



**SEEDTIME**



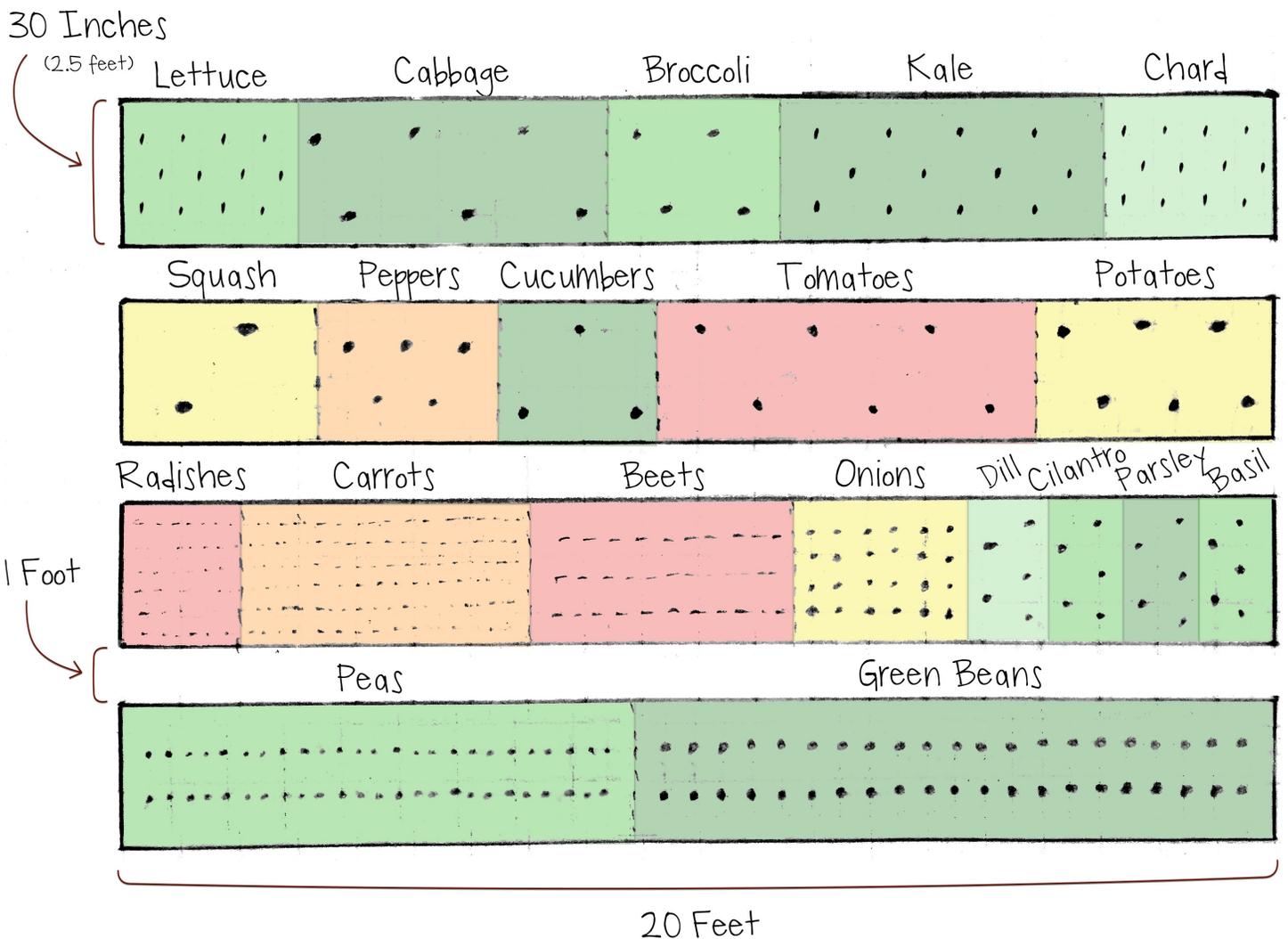
**\$2,000 Plug & Play  
Garden Plan**

Hi there!

It's Paul here with Seedtime and this is exciting! In this document I'm sharing with you the exact, plug and play garden plan that I personally used to grow over \$2,000 of food in my own small 15x20 foot garden.

So, first things first...

It all started with a simple garden plan I created years ago to make it easy for people to start growing their own food:



This formed the basis of my \$2,000 garden plan. And in fact, I grew just about everything you see in that drawing above except for the potatoes.

Here's the key though.

To maximize the yield in your garden and to grow a continual harvest - you need to create a succession plan.

Let's take peas as an example.

In the plan above you'll see peas in the left side of the lower bed.

That's great - but peas are a spring crop and in my location they'll be done by sometime in June.

So, the question is, what comes next? If you leave the bed empty the rest of the year, you'll be wasting all that space!

Also, why not plant some companion crops beside some of the ones above?

And that's where my \$2,000 garden plan was born.

It doesn't fit as neatly into one single image, because crops were coming in and out the whole season long.

But, in this document I'm going to give you the full plan.

You'll get to see the actual dates I seeded and harvested most of these crops (or within the ballpark).

And you'll get to see how my garden beds changed over time with crops coming in and out of each space.

You ready? Let's dive right in!

But first... here's a few questions you may have before we get into the planting details.

## **GARDEN PLAN Q+A:**

### **How big is this garden?**

This garden is 20x15 feet. While many people have at least that much space in their back yard, if you don't then don't loose hope. You can still get creative!

And hey, this is a simple plan so feel free to scale it up or down depending on your needs. You could cut this same plan in half and simply grow less of each veggie... or double it for more!

Nothing's set in stone. :)

### **How many people will this feed?**

Oh my! Now that's a loaded question!

It really all depends partly on your eating habits and partly on how much effort you put into making your garden a success.

That being said, I'd start out planting this garden for two to four people. See how it goes for one year and adjust.

### **How many kinds of veggies are there?**

There are 20 kinds of veggies in the original garden plan above. With my modifications it is still roughly the same but give or take a few. Of course, feel free to switch something out with a veggie you like better. For instance, if you like eggplant more than peppers - do the swap (or split the space half-and-half). Just make sure to keep the veggies in the same family. This will keep your crop rotation working properly (see next section).

And hey, 20 veggies for a 20x15 foot garden isn't bad!

### **Why are the veggies grouped like they are?**

This garden plan was specifically designed with a simple crop rotation plan in mind. Rotating where you grow your veggies each year is helpful in suppressing diseases and helping keep a healthy soil as different plants give and take nutrients from the soil in different ways.

[Click here](#) to view this simple crop rotation diagram. You'll quickly notice how the four beds in our garden plan correspond to the four sections of the diagram. You'll also see how the veggies and herbs are divided by their family types so that you aren't growing the same family in the same place multiple years in a row.

