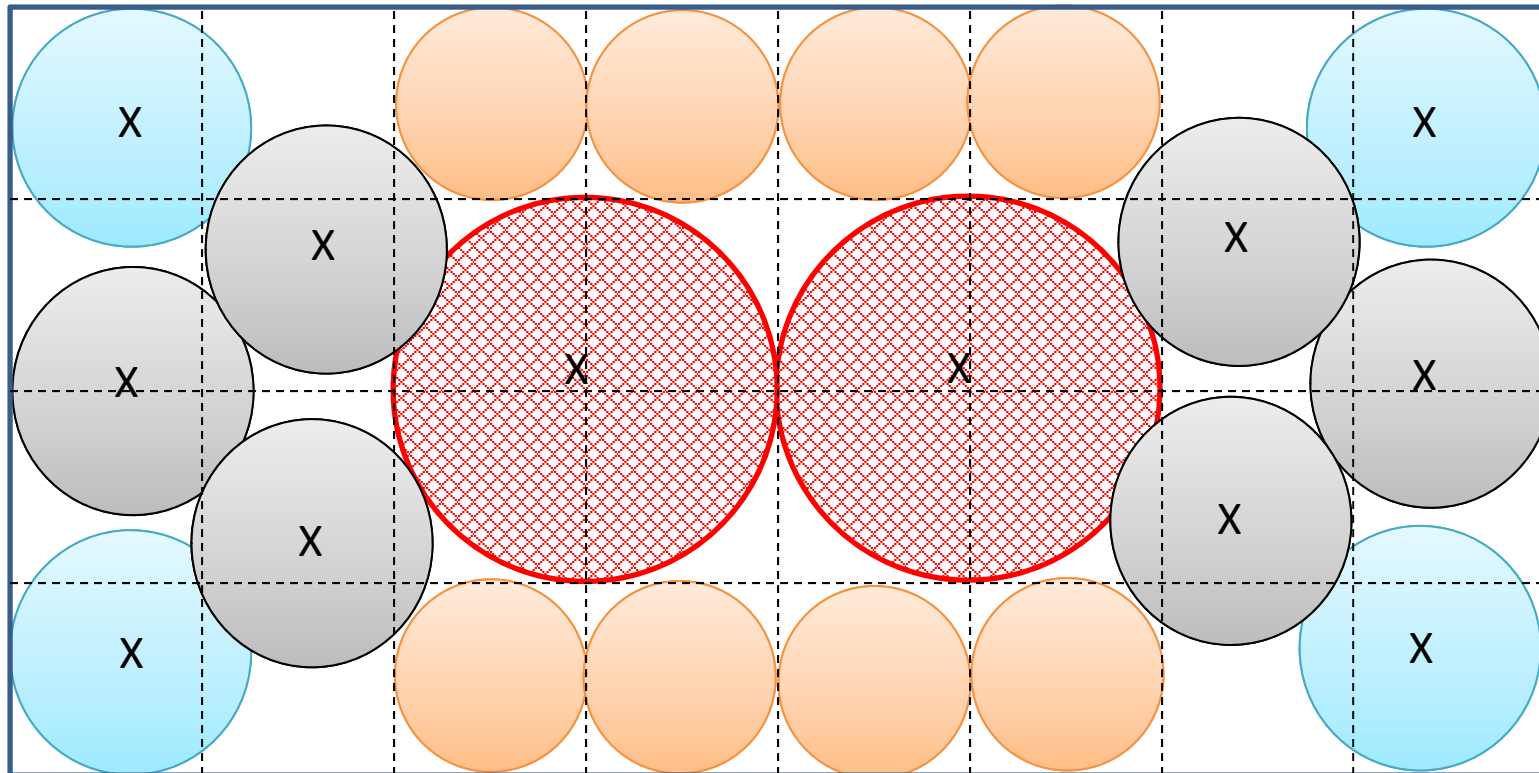
Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Cowpeas	sorghum, millet, amaranth, corn (not sweet corn), sesame, soybeans
Tomato	amaranth; malabar spinach grown on a tomato cage; a single tomato plant could be replaced with 2-3 pepper plants
Pepper	herbs, annual flowers, kale, Swiss chard
Herbs	peppers, annual flowers, kale, Swiss chard

LMS-5 Low Maintenance Summer Garden

Moderately simple planting plan

Planted in May, near the end of the school year.

