

How to Build a Raised Bed Garden

Thralls, Edmund L., Extension Faculty, Urban Horticulture

Materials:

1. 2x8 treated pine lumber in any length that will make up the border of the bed (Recommend no longer than 16-feet and no wider than 4-feet.) Two end pieces, 4-feet long and 2-side pieces 4, 8, 12, or 16-feet long. If you are uncomfortable with the belief that chemicals from the pressure treated boards will leach into the garden then use untreated pine lumber, cedar or cypress.



2. 20 coarse-threaded 3-inch galvanized deck screws.
3. Cordless drill (with charged battery).
4. Newspaper to cover the bottom of the raised bed 6 pages thick, or weed fabric to cover the bottom of the raised bed frame.
5. Staple gun (if weed fabric is used).
6. Potting mix (2 cu ft bags) to fill the raised bed garden (depends on size of bed).

4'x4' - 6 bags

4'x8' - 11 bags

4'x12' - 16 bags

4'x16' - 28 bags

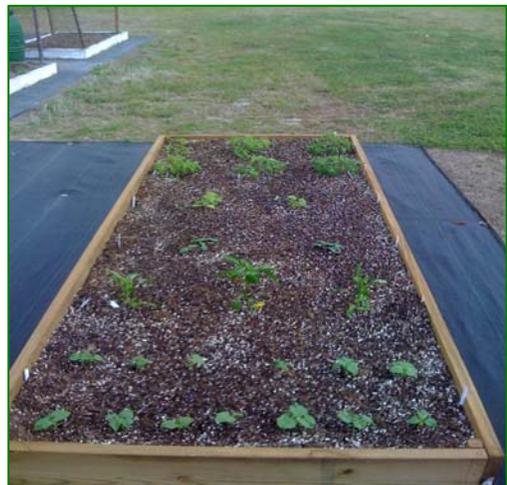
The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A. & M. University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.

Directions:

1. Pre-drill 4-5 holes in the side of both ends of each of the longest boards.
2. Screw the boards together, into the ends of the short boards.
3. Place the raised bed frame on level ground in an area that receives at least 6 hours of sun.
4. Lay newspaper, 6 pages thick, into the bottom of the raised bed frame, overlapping and covering the soil and weeds completely, or staple weed fabric to bottom of raised bed frame.



5. Fill the raised bed frame with the potting mix, watering as you fill to ensure that the potting mix settles.
6. Use string, wood lath, or vinyl blind slats to divide the bed into 1' square grid, or leave the surface of the planting bed open.
7. Add seeds or plants.



(Photos Courtesy Master Gardener Tom McCrea 2009)