### **Why 30 inch (2.5 feet) wide beds?**

Great question. There's a few reasons why I'm growing with 30" wide beds (and why I suggest you do too :) Here's quick list:

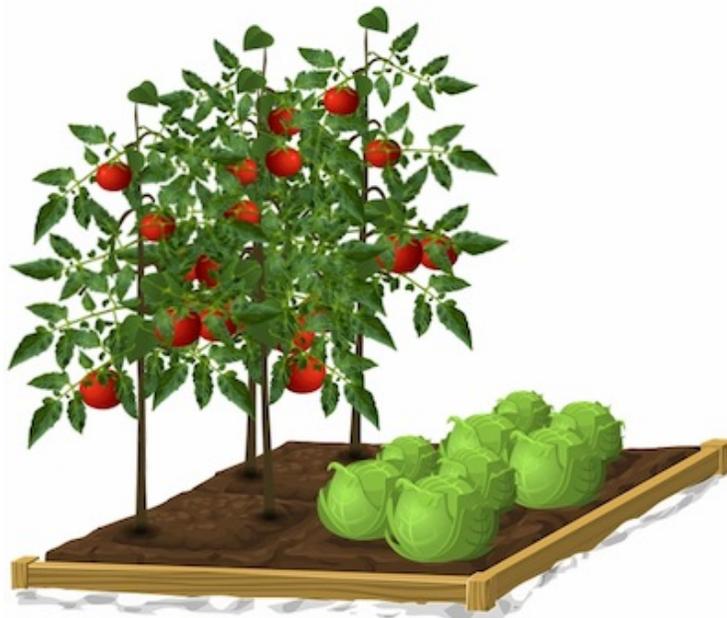
1. The beds are easier to step across or straddle (I'm not a fan of doing the splits...)
2. The beds are easy to reach across for seeding or harvesting

3. There are tools designed specifically for 30" wide beds like the [bed preparation rake](#) and [broadfork](#) from Johnny's Seeds

## Why 20 Foot Long Beds?

You can really make your beds any length you want - but 20 feet is ideal for a couple reasons.

1. It keeps your garden small and many people have at least 20 feet of backyard where they could plant a garden.
2. A 20 foot long bed at 30 inches (2.5 feet) wide ends up being 50 square feet. This can be helpful when adding extra soil nutrients which often have recommendations for how much to add per 100 square feet.



## THE \$2,000 PLAN CALENDAR TIMELINE:

Ok! So here's the crop calendar timeline I ended up using to grow over \$2,000 in this small garden.

I'm going to share a screenshot of what the timeline looked like for each bed and everything that we grew in that bed (minus some random plants).

**Note:** this is my actual plan so you'll see the tasks marked as complete. For transplanted crops there will be a seeding date mark at the beginning, a transplant mark, and then the harvest window. For direct seeded crops there will only be a seeding mark at the beginning and then the harvest window. Most are dates the actual task happened or harvest window but sometimes it is the general ballpark.

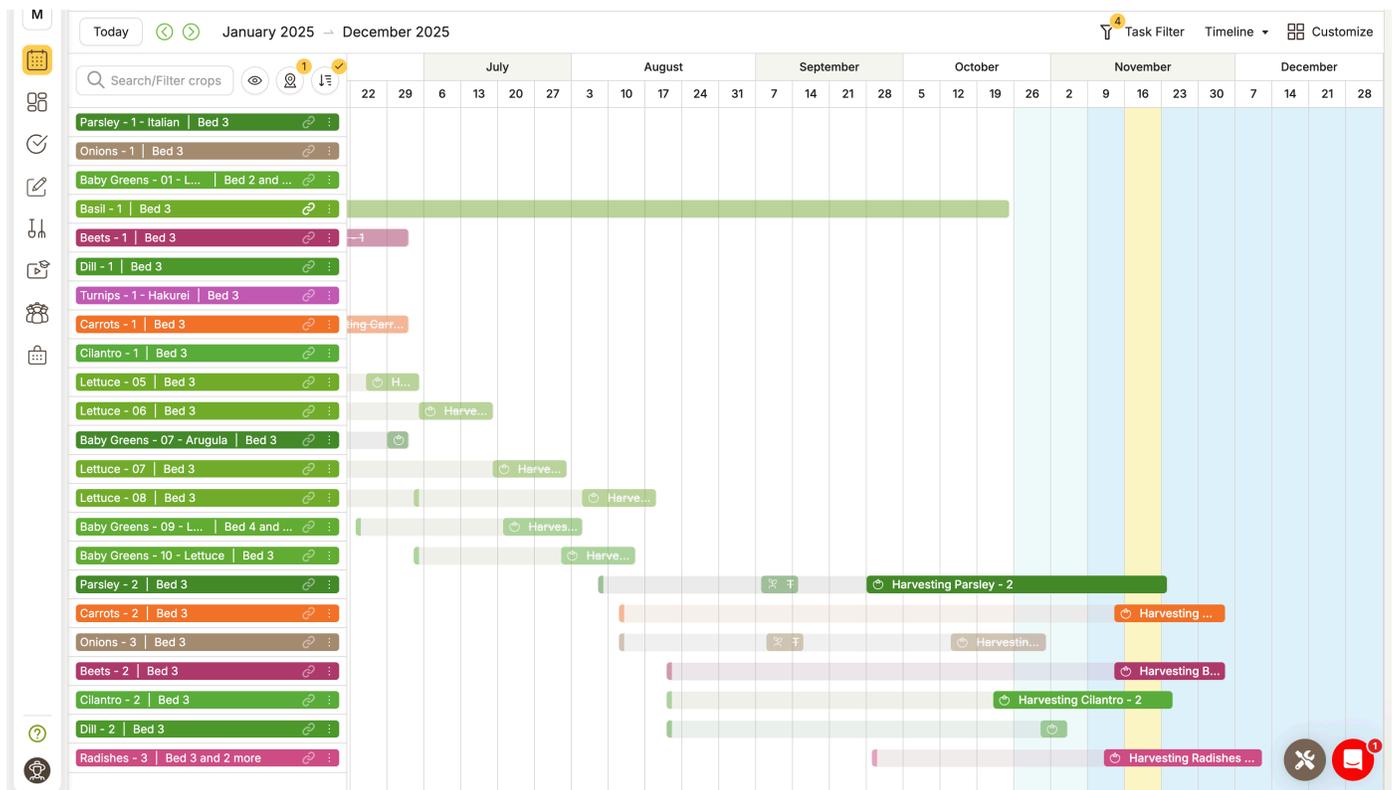
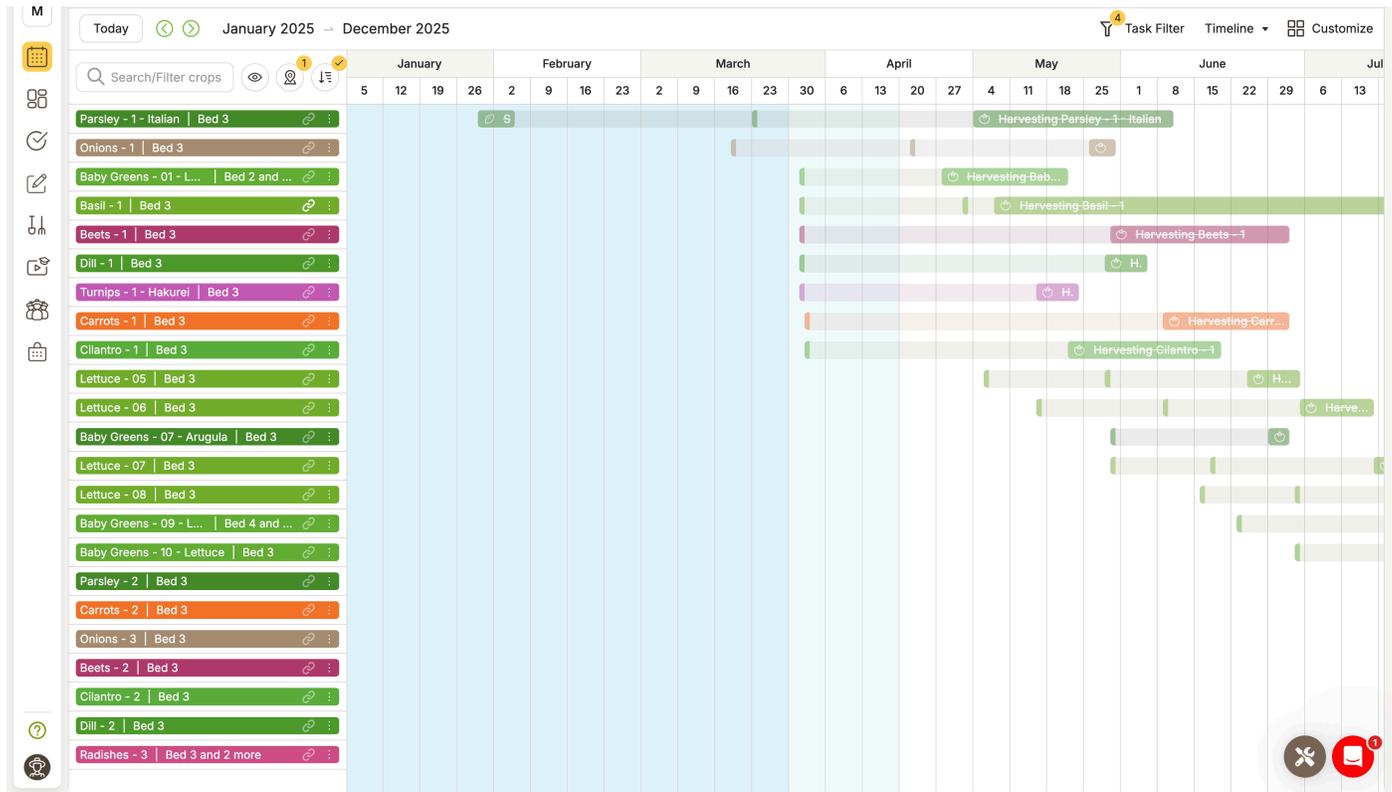
The crops are lined up in the order of their seeding dates. This means they are organized by the date they were seeded (or seeding date guess if I bought a transplanted crop).



