Build Your Own Raised Garden Bed

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Raised Beds - Many Styles & Materials

Raised Beds - Junior Master Gardeners

Raised Bed Kits – School Gardens

Teamwork!
Build Your Own Raised Garden Bed

Raised Beds for School Gardens

School Gardens = Fresh Produce for Lunch

Build Your Own Raised Bed

Tools You Will Need

Materials for one 4’ x 10’ - 12 inches high raised bed:

- 2” x 12” x 10’ = 2
- 2” x 12” x 8’ = 1
- 2” x 4” x 10’ = 2
- 2” x 4” x 8’ = 1
- 2” x 4” scrap materials for corner posts
- 3 ½” deck screws

Square Ends of Boards – Cut Using Straight Edge
Build Your Own Raised Garden Bed

Boards Squared and Cut to Length
Measure and cut 2 sides to 120 inches
Measure and cut 2 ends to 48 inches

Assemble Sides and Ends

Clamps Hold Parts Together

Measure Diagonally to “Square” the Raised Bed

Fasten Temporary Diagonal Braces

Pre-drill Holes Next to Board Edge
Build Your Own Raised Garden Bed

- Five Screws or more per Corner
  - Corner posts - use for
    - Leveling
    - Strengthening corners

- When leveled, cut posts flush with sides and ends.

- Top 2 x 4 Board - Strengthens Sides & Provides Seat

- Location - Very Important
  - Full sun
  - Close to water
  - Close to kitchen

- Finished Raised Bed
Soil for Raised Beds

- Soil for vegetable plants:
  - Loose,
  - Free-draining
  - Readily available nutrients

- The best soils are balanced between:
  - Clay for nutrient-holding ability
  - Sand for drainage
  - Organic matter for slow release of nutrients and a spongy texture.

Soil for Raised Beds

- Typical soil components:
  - Coarse sand
  - Sphagnum peat moss
  - Compost or well-decomposed manure
  - Sandy loam soil
  - Vermiculite
  - Perlite
  - Weathered sawdust

- Good drainage is important.
- Use local sources for mixing your own soil
- Alternatively but more expensive — purchase high quality bagged or pre-mixed bulk soil

- Each year's crop uses soil nutrients
- For good productivity, add nutrients annually

- Raised bed gardening:
  - Lots of work to get started.
  - But, once established — easy gardening thereafter
  - Let's get started!