

How to Construct a Raised Garden Bed (4'x8'x2')

Materials:

4 – 2" x 12" x 8' pressure treated or cedar wood

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6 – 1 ½" x 1 ½" x 2' pressure treated or cedar wood (referred to as a brace)

2 – 1" x 4" x 6' pressure treated or cedar wood

32 – 2 ½" coated screws – self tapping if possible

24 – 3 ½" coated screws - self tapping if possible

1 – drill bit to pre drill holes if not using self tapping screws

1 ½ yards of top soil – 40 cu feet.

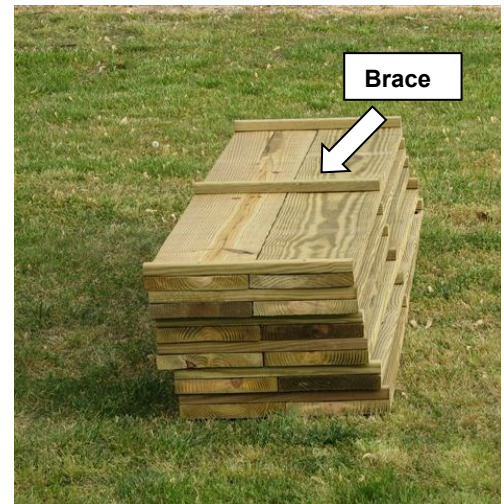
0.7 yards of compost – 20 cu feet

0.4 yards of peat moss – 4 cu feet (You can substitute perlite or vermiculite)

Construction: Need two people and level

Step 1 – Use three 1 ½" x 1 ½" x 2' braces to fasten two of the 8' boards together. Put one brace in the middle and one on either end. Use four 2 ½" screws in each brace. Do the same for the other two 8' boards. You now have two 8' x 2' sides of the raised bed.

Helpful Hint: If you lay the boards on a sawhorse you can build them without having to bend over.



Step 2 – Attach two 4' pieces to the ends of the two 8' sides using twelve 3 ½" screws. Start at the bottom of each end. Put your screws into the 8' board, not the brace.

Step 3 - Attach the other two 4' pieces to the opposite part of each end of the bed using the remaining twelve 3 ½" screws.

Step 4 – Make sure the bed is level.



Helpful Hint: If you intend to have a walkway around the bed, **before** you fill it with top soil, you can put some heavy grade garden cloth (weed mat) around the raised bed. Slip the cloth under all the sides of the bed to keep grass and weeds down. Cover your walkway with mulch after the bed is complete.



Step 5 – Take the two 1” x 4” x 6’ boards and fasten to the top of each side with the 2½” screws, four on each side. These are your seats.



Step 6 - Mix the topsoil, compost and peat moss together. Fill the bed with mixture.

Step 7 - Plant and enjoy.

Helpful Hint: If you want to put a trellis on the end of the bed you can use PVC pipe. Take two 1¼” x 2 feet pieces of PVC and push them into two of the corners and fasten with a plastic fastener. Take two 1”x 5’ PVC pipe or whatever height you wish, put them into the 1¼” pieces, put two elbows on top and finish with a 1” x 4’ piece across the top. Drill holes equal distances down the length of the pipe and use pieces of rope or aluminum clothesline to form a trellis.



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