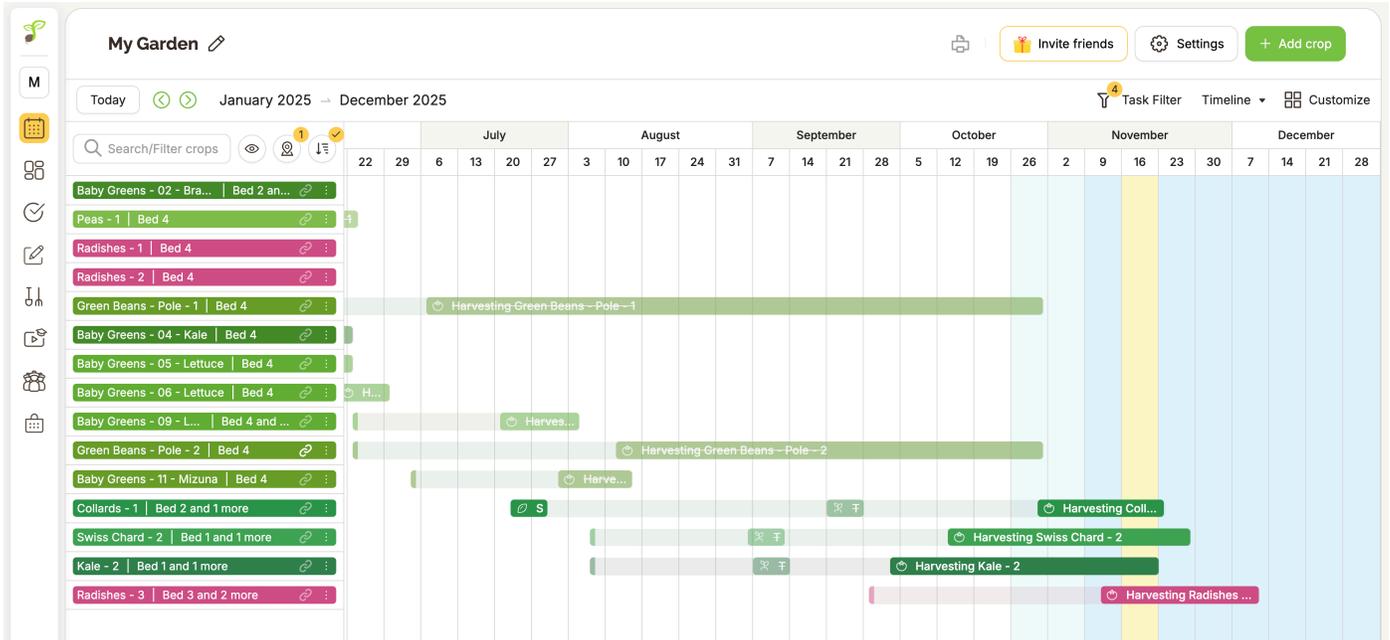
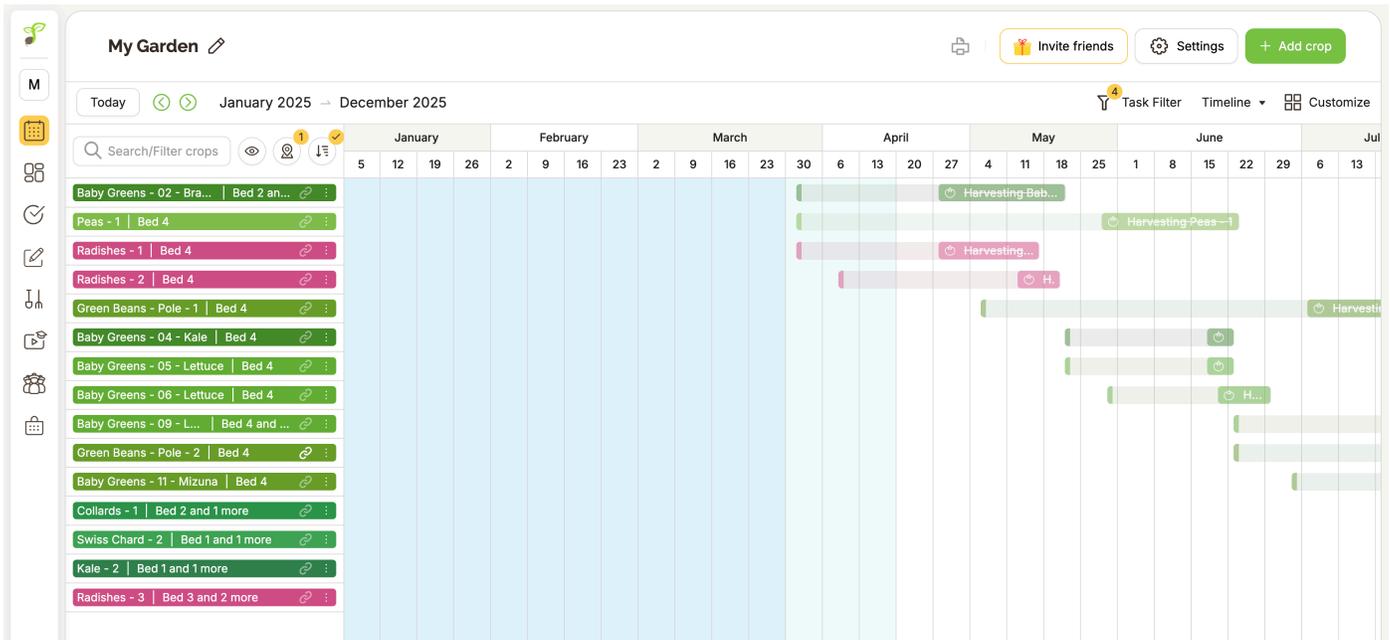