Minimal maintenance over the summer. Watering will vary depending on location and summer weather.



Tomato



Annual Flowers



Denotes planting location



Herbs



Pepper



Denotes planting location

LMS-5 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Tomato	May	Transplants in garden	Any variety, but indeterminate cherry tomatoes will give best results with low maintenance.
Pepper	May	Transplants in garden	Any variety. Smaller fruited sweet or hot peppers are likely to give better results with low maintenance.
Herbs	May	Transplants in garden	Any variety. Suggestions include: basil, thyme, oregano, agastaches, flowering sages, etc.
Annual flowers	May	Transplants in garden	Many varieties. Suggestions include: Vinca, lantana, zinnias, celosia, gaillardia, gomphrena, begonias

LMS-5 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

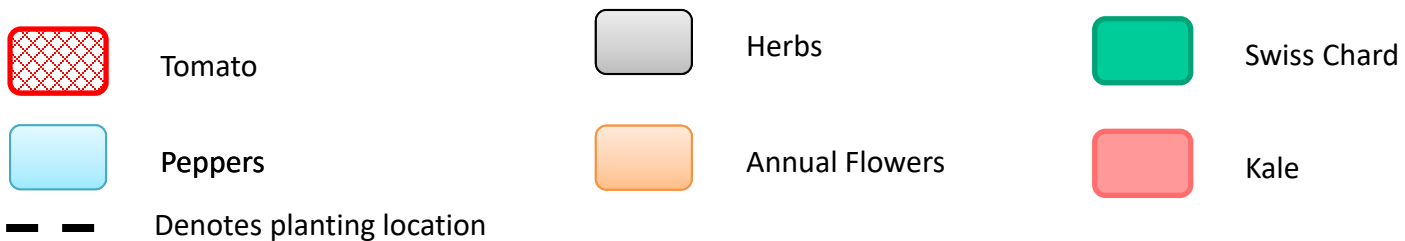
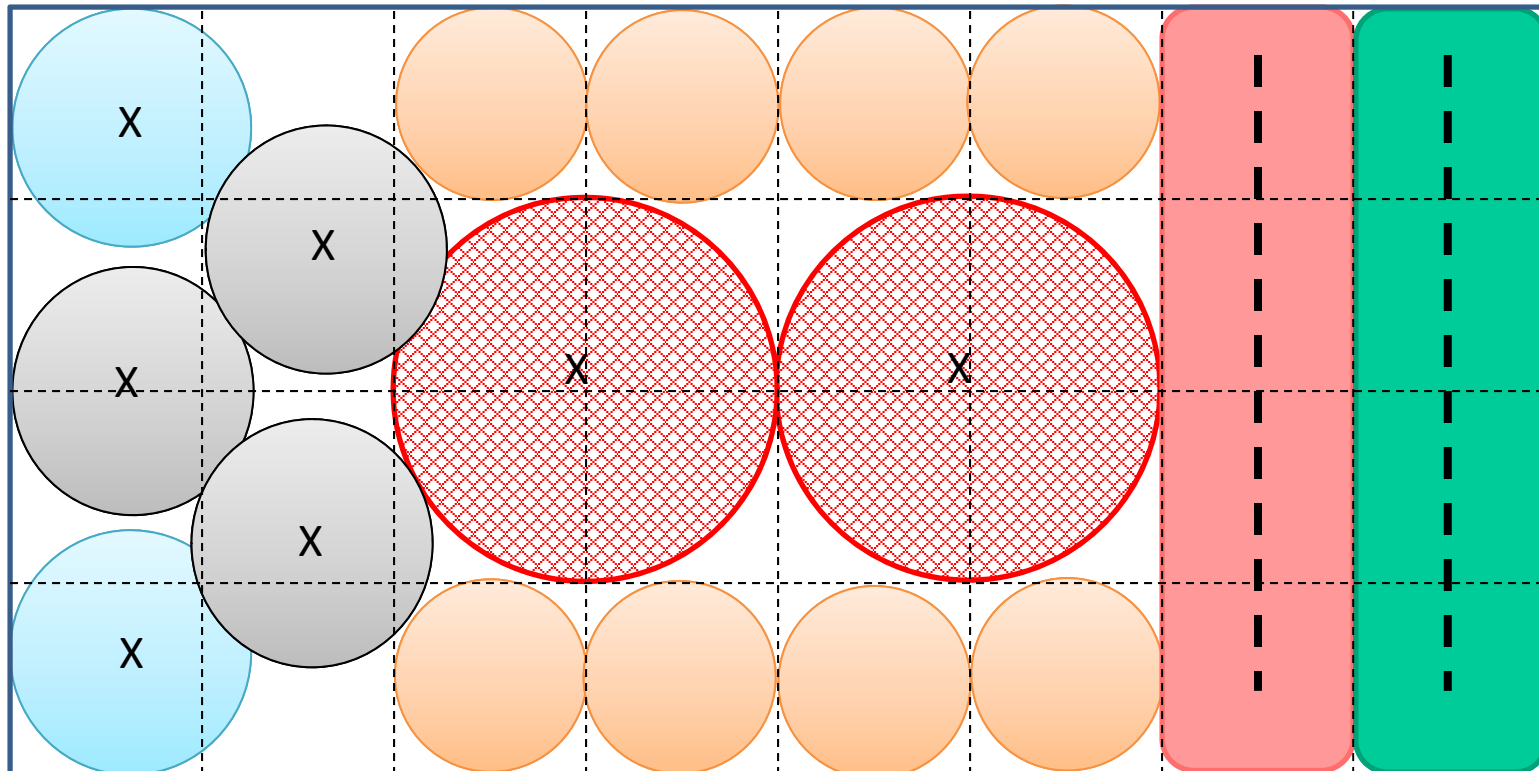
Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Tomato	amaranth; malabar spinach grown on a tomato cage; a single tomato plant could be replaced with 2-3 pepper plants
Pepper	herbs, annual flowers, kale, Swiss chard
Herbs	peppers, annual flowers, kale, Swiss chard
Annual flowers	herbs, peppers, kale, Swiss chard

LMS-6 Low Maintenance Summer Garden

Moderately simple planting plan

Planted in May, near the end of the school year.

Minimal maintenance over the summer. Watering will vary depending on location and summer weather.



LMS-6 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Tomato	May	Transplants in garden	Any variety, but indeterminate cherry tomatoes will give best results with low maintenance.
Pepper	May	Transplants in garden	Any variety. Smaller fruited sweet or hot peppers are likely to give better results with low maintenance.
Herbs	May	Transplants in garden	Any variety. Suggestions include: basil, thyme, oregano, agastaches, flowering sages, etc.
Annual flowers	May	Transplants in garden	Many varieties. Suggestions include: Vinca, lantana, zinnias, celosia, gaillardia, gomphrena, begonias
Kale	Mid-March to mid-April	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.
Swiss Chard	Mid-March to mid-April	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.

