

# **Beginners Guide to Raised Garden Beds**

The ultimate guide to  
starting your garden



Hi,

we await the time of year that new and senior gardeners are all getting inspired and revved up for their very next gardening season but with all the information that's out there how do you even know when to start. Right now Let's go through some of the basics for site selection raised bed construction, your garden soil, and then finally mulch location is extremely important for when you set up your first garden to make sure that you have the best chance for success. So how do you find a location although the summer solstice is still a few months away? The sun is going to give you some helpful tips even now to let you know where the best place to put your garden is. This is less of a concern if you have a wide open area, but if you're in a city, there are plenty of things that can obstruct the sun on a sunny day. Take three or four photos of your yard these photos will let you know which areas are getting a lot of sun and which are being shaded.

If

you don't have an area that in most of the photos is sunny, take a look for structures, like fences, tree, and houses on the South side of your property who casts a shadow on the North End if you're not sure where North and South are, and how smart phones have built-in compass that can help you remember that all those structures on the South side of your yard or causing the shadows. Right now the sun will pass higher in the Sky during the summer reducing the extent of the shadowing so look for an area that is shaded now, however when the length of the shadow was reduced in summer it may become exposed to sunlight.

Another good indicator is if you live in an area that has snow throughout most of the winter it's where the snow melts first this is an indication that the sun is able to concentrate and melt their first before it goes into other areas that are more dependent on say ambient air temperature. In my yard during the winter the sun crosses quite low in the Sky and my Hill shades the garden most of the day however with the sun higher in the Sky it gets 12 to 14 hours of direct sunlight during the summer optimally the area you pick should have a minimum of 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight with my short season more is better in southern climates closer to the equator the sun can actually be quite damaging so it's my understanding that you may in fact want to shade your garden.

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think it's actually afternoon sun that you want to shade it from, if you have a wall of your house that faces self and as limited obstructions from the sun it may be worthwhile to plant your garden directly against your home, your home will not only protect your plants it will radiate heat back to them and if you put it close to a door you'll be able to enjoy your garden just a little bit more. As you come in and out of the house, you have now identified an area for which you can put the garden. It's time to narrow that down to exactly where you want to put your garden bed. Look for an area that has a slight slope to a promote drainage, but is relatively flat don't worry if you have a hillside in your backyard you can still construct raised beds, it just takes a little extra time if you're in the southern hemisphere make sure to flip the instructions for North versus South.

Now

that you know where to put your garden it's time to decide how big of an area you want I recommend starting with a 4 foot by 8 foot or one point 2 meter by 2.4 meter raised bed garden. Most people can reach 2 feet or 60 centimeters and with easy access on all sides you should be able to reach everywhere in your garden without having to step on the soil now that you have an area marked out and you know the size of garden you want, it's time to figure out which style of gardening you want to employ. Generally speaking when advising new gardeners It's always recommended a raised bed gardening. I think it is important to have a successful first year in order to inspire you to continue this, Great Hall raised beds have a number of benefits over inground gardening that just make it a little easier to have a Goodyear. Some of the benefit Best beds have a number of benefits over in ground gardening that just make it a little easier to have a good year. Some of the benefits of raised beds include better control of the soil, the chance for fewer reads, and the potential for fewer soil issues.

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do realize that the cost to start a raised bed sometimes is a little more than in grab gardening however I feel the investment is well worth it. Moving forward raised bed gardening does not have to cost a lot. It is time to build your garden beds around the perimeter of my garden I have selected to build them from 2 two by sixes or one 2 by 8 or 2 by 12. I've tried as much as possible to reclaim wood some of the depths vary all you really need is 6 to 8 inches raised beds are fairly easy to put together. Here I have used A 4 by 4 post in the corner to screw the planks to again. I've tried to source scrap material as much as possible, woodworking corner brackets work fine as well in

my main beds I use 4 by 4 and 4 by 6 posts these are more expensive, however as

I don't have access all the way around the garden, bits I need to be able to walk on them the four inch surface instead of the two inch surface makes it easier and stronger.

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posts are much simpler to attach together and can simply pre drill and screw them directly to each other if you don't have access to reclaimed wood I recommend using the cheapest lumber you can find at your local hardware store. In this case it's pine, pine will last nearly as long as Cedar or some of the other hardwoods, but as you're a new gardener and you'll probably want to expand in the future this will give you a little bit more flexibility while keeping the initial costs down you have successfully built your raised bed now it's time to fill it with soil before you do make sure to put as much Cardboard or paper as you can in the bottom. If you avoid glossy print and tape the Cardboard will breakdown overtime helping to kill off any plants and seeds below while feeding and drying in local earth rooms and just fill your brand new raised beds with any old topsoil,

make

sure it's a garden soil, I made this mistake when I first started gardening and

I had all sorts of compaction and water and weed problems that resulted in

extremely poor harvests if you have access or have made your own compost this

is the cheapest way to fill your garden beds but most new gardeners have not

been composting long enough to fill their new beds

.Unfortunately this is where

the largest costs for your first year's garden may come from. In order to keep

the cost of filling your garden down, I recommend the following garden mixture

if you have a garden center that sells compost involved this is likely or

cheapest option. If you don't have access to a truck I've used containers to

transport my soil in my car, So what I do is, I go with their house compost at

one part and then one part soilless potting mix in order to keep the cost down.

You can probably get some of the same benefits from going three parts house

compost and one part soilless potting mix if you like mixing the soil to hold

moisture in air while making the mixture lighter so that roots can easily go

through it.

The compost will provide the nutrients to  
your plants

throughout the growing season failure  
raised beds nearly to the top leaving a little  
space for mulch give it a quick watering to  
let things settle in mulching is  
the practice of using organic material and  
simply laying it on top of the soil  
it helps retain moisture during the  
summer while suppressing weeds and as  
it

breaks down. It'll bring in beneficial  
organisms like earthworms and provide  
nutrients to your plants many of the mulch  
materials that I've used in the past  
are both free and local I like to use fall  
leaves, used coffee grounds, and  
woodchips! After this you have built your  
first garden congratulations now it's  
time to pick what you want to grow I have  
some helpful tips in a next e book.

Thanks for reading.

watching something grow  
is good for your morale



it helps us believe in life -  
**Myron S. Kaufman**