

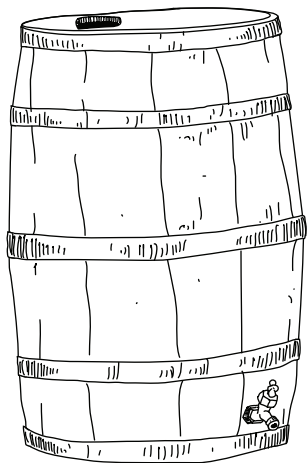
# Raised Garden Beds

Raised beds are an excellent way to grow vegetables in town. Crops grow well in raised beds because the soil is deep, fertile and well drained. Raised beds can be placed where a traditional garden may not perform well, such as on compacted or thin soil. Plants can be placed closer together than in a conventional garden bed. Raising the garden bed makes the space more accessible to gardeners with limited mobility.

## Building

The quickest and easiest way to make a raised bed is simply to add lots of organic matter, such as well-rotted manure or compost, to your garden soil to mound up planting beds.

Building an enclosure for the bed keeps soil from washing away. You can use wood, rock, urbanite (recycled concrete pieces) or brick to enclose raised beds.



## Sources, resources:

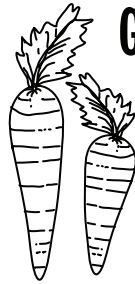
Organic Gardening Magazine  
<http://www.organicgardening.com/feature/0,7518,s1-5-19-1402,00.html>

University of Kentucky Extension  
<http://www.ca.uky.edu/enri/raisedbed.php>

Square Foot Gardening  
<http://www.squarefootgardening.com/>

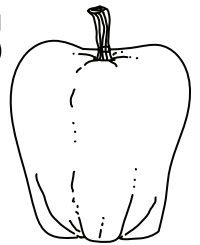
 **Sustainable  
BERA**  
[www.sustainablebera.org](http://www.sustainablebera.org)

## Growing



Beds should be no more than 4 feet across to permit easy access. You can grow any vegetable in raised beds in addition to herbs, flowers and berries.

**For success  
with a wide range of  
vegetables, site the raised beds  
in full sun.**



Raised beds will need to be watered more frequently than conventional gardens, so be sure to have good access to water. A rain barrel is a convenient water source for your garden. Mulched beds conserve water, so after planting, mulch with straw, leaves or aged wood mulch.

Mixing crops in a bed encourages a stable garden ecosystem and encourages beneficial insects. Grow flowers and herbs as well as vegetables. Many plants can be grown from multiple plantings thought-out the year. Lettuce, spinach and beans are good candidates for growing in succession. You can also build trellises to grow plants vertically. Tomatoes, cucumbers, squash and melons all can be