LMS-6 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

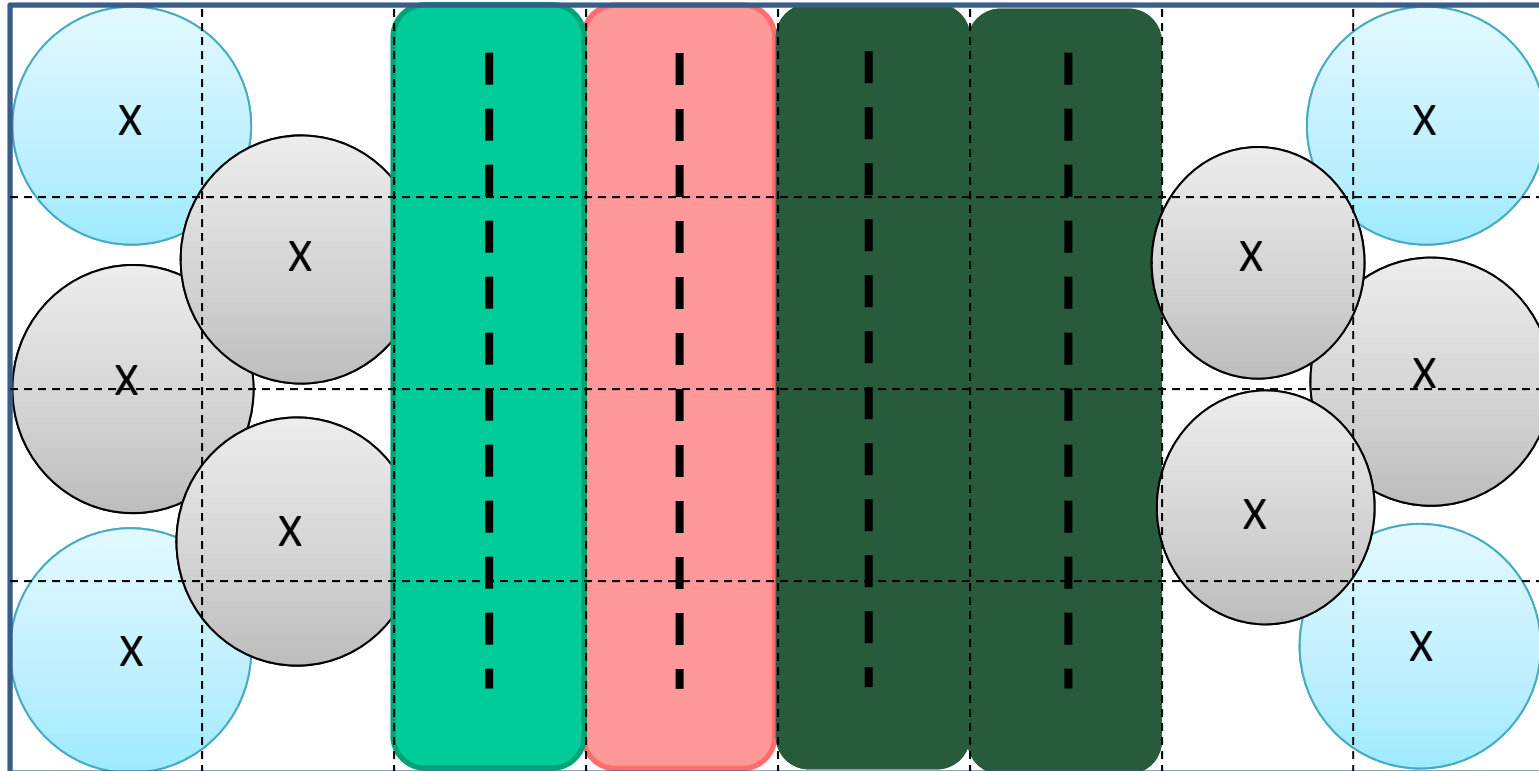
Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Tomato	amaranth; malabar spinach grown on a tomato cage; a single tomato plant could be replaced with 2-3 pepper plants
Pepper	herbs, annual flowers, kale, Swiss chard
Herbs	peppers, annual flowers, kale, Swiss chard
Annual flowers	herbs, peppers, kale, Swiss chard
Kale	herbs, peppers, annual flowers, Swiss chard, carrots, fennel
Swiss chard	herbs, peppers, annual flowers, kale, carrots, fennel

LMS-7 Low Maintenance Summer Garden

Moderately simple planting plan

Planted in May, near the end of the school year.

