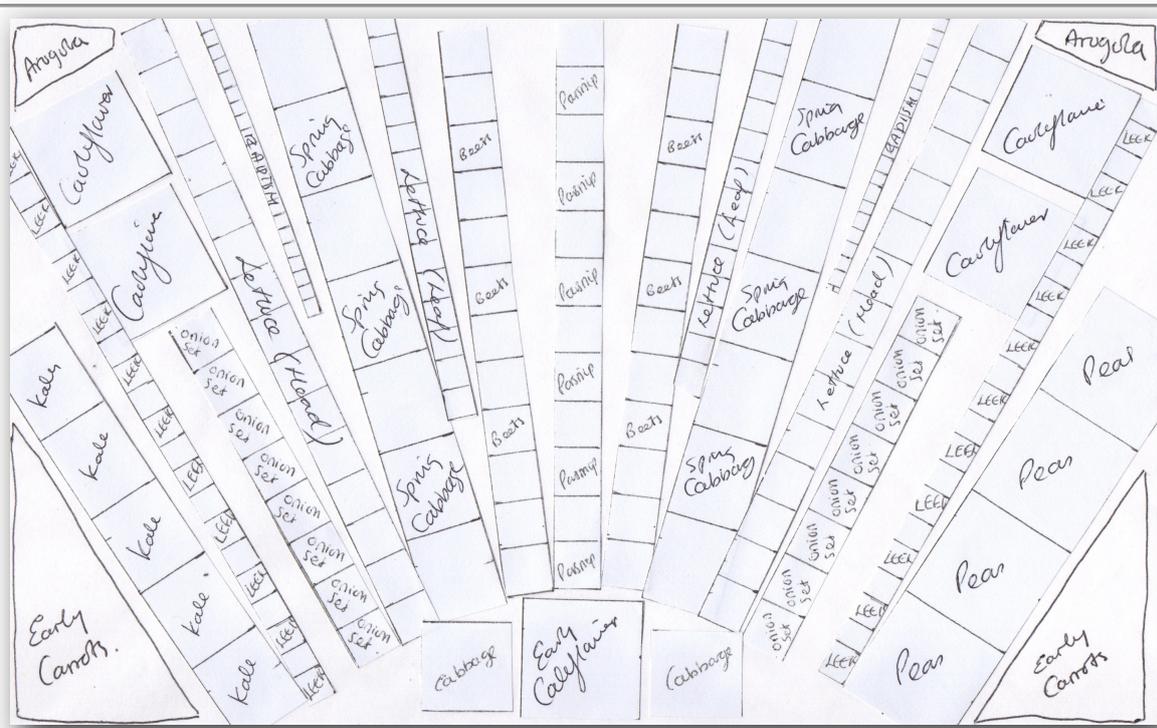




KITCHEN GARDEN DESIGNS



01: Sunburst Garden Spring/Summer



Here's how to create a simple sunburst pattern in your kitchen garden. You can plant whatever you like to eat, I chose. Early Carrots, Kale, Leeks, Cauliflower, Onion Sets, Lettuce, Radish, Spring Cabbage, Beets, Parsnip, Peas, and Arugula. I also added semicircle of Sweet Alyssum flowers to give the pattern definition. In creating an effective sunburst pattern the trick is mark out your design precisely and be aware of where the sun is coming from. Don't overshadow small plants with big, fast-growing ones.

My plot is East-facing and 10ft x 16ft. I live in Portland where the last frost day is roughly 26th April.

01: Sunburst Garden

Spring/Summer



1.

Prepare the soil at the end of February by digging the area over and adding two bags of well-rotted manure.

After preparing the soil let it settle until the end of March. Start to lay out the design by marking where the semi-circle of flowers will be. All the vegetable rows will radiate from this. You can use boards, or string lines to mark out the rows.



2.

At the end of March plant the Onion Sets, sow Peas, Beets and Parsnips, Early Carrots and Radish. At the beginning of April plant hardened-off Kale plants. You can grow your own or buy them from a local nursery.



3.

In mid April plant Cabbage and Cauliflower plants and Sweet Alyssum (or you can direct sow them earlier). My Parsnips had failed to germinate so I replaced them with Lettuce seedlings from the greenhouse.

By the end of April the plot should look like this.

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4. By mid-June your plot should be producing harvestable vegetables and look lovely. My Beet seeds germinated but were so patchy that I replaced them with dark-leaved Lettuce, which had the same effect.

What happens when you start to harvest? Well, the pattern can continue, you just need to have plants waiting in the wings to be planted. After I harvested the Early Carrots I replanted the area with Mini-Pepper plants. And after I harvested the Peas I replanted with more Lettuce.

Which Varieties?

Choose the varieties that work well in your area from a local seed supplier. These are the ones I chose.

Early Carrots: Little Finger

Beet: Bull's Blood

Lettuce: Marvel of the Four Seasons

Lettuce: Red Sails

Lettuce: Red Velvet

Leek: American Flag

Kale: Red Russian

Kale: Nero Toscana

Peas: Oregon Trail

Peppers - Mini

Onions: White

Cauliflower: Chef's Blend

Cabbage: Red Acre

Spinach: Bloomsdale Long Standing

Arugula: Roquette