

# CREATING A RAISED BED GARDEN

Are you tired of trying to dig into the ground to make a garden? Why not take the easy way out this year and make a raised bed garden with the Frame-It-All Raised Garden Kit? Each kit contains 4 4' long timbers made from recycled plastics, 4 stacking joints and all the necessary hardware. They're really easy to assemble and position wherever you want. If you need a bigger bed, or want a different shape, something with curves maybe, we have the timbers and the kits for those too! With the stacking joints, it's easy to make a deeper bed. The same kits can also be used to make a sandbox. Timbers are made from 40% wood fiber and 60% recycled polyethylene. When used with either the stacking joints or the anchor joints, they create a 48" long section.

Doing the math to figure out how much soil and amendments you need to fill a raised bed, is really easy. Multiply the length of the bed x the width of the bed, and then by the depth. For instance, in the picture to the right, the bed is 8 feet long x 4 feet wide x 6" deep. If the bed was 1 foot deep, you would need 32 cubic feet of fill for it. But since the bed is only half that depth, you need 16 cubic feet. Many soils are sold in 1 cu ft bags. We recommend using a mixture of products, rather than one single one. Most topsoils are too heavy to be used on their own—be sure to mix them with other products to keep them loose and help with the drainage. Usually a mix of topsoil, mushroom compost, leaf compost and a small amount of perlite, is sufficient to plant most vegetables, herbs and annuals.



Anything planted in a raised bed requires regular fertilization, so use a good slow release fertilizer like Plant-tone or Garden-tone (if you want an organic food), or Osmocote for four months of feeding. Even if you use a slow release food, you should still feed every so often with a water soluble fertilizer—Blooming & Rooting, Miracle Gro, fish emulsion, or any other organic fertilizer you prefer.

Water requirements are the same as they would be for a bed that was dug in the ground. Raised beds may need more water more often, but watch your beds and see how they respond.



There are no limits to what you can do with a raised bed. Plant a vegetable garden, plant herbs, make a stylized knot garden with annuals. You can plant anything into them! Raised planters are also good for those folks who can't quite get to the ground anymore, but who still want to garden. Don't give up—just plant upwards!