Minimal maintenance over the summer. Watering will vary depending on location and summer weather.



Swiss Chard



Amaranth



Herbs



Kale



Peppers



Denotes planting location



Denotes planting location

LMS-7 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Amaranth	May	Transplants in garden or seeds directly in garden	Any variety, but types with showy blooms will be more fun in the fall.
Pepper	May	Transplants in garden	Any variety. Smaller fruited sweet or hot peppers are likely to give better results with low maintenance.
Herbs	May	Transplants in garden	Any variety. Suggestions include: basil, thyme, oregano, agastaches, flowering sages, etc.
Kale	Mid-March to mid-April	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.
Swiss Chard	Mid-March to mid-April	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.

LMS-7 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

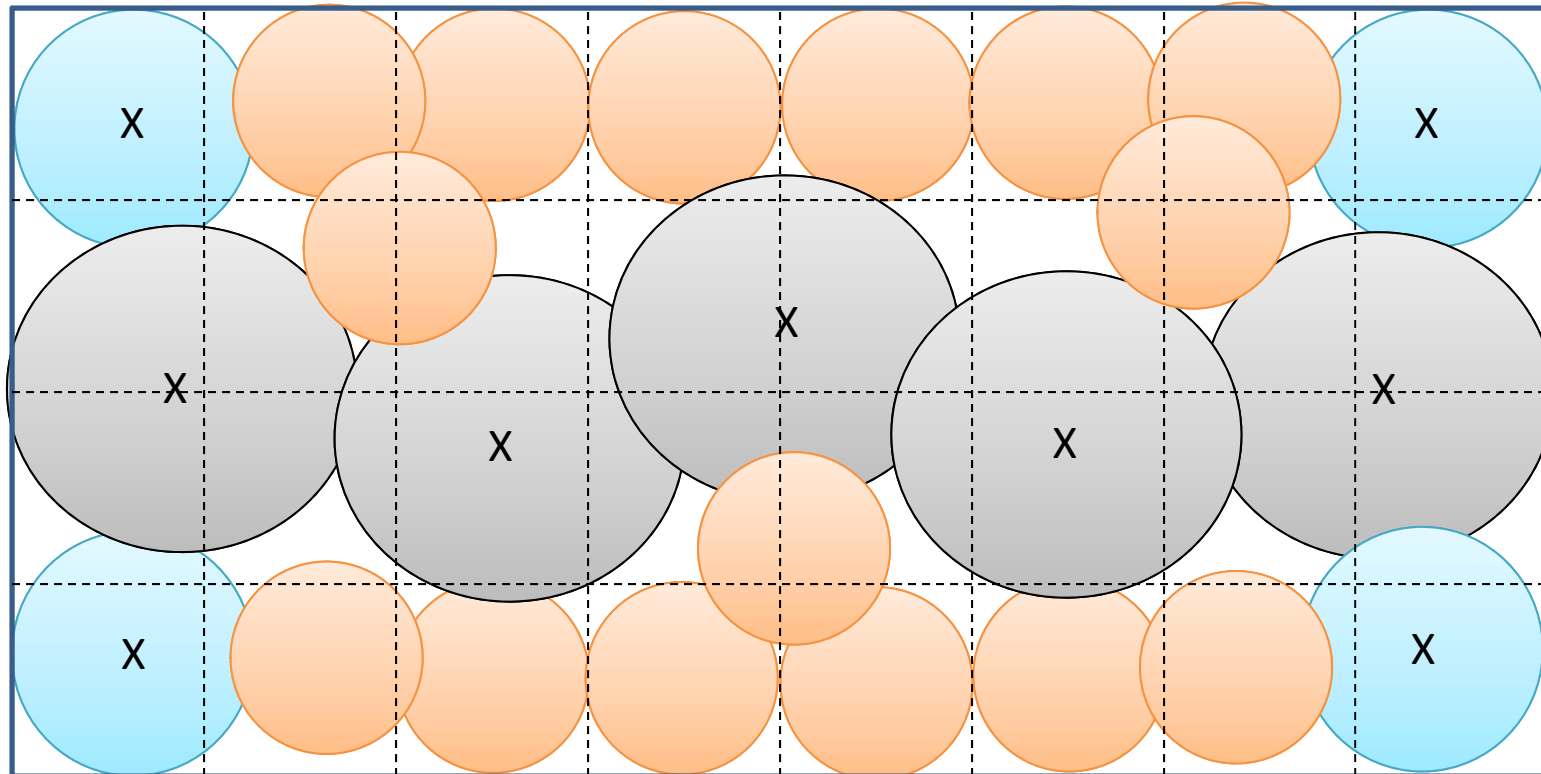
Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Amaranth	ornamental millet, larger herbs or annual flowers, popcorn, Malabar spinach on a trellis, sesame
Pepper	herbs, annual flowers, kale, Swiss chard
Herbs	peppers, annual flowers, kale, Swiss chard
Kale	herbs, peppers, annual flowers, Swiss chard, carrots (allowed to bolt), fennel (allowed to bolt)
Swiss chard	herbs, peppers, annual flowers, kale, carrots (allowed to bolt), fennel (allowed to bolt)


