Start planting

Remove any unwanted vegetation, including roots. Dig or fork the soil over, and for best results incorporate organic matter. You can use your own garden compost or buy peat-free compost and organic fertiliser, using the quantity recommended for the size of your grid.

Mark out the full length and width of your grid with string and pegs. Then divide the grid into 0.5m by 0.5m pixels.

Lay out your plants in each pixel, following the planting design and suggested density. Arrange them a little randomly but leave space between each plant and the pixel edge.
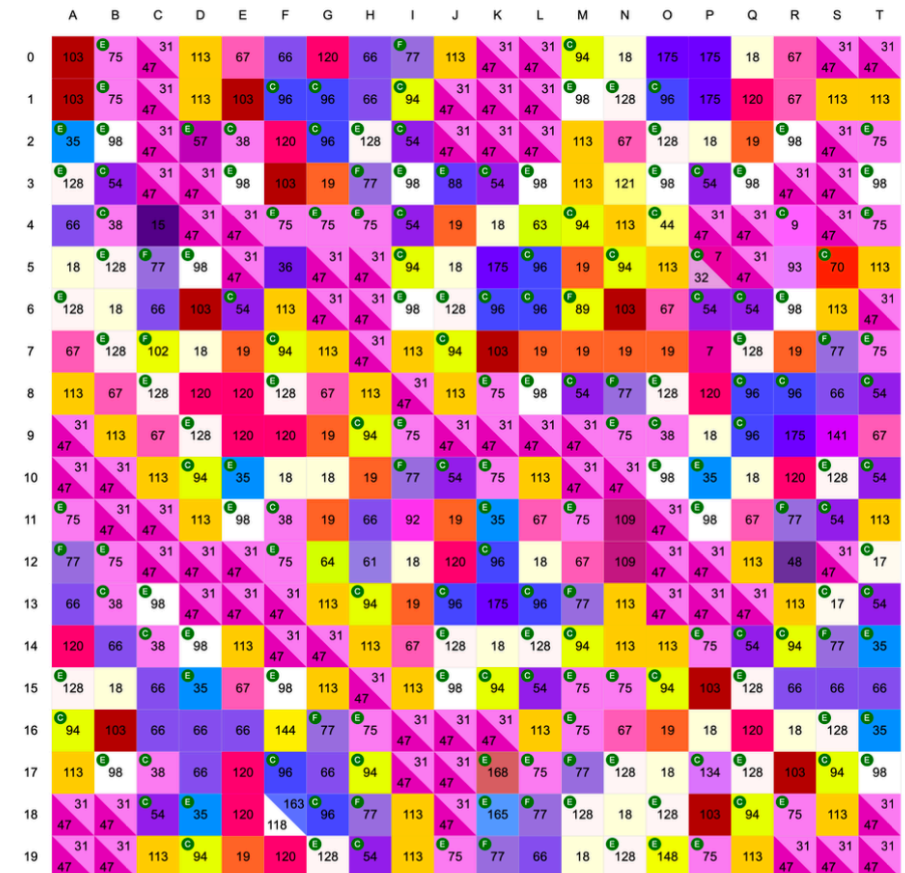
Break up the soil around and below where each plant will go. Dig a hole matching the size of the pot the plant was in. Pour a cupful of water into the bottom of the hole.

Gently knock the plant out of the pot, delicately loosening the roots if it is rootbound, and pop it into the hole. Make sure the soil around the hole is at the same level as the compost the plant is in. Firm the soil around the new plant, and if the soil is dry, water again.

Your planting design

Your design is divided into 50cm x 50cm pixels. Each plant species is numbered; find their names on your plant list further down. Certain pixels contain two plant species: plants with a short flowering season are combined with a different species that flowers later. This provides forage for pollinators for a longer period. Some have a green dot for planting a grass species, which is explained next.

☐ 1 flowering plant species

⊡ 1 flowering plant species + 1 grass

◣ 2 flowering plant species

◪ 2 flowering plant species + 1 grass