

CRISIS FRAMEWORK

Collection 28.

The year is 2050, and many things are bad.

Sydney is hot, water is short, and worst of all: your
veggie garden is suffering.

And don't get me started on the herbs!

We've all caught on and started growing our own
produce, finally.

It's super sustainable and zero waste - except everything
keeps dying before we can eat it.

We just can't grow 'em like we used to!

The parsley has dried out, the mint leaves are burnt and
your tomato flowers are falling off before they can
become tomatoes!

But all is not lost, we've got you covered.

The good news is you can grow all sorts of warm
weather things now!

Here's some things that will continue to flourish in your
arid Sydney soil, and some things you never thought
would be growing in your backyard:

Basil

Basil is pretty happy with most environments, particularly hot ones!

It's a dream herb, and won't have you questioning whether or not you'll ever be responsible enough to have children. It's hard to kill, and loves the sun. It sometimes dies if it gets too cold, which is definitely not our problem!

You can easily propagate basil, or grow it from seed. To propagate, take a cutting from a plant and sit it in a glass of water until it grows roots. It can be planted in a sunny spot, though a little shade is also good.

Basil likes well drained soil, and not too much compost as this can make the soil too rich.

Pick basil as you need it for cooking and eating.



Okra is cool and unusual!

It's full of vitamin A, which is great for your eyesight and your immune system.

Some people also don't know what it is, which is great for your ego.

You can do a lot of things with it.

It contains a natural thickener, so it's good for fixing soups or stews that got too watery.

You can also fry it or pickle it. It's kinda like a tiny, green eggplant-capsicum pod.

Okra is native to Africa and needs warm weather.

It also likes rich soil but it should grow in most places.

If you get seeds, soak them overnight before planting them. This will speed up germination.

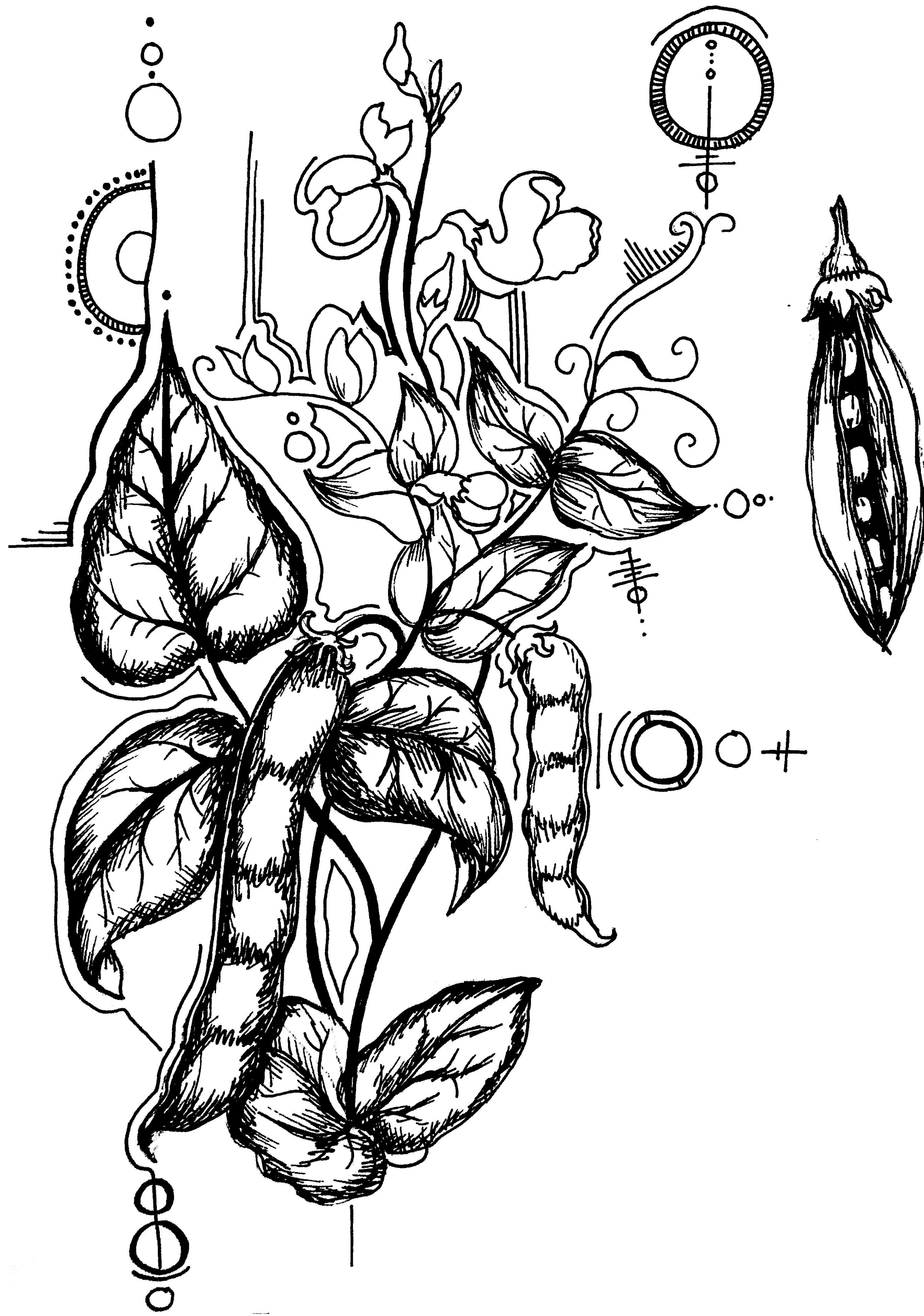
Plant them pretty close together, and thin them out as they grow older so that the strongest survive.