LMS-8 Low Maintenance Summer Garden

Moderately simple planting plan


Planted in May, near the end of the school year.

Minimal maintenance over the summer. Watering will vary depending on location and summer weather.




 Annual Flowers

 Herbs

 Denotes planting location

 Peppers

 Denotes planting location

LMS-8 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Pepper	May	Transplants in garden	Any variety. Smaller fruited sweet or hot peppers are likely to give better results with low maintenance.
Herbs	May	Transplants in garden	Any variety. Suggestions include: basil, thyme, oregano, agastaches, flowering sages, etc.
Annual flowers	May	Transplants in garden	Many varieties. Suggestions include: Vinca, lantana, zinnias, celosia, gaillardia, gomphrena, begonias

LMS-8 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

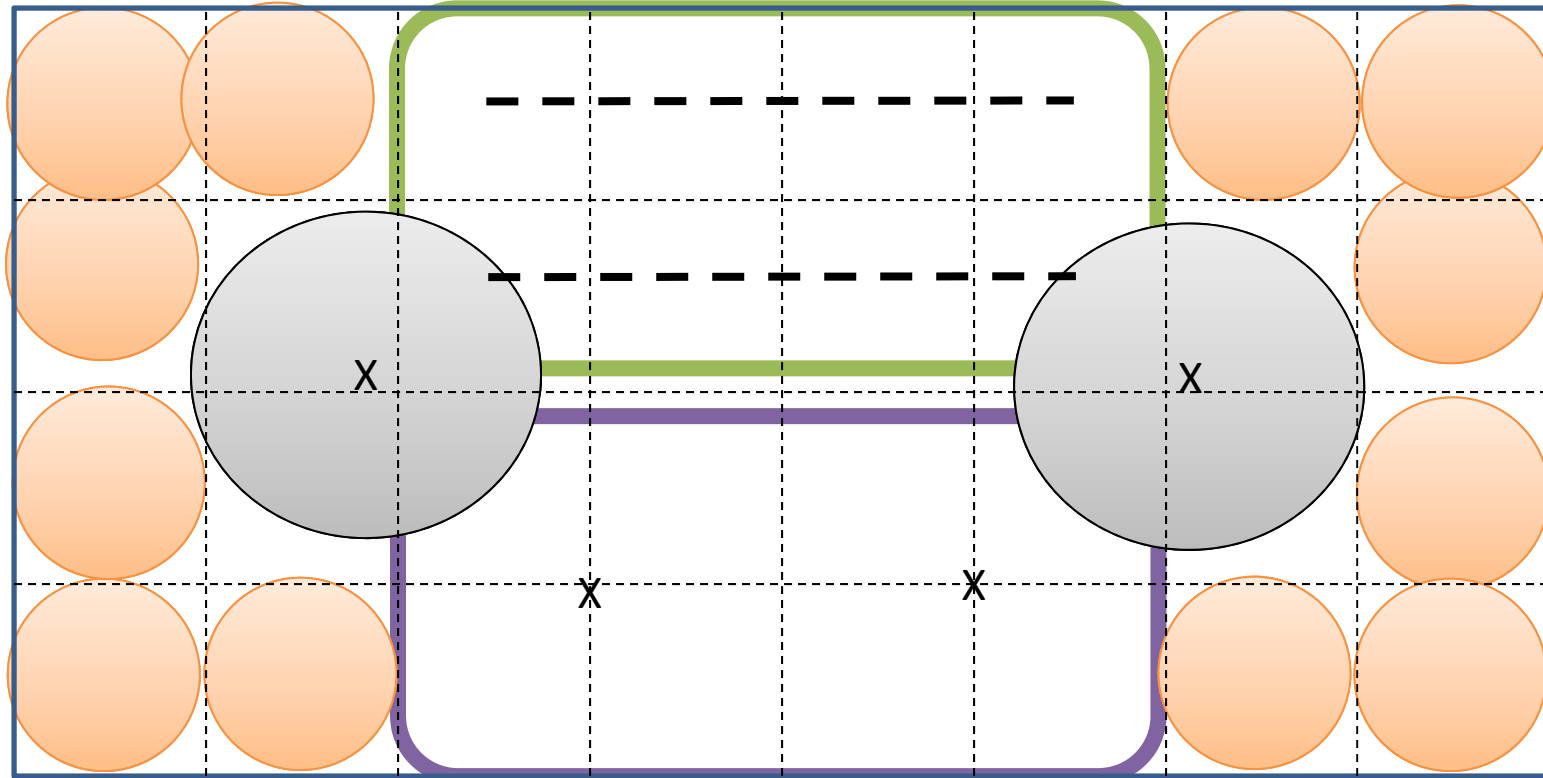
Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Pepper	herbs, annual flowers, kale, Swiss chard
Herbs	peppers, annual flowers, kale, Swiss chard
Annual flowers	peppers, herbs, kale, Swiss chard




LMS-9 Low Maintenance Summer Garden


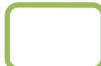

Moderately simple planting plan

Planted in May, near the end of the school year.

Minimal maintenance over the summer. Watering will vary depending on location and summer weather.



-  Annual Flowers
-  Sweetpotato
-  Denotes planting location

-  Herbs
-  Cowpeas
-  Denotes planting location

LMS-9 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Sweet potato	May to early June	Plant from slips (cuttings) directly in the garden.	Any variety. Consider growing slips in the classroom from a sweet potato to plant.
Cowpeas	May to early June	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety. May want to look for eating varieties rather than forage varieties.
Herbs	May	Transplants in garden	Any variety. Suggestions include: basil, thyme, oregano, agastaches, flowering sages, etc.
Annual flowers	May	Transplants in garden	Many varieties. Suggestions include: Vinca, lantana, zinnias, celosia, gaillardia, gomphrena, begonias

LMS-9 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Sweet potato	No comparable alternative
Cowpeas	sorghum, millet, amaranth, corn (not sweet corn), sesame, soybeans
Herbs	peppers, annual flowers, kale, Swiss chard
Annual flowers	peppers, herbs, kale, Swiss chard

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