# Bed 3:



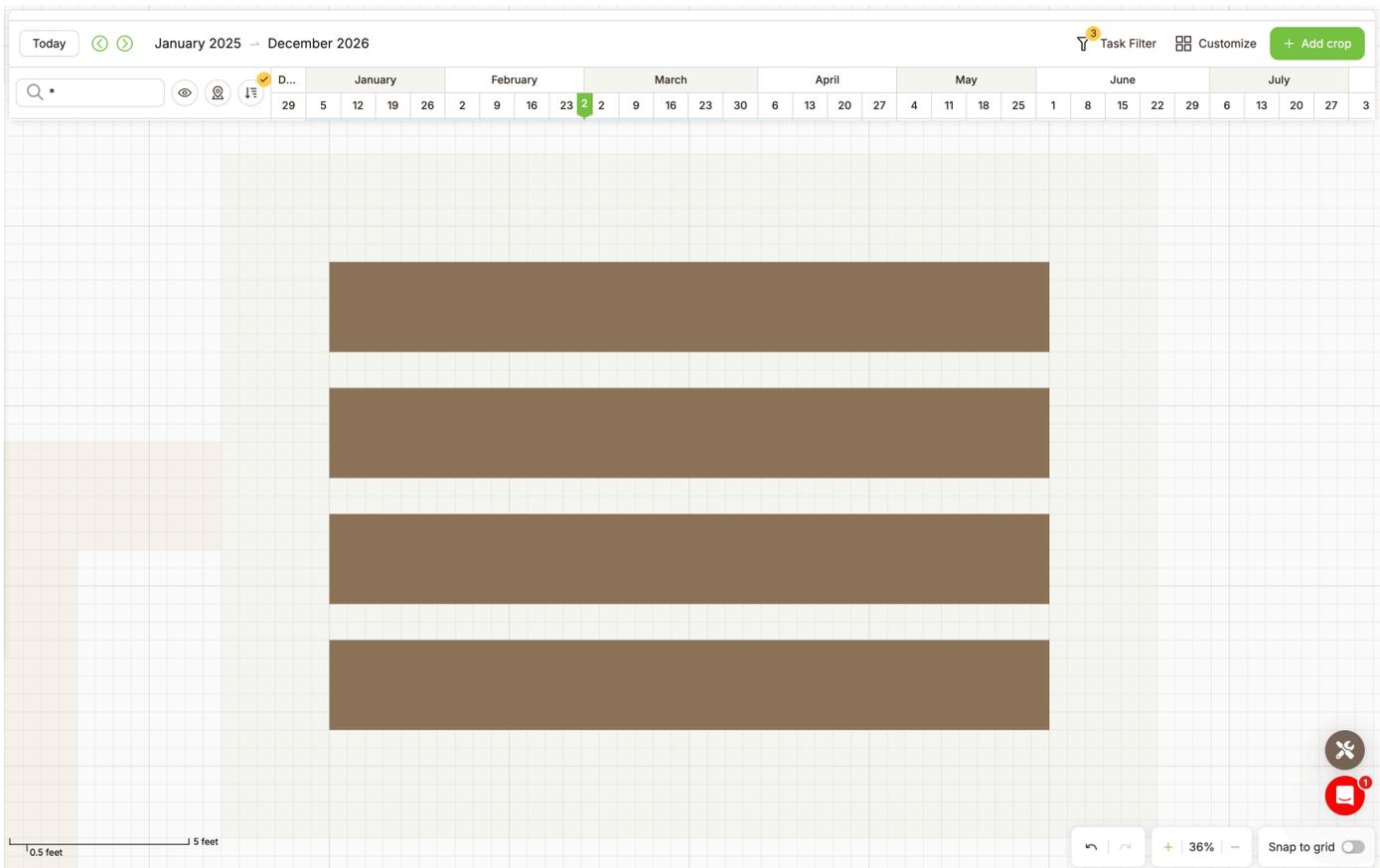
# Bed 4:



## THE \$2,000 PLAN LAYOUT TIMELINE:

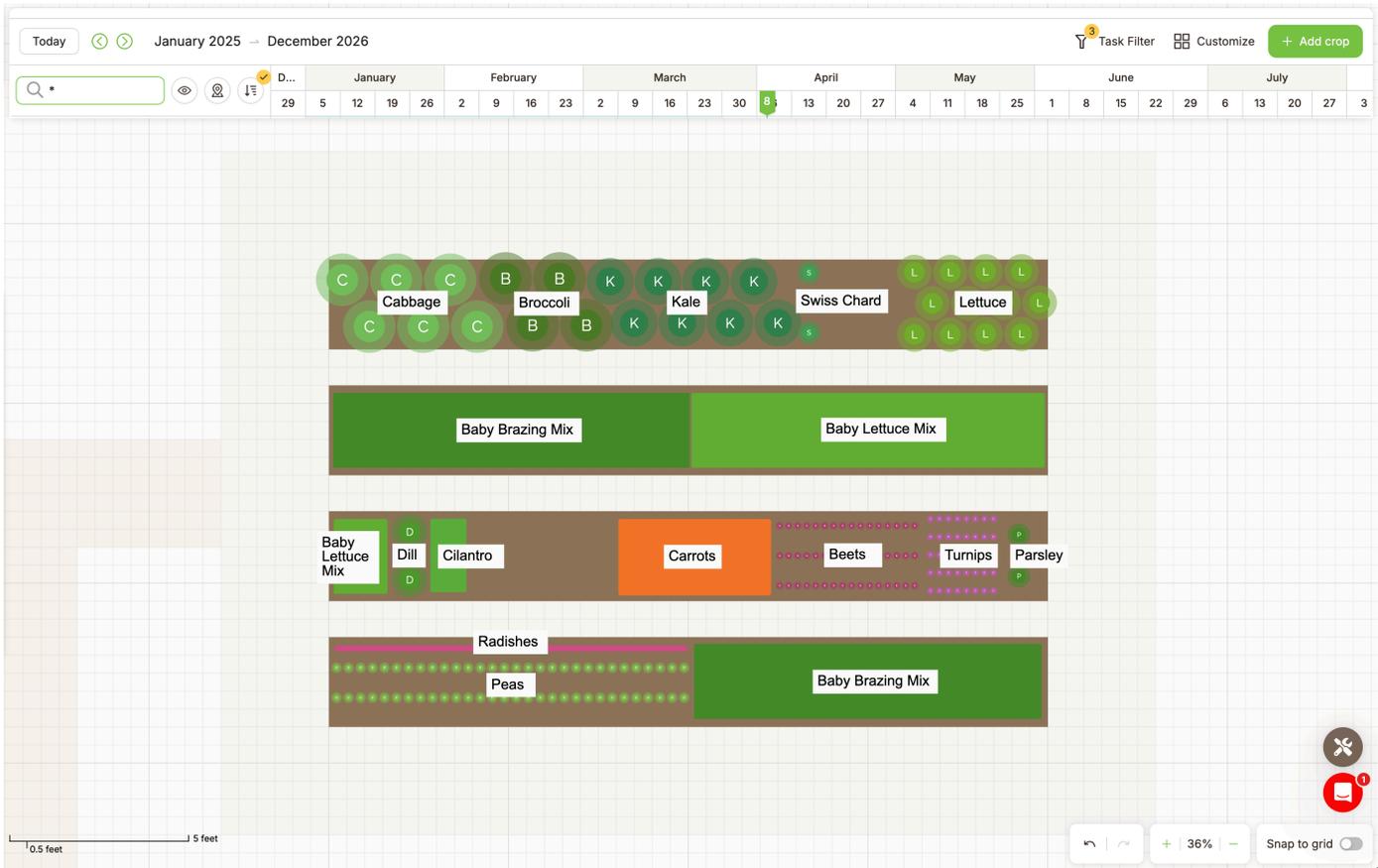
In this section I'm going to share a screenshot of the garden layout at the beginning of each month so you can see how the crops progressed through the season. I'll add some notes with each. You'll see a green marker in the timeline of the screenshots showing the date in the timeline the screenshot is showing.

