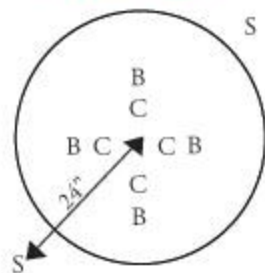


THREE SISTER MOUNDS



This is the classic three sisters layout similar to Iroquois gardens. Mound the soil approximately 4 inches high with a small well in the center. It should resemble a moon crater.

Plant 4 corn seeds in the center in the well, 6 inches apart and 1-3 inches deep. After corn is about 4 inches tall, plant 4 bean seeds halfway down the sides of the mound at least 3 inches from the corn plant, 1 inch deep. After the beans have emerged, plant 2 squash seeds 24 inches from the center of the mound on opposite sides. Train squash to vine outward from the mound and not crowd the corn and beans. Place additional mounds 3-4 feet apart from the center.

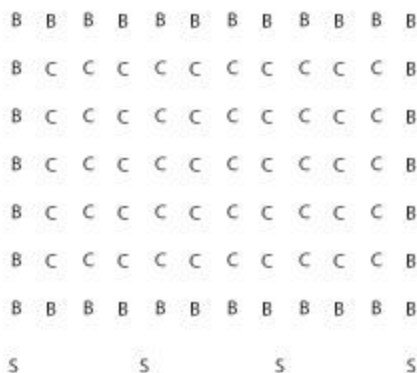
Within this layout it can be hard to harvest beans and corn at the center of the mounds, particularly if there are multiple rows of mounds. Therefore it is recommended to have a single or double row of mounds that can be approached from each side or create walking paths between mounds.

THREE SISTER FIELD

This layout is ideal for corn pollination because the corn is planted in a large block. This layout is similar to traditional Tarahumara fields.

Plant corn 1-3 inch deep, 6-12 inches apart. The size of the interior block of corn can vary but ideal is at least 5 plants on each side. The pole beans can be planted 1 inch deep and close enough to climb the corn, 3-12 inches away. Allow the corn to emerge and grow 4 inches high before planting the beans.

Plant squash in a row set back 3 feet from a bean row. Plant 2-3 seeds per location 3 feet apart. Isolating the squash to one side of the field makes access to the beans and corn easier.



THREE SISTER LANDSCAPE

In this layout, plant separate areas or fields of corn, beans, and squash. Each year shift the crops to the area to the right. Corn is a heavy feeder, meaning it requires fertile soil. Follow the beans with corn as the beans will have added nutrients to the soil. Plant corn and bean seeds 6-12 inches apart in row that are 18 inches apart. Squash can be planted in rows 3 feet apart.

