

## ***Raised Bed Gardening: The What, Why, and How***

Many of us can remember the “Old School” style of raised beds. They consisted of old tires filled with flowers and veggies. Building these unique and fruitful structures provided gardeners with many years of love, food, and pride. Raised bed garden systems are an easy and simple way to grow flowers and veggies. They provide an environment that has better drainage and water retention, fewer weeds as well as warmer soil that helps extend the growing season.

Installing raised beds can take as little as one day and you can create a yard filled with fresh greens and flowers. If you have limited space alter your measurements as needed. Bear in mind that the core concepts and details of the plan are the same no matter what size.

When considering your final design, contemplate the following:

1. Make certain the corner trim detail covers the sidepiece and reinforces all of corners to ensure a clean functional look.
2. If you use weatherproof glue, it will eventually look like a curled, weather-beaten barn look. So, if you want to preserve the original look, go ahead and choose weatherproof glue.
3. Staple landscape fabric to the bottom to ensure your potting mix stays in place while allowing adequate drainage. This is critical for plant health.
4. Raised beds can also look stylish on your deck with herbs right outside your door.
5. Take into consideration ***The Square Foot Gardening Method™***. It is estimated to cost 50% less, uses 20% less space, 10% of the water, and only 2% of the work compared to single row gardening.

Be sure to choose a spot that has good drainage and receives 6-8 hours of direct sun per day for veggies and herbs.

Remember, gardening can require a lot of physical activity. All that squatting, kneeling, and bending can take a toll on our backs and knees. Raised beds make it easier for those with physical disabilities. And, if needed, consider wheelchair-accessible raised beds, available to purchase online. Gardening can be fun for everyone.