### March:



We didn't have anything in the ground yet, but crops would be growing inside for the transplanted greens if I seeded them myself (I bought transplants this time).

# April:

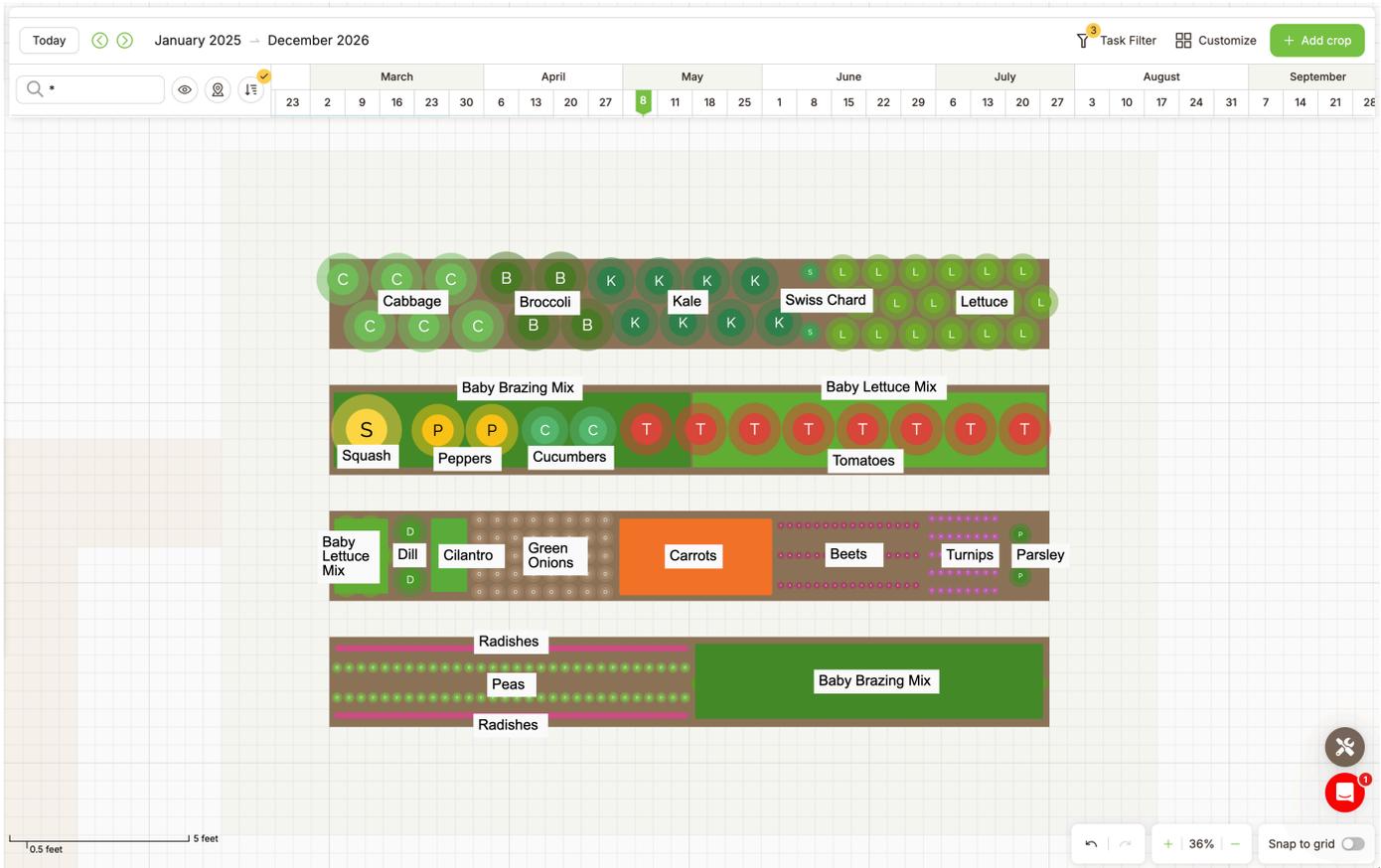


Most of our greens are transplanted in the first bed.

We grew baby greens in bed two as a quick crop before our summer crops like tomatoes and squash were ready to transplant in. We did the same thing in bed four where the green beans will go in later (bottom right).

Radishes are grown as a companion crop to peas (bottom left).

