



CREATING A RAISED BED STEPS AND MATERIALS

Raised Garden Bed Benefits

Raised garden beds provide a more accessible way to garden, reduces weeds, prevents compaction, increases drainage, and provides aesthetics.

Designs of raised beds vary, and are chosen depending on desired function.

Steps to Create a Raised Garden Bed

1. **Determine your needs:** the desired height of beds, the length of beds, and the possible accessibility needs.
2. **Consider your Site plan and plan the beds:** distance between beds, irrigation setup, clear grass and level ground.
3. **Construct your raised bed:** cut and assemble the base frame, attaching the frame with screws and installing supportive posts and stakes.
4. **Fill your raised bed:** soil mix with high organic matter, nutrients, and high water-holding capacity.
5. **Irrigate efficiently:** use water efficient systems such as soaker hoses or drip irrigation.
6. **Maintain regularly**



Source: Oregon State University Extension Service "Raised Bed Gardening)

Materials & Tools

- Lumber: 4 boards, 4 posts, mid-span post if bed exceeds 8 feet in length
- Fastenings: 6 screws for each corner (24), two for each mid-span post (if applicable)
- Cross Supports: aluminum flat stock cut and placed to connect mid-span posts (if applicable)
- Tools: shovel, hand saw, square, level, mallet, screwdriver, hacksaw, drill, measuring tape



Bed reinforced with cross-cables.
Source: eartheasy.com

Construction Considerations

- Pick an appropriate frame: frame materials vary from natural woods (cedar, juniper, pine, redwood) to recycled plastic
- Determine bed dimensions: beds can vary up to 3 feet tall. Commonly beds are 11 inches, the same height as two stacked 2 x 6 inch boards.
 - o Consider soil depth requirements for vegetable roots
- In order to maintain integrity, reinforce beds longer than 6 feet and taller than 18 inches with cross cables, stakes, or another supporting mechanism.
- Consider mulching pathways between beds to suppress weeds.

References

OSU Extension
Earth Easy