Raised Bed Gardening

What is raised bed gardening?

A raised bed garden is an enclosed structure built above ground where plants are grown in clean soil. You can build a wood or stone structure yourself, or you can buy a raised bed garden kit.

Benefits of a raised bed garden

1. Raised bed gardens improve soil drainage, allowing soil to dry and warm faster in the spring. They provide a better environment for growing perennial crops that need well–drained soils (like raspberries).

2. Raised bed gardens contain clean soil, allowing you to plant in areas where soil may be contaminated.

3. Raised bed gardens can fit neatly into small spaces, allowing for gardening on limited land.

4. Raised bed gardens can keep garden soil from washing away due to water runoff especially in areas close to storm drains.

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How do you build a raised bed garden

Step 1: Choose your raised bed garden location

Place your raised bed garden in a flat area.

Tip: Choose a spot that gets a lot of sun and is close to a water source.

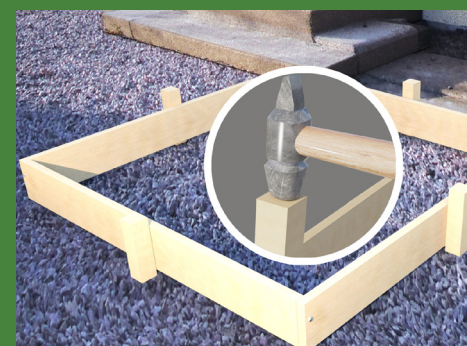### Step 2: Build a wooden raised bed garden frame

a. Position the boards to form a square or rectangle, depending on desired size.

b. Pre-drill holes (to keep the wood from splitting).

c. Fasten the boards with four screws at each corner.

d. Pound 2x2 wooden stakes into the ground around the outside of the frame to reinforce sides.

You can also build raised beds using rock, concrete or plastic, or you can buy raised bed kits complete with boards, fastenings, and instructions.

Step 3: Assemble the bed

a. Cover the spot for your raised bed with landscape fabric, using enough to extend a little beyond the frame edges to help protect the wood from rotting.

b. Cover the landscape fabric with a layer of corrugated cardboard or several layers of newspaper for additional protection against weeds coming through.

c. Finally, fill the bed with clean soil and use a garden rake to level it out.

Step 4: Plant!

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