# May:

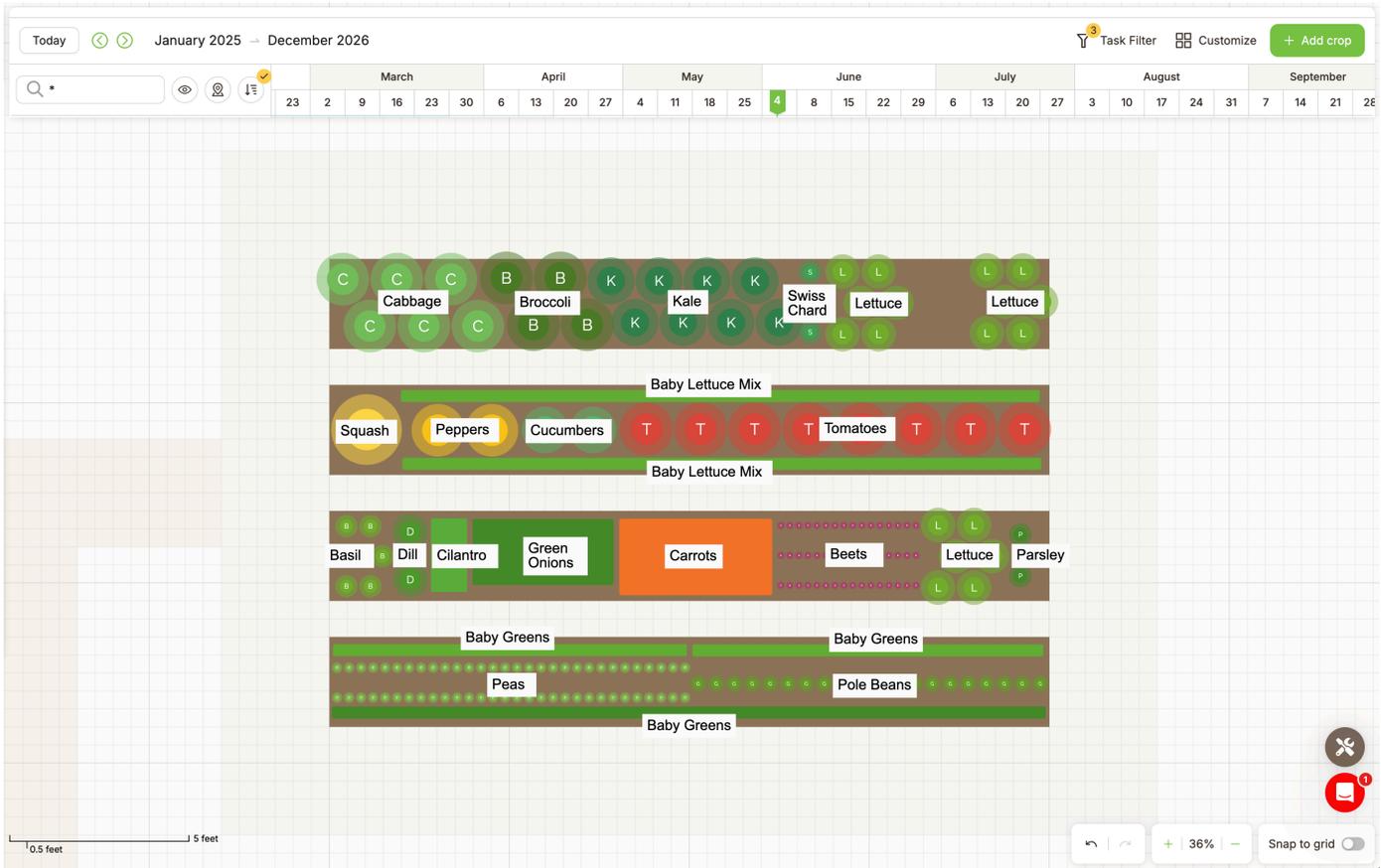


Garden is going full steam ahead!

In bed two we transplanted our summer crops (tomatoes, cucumbers etc.) into the baby greens by taking out the center row of baby greens and letting the side baby greens keep growing as a companion crop.

More radishes were started as a succession crop next to the peas in bed four.

# June:



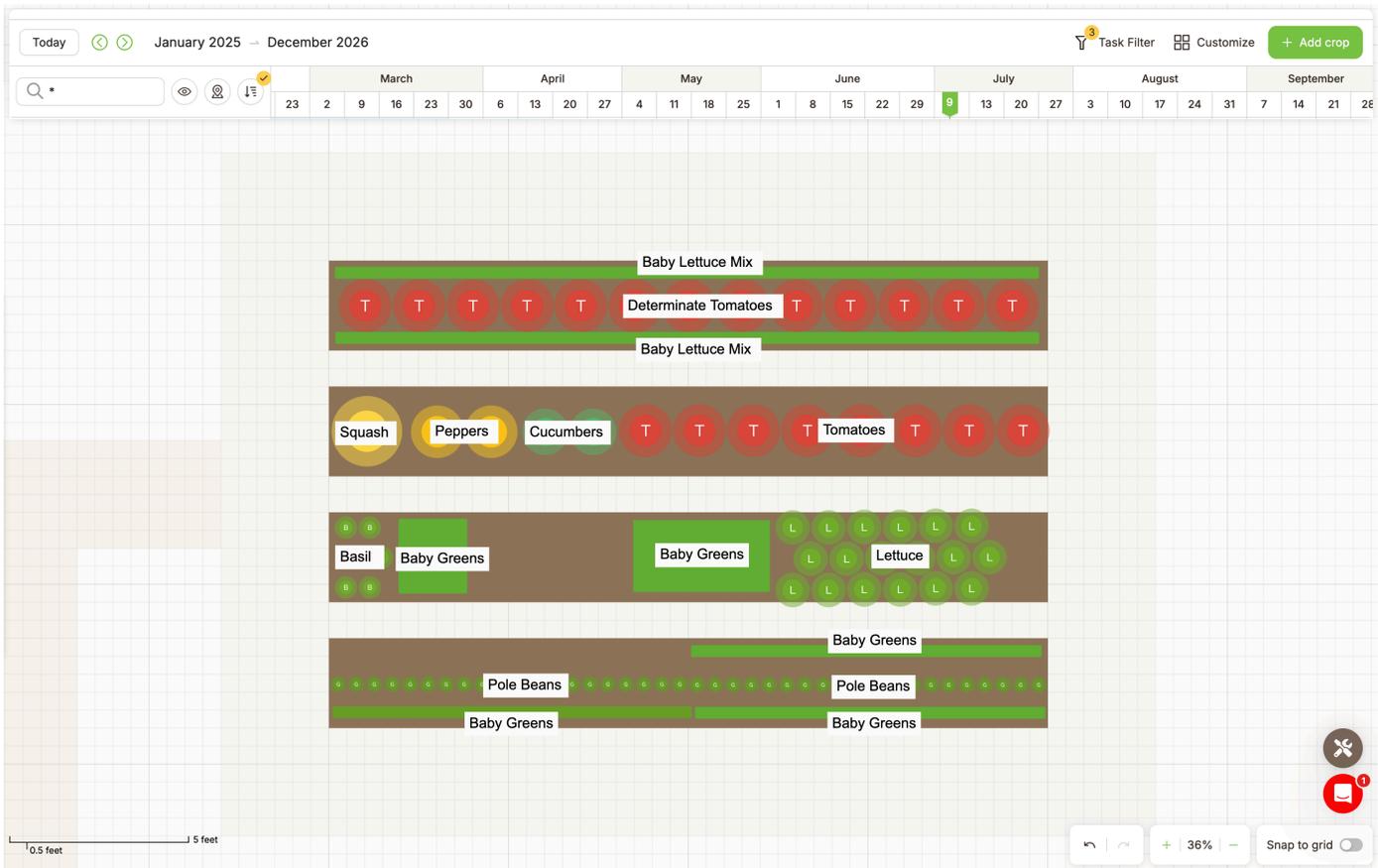
Our first batch of baby greens was finished so we took it out and seeded more baby greens on either side of the summer crops in bed two.

Radishes were harvested and more baby greens were seeded next to the peas in bed four.

Green beans have now been seeded with baby greens on either side of them as well in bed four.

Lettuce is starting to transition from bed one to bed three since it will get shade there from the pole green beans and indeterminate tomatoes.