The plants get kind of tall - sometimes up to 1.5 metres so be prepared.

They'll begin to grow little pods, which you need to snip down whilst young. They're also prickly and irritate your skin, so wear gloves when you're harvesting. Don't let them get too big, or they'll be too hard to cut or chew.

Okra plants also have really pretty flowers, so they also look good when they're just chilling.





Beans are fun.

They are colourful, versatile and fall under many aliases: snap, string, kidney, borlotti, kidney, whatever. They're all a little bit different when it comes to growing, but the growing happens really quickly which is good because we're impatient.

You can get dwarf beans, or you can get climbing beans.

Dwarf beans grow very easily and don't need much room, whereas climbing beans will add an aesthetic vertical aspect to your garden. Climbing beans also give you a lot more beans, but in return will need that trellis you found on the side of the road.

They all like full sun, like, full sun. And they need good drainage.

Try not to water them too much or they'll die. Which is a waste of water. Which is not cool!

All plants like good soil, but most bean varieties aren't too particular. They don't like sandy soil, and be sure to use compost to get the bed ready. The most important thing is to mulch the bed once they've started growing.

Once they've started producing beans, they'll keep doing it unless you stop picking them. If you're overwhelmed, you can dry them out.



Watermelons! In Winter?

Yeah, maybe.

Watermelons are kinda hard work, but growing them is a lot more doable now!

They're pretty into consistent heat and low humidity, so we can plant them in winter.

Woah.

These guys are pretty high maintenance, so you need really yummy soil and you need a lot of space.

Give them your compost, they'll love it.

They also get a bit rogue, and like to wander round the garden and smother other plants in the process.