# July:



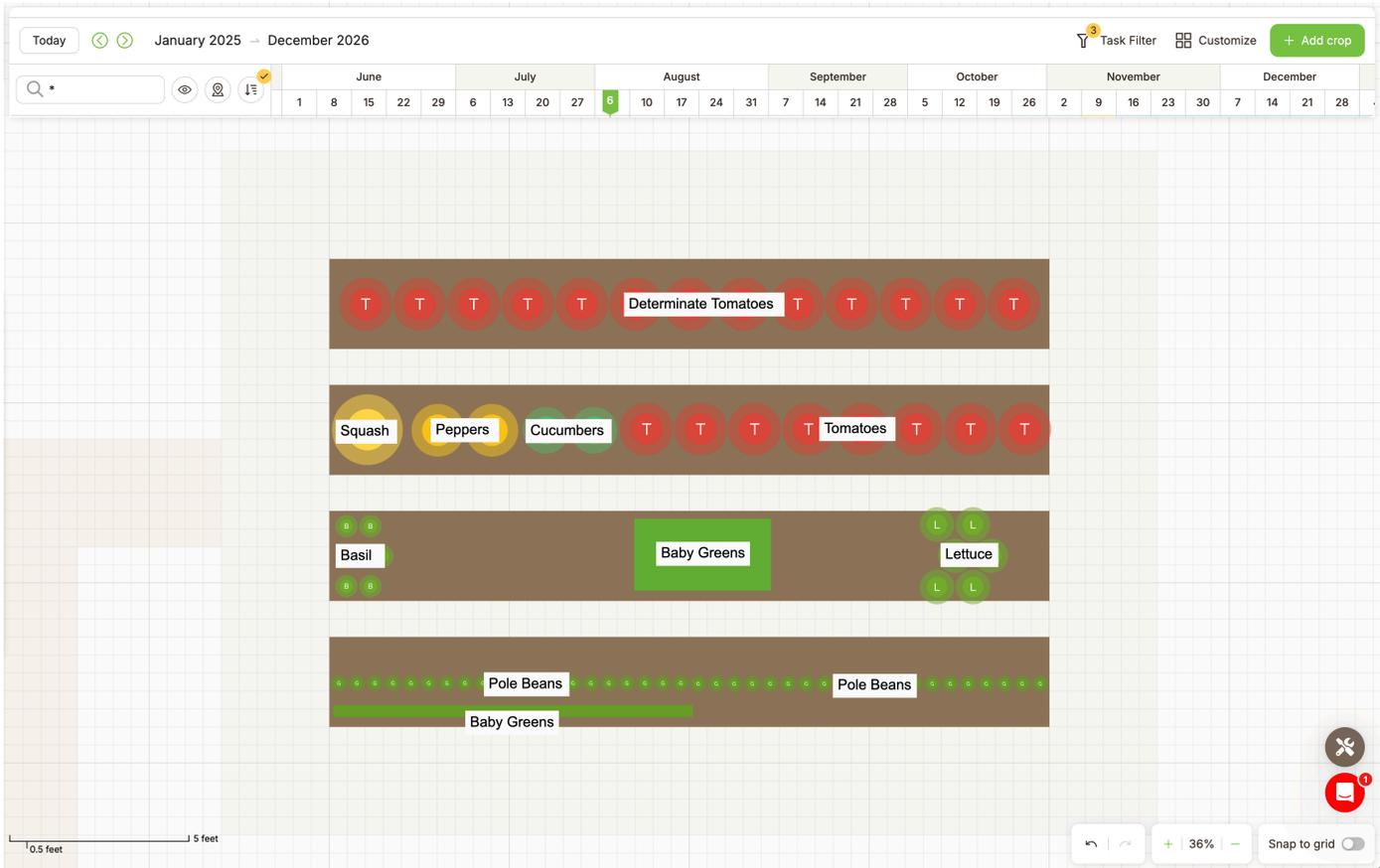
Our greens are done in bed one so we replaced them with a quick crop of determinate tomatoes with baby greens seeded on either side.

We were going to keep baby green successions going in bed two but ended up never re-sowing them. A similar thing happened in bed four.

We did plant more baby greens and lettuce successions in bed three. The baby greens that were in full sun did not do well.

Peas are finished and replaced with a succession planting of pole green beans in bed four.

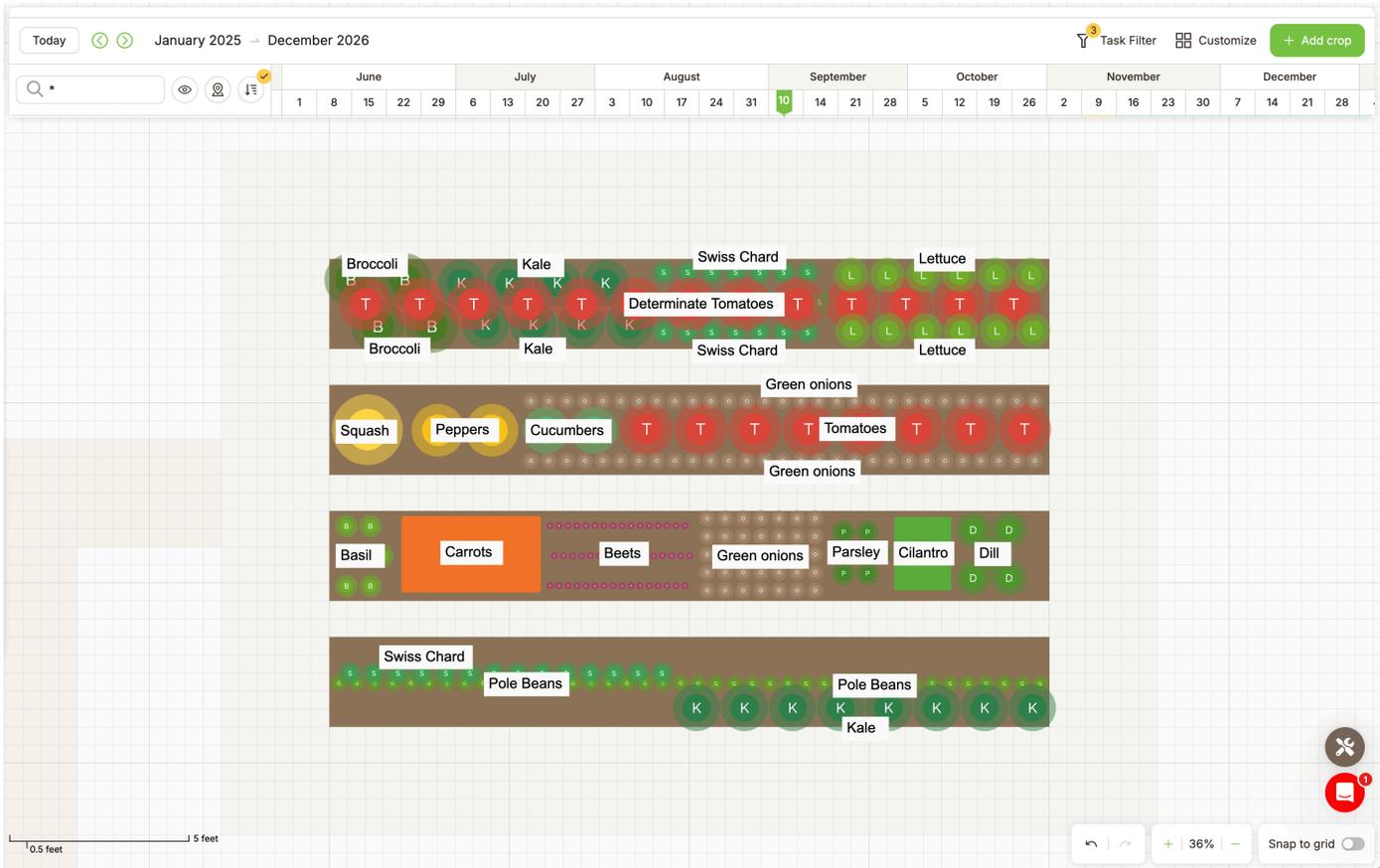
# August:



Baby greens in bed one are finished. It is the main heat of summer now and most of the cool weather crops are done or not doing very well.

The rest of the crops continue on.

# September:



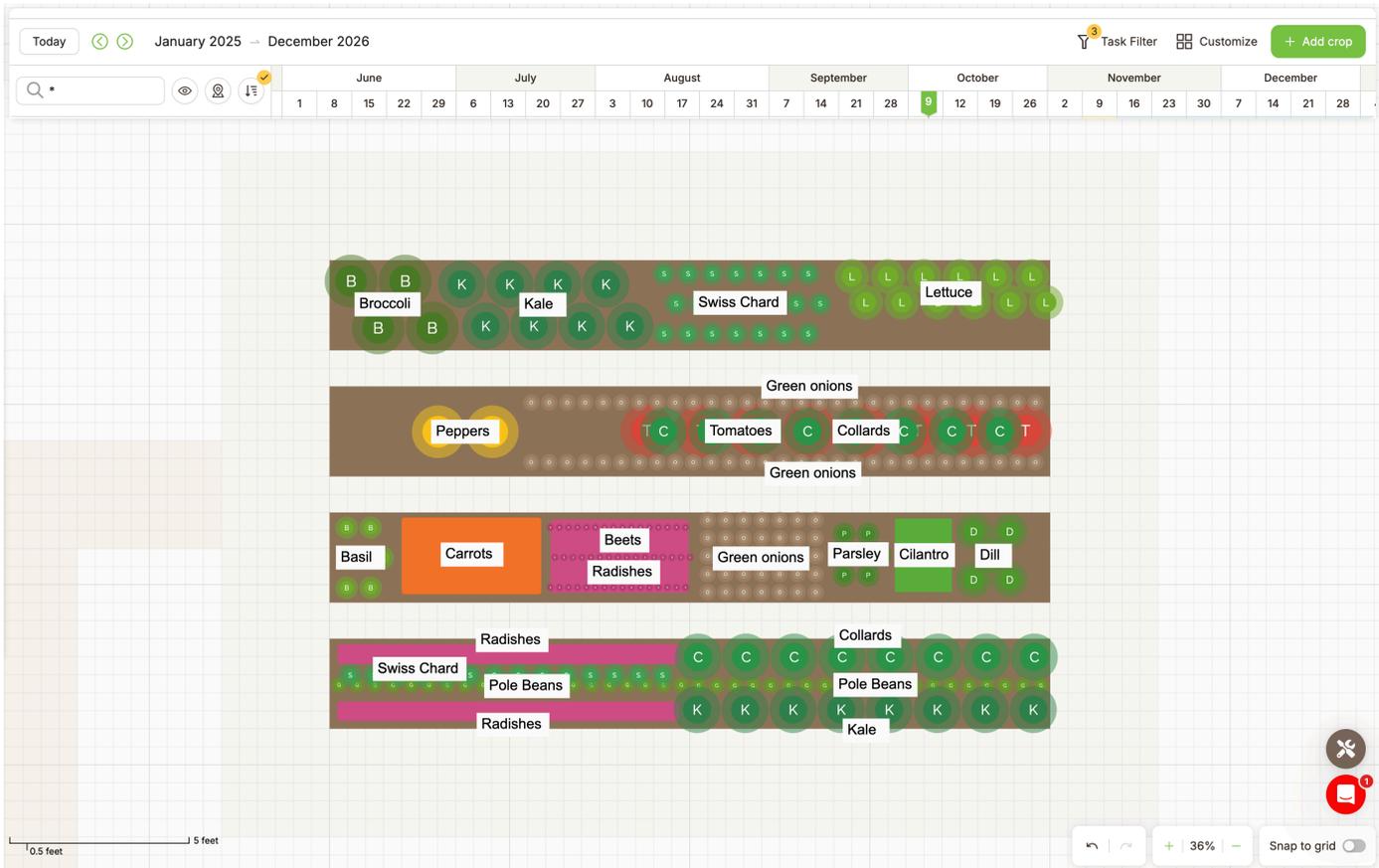
Here's where I got behind and should have started my own starts sooner. But, we still got fall crops in. Broccoli and other greens are transplanted on either side of the tomatoes in bed one.

Green onions are planted on either side of the summer crops in bed two.

Fall crops like carrots, beets, green onions, and herbs go in bed three.

Swiss chard and kale and inter cropped with the peas and next to the green beans in bed four.

# October:



This was the last month we tracked harvests (though this plan could keep going through the winter).

Tomatoes are taken out of bed one and it is filled the rest of the way with greens.

Some of the summer crops in bed two are done and I transplanted collards between the indeterminate tomato plants.

My beet crop failed and so I seeded radishes in their place in bed three.

Radishes and collards are added to the companion crops in bed four.

That's it! After growing from March through October we tallied up the total value of the produce harvested (compared against local stores and farm fresh produce) and the total came up to: **\$2,030.85**.

That's 4X the average garden yield!

Next up I'm going to give you some quick planting info for each of the crops in this plan.

## **VEGGIE PLANTING INFORMATION:**

Here are some notes for the veggies listed in this garden plan:

**Basil:** Plant inside then transplant out. Space plants 8 inches apart.

**Beets:** Sow directly into the garden. Sow 10 seeds/ft in a row and then thin plants to 3 inches apart. Note: you can eat the thinnings in a fresh salad!

**Broccoli:** Plant inside then transplant out. Space plants 18 inches apart.

**Cabbage:** Plant inside then transplant out. Space plants 18 inches apart.

**Carrots:** Sow directly into the garden. Sow 30 seeds/ft in a row and then thin plants to 1- 1 1/2 inches apart depending on your desired

size.

**Cilantro:** Seed directly outside. I like to seed it in a row and then thin the plants to 1-2 inches apart. It creates a band of cilantro that I can harvest off of.

**Cucumbers:** Plant inside then transplant out. Space plants 18 inches apart.

**Dill:** Seed directly outside. Seed and thin plants to 6-8 inches apart.

**Green beans:** Sow directly into the garden. Sow 2 inches apart in a row and then thin to 4-6 inches apart. Space rows 10-14 inches apart.

**Kale:** Plant inside then transplant out. Space plants 12 inches apart.

**Lettuce:** Plant inside then transplant out. Space plants 8-12 inches apart.

**Green Onions:** Plant inside then transplant out. I grew bunching onions and would space the bunches about 6 inches apart.

**Parsley:** Plant inside then transplant out. Space plants 6 inches apart.

**Peas:** Sow directly into the garden. Sow 20 seeds/ft in a row and then thin plants to 4 inches apart. Plant rows 10 inches apart. Baby pea shoots are excellent for salads!

**Peppers:** Plant inside then transplant out. Space plants 12-18 inches apart.

**Potatoes:** (Listed in the base plan although I did not grow them in my plan above) Plant directly into the garden. Space plants 12 inches apart.

**Radishes:** Sow directly into the garden. Sow 30 seeds/ft in a row and then thin plants to 1-2 inches apart depending on your desired size. Sowing and thinning rates may depend on the size of the radish you are trying to grow as well.

**Squash:** Plant inside then transplant out. Space plants 24 inches apart.

**Swiss chard:** Plant inside then transplant out. Space plants 10-12 inches apart in rows that are 10 inches apart.

**Tomatoes:** Plant inside then transplant out. Space plants 18 inches apart.

## **CONCLUSION:**

I hope you've enjoyed looking through this garden plan and that it inspires you to grow more food out of your garden! You can do the same thing. It's not rocket science. It's a matter of creating a simple continual harvest plan and staying on track through the season.

In fact, we should have been able to grow way more food.

I had a couple crop failures (my cucumbers and squash did not do well at all and I had a planting of arugula baby greens that was completely eaten).

And, I also missed my best planting times for the fall crops.

But despite these setbacks, we STILL grew 4X more food than the average garden.

Which means you absolutely can too.

And hey, if you don't have a free Seedtime account yet, make sure to [go grab one here](#) - it'll make it SO much easier for you to do this yourself.

Now, it's time to go plan your continual harvest.

I can't wait to see what you grow!

Paul

**Disclaimer:** This is a sample garden plan and as such I cannot guarantee any kind of results in your garden. Success will depend on the health of your soil and the amount of work and care you put into making this garden plan work for you (besides weather or other natural catastrophes that are beyond our control). Blessings and happy gardening!