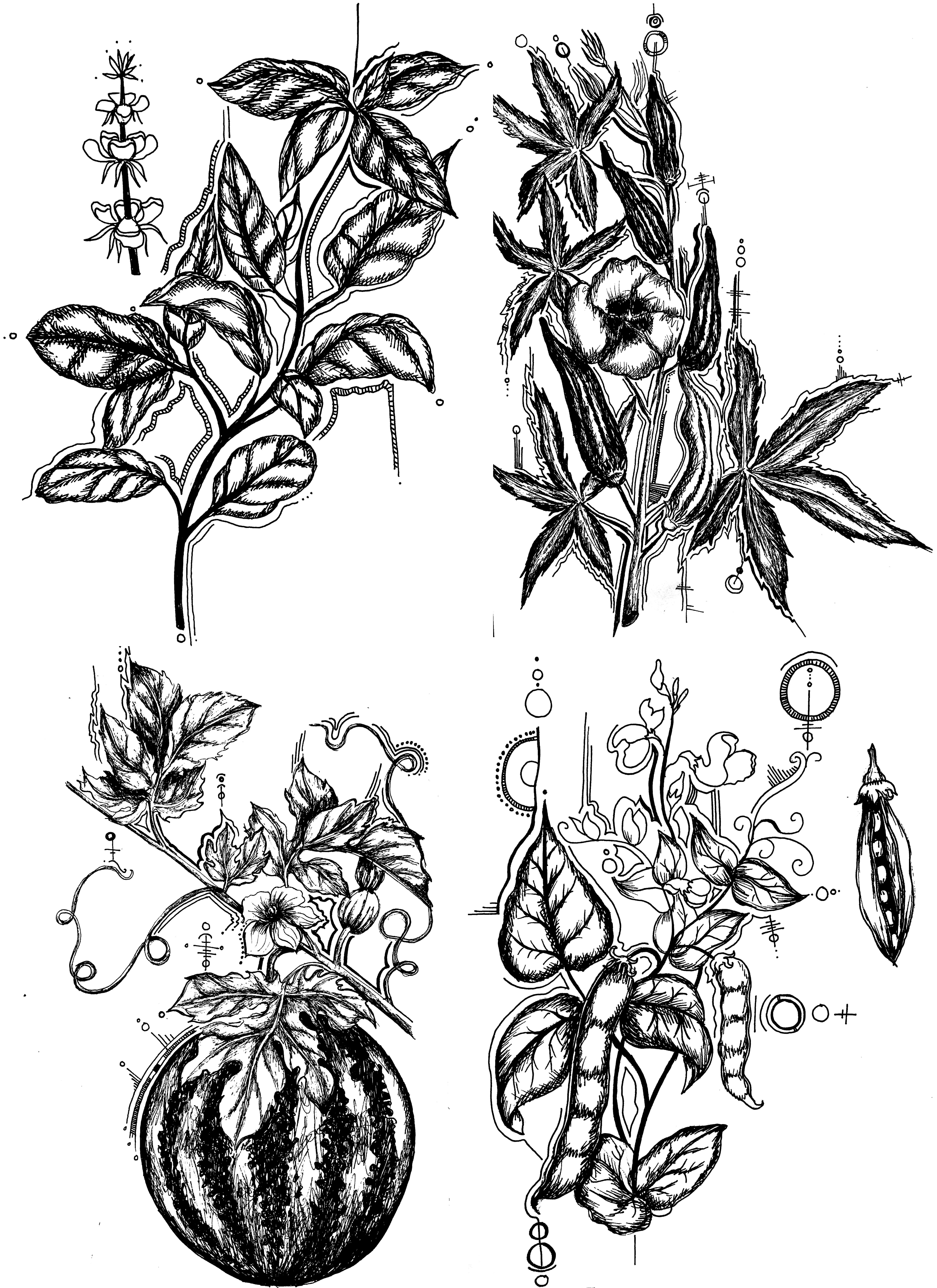
So don't put them near anything precious, and definitely give them plenty of...water. That one's probably a given.

You can't grow them from the little seeds you spit out of your supermarket watermelon, cause those guys are pretty GMO. Capitalism huh!

Buy some seedlings and give them loads of room.

They need to grow both girl and boy flowers to make the fruit. If no girl flowers appear, the plants aren't happy so probably ask them what's up.

The fruit takes three months to mature, and you know they're ready if they sound hollow when you knock on them.



by Emily Byrne

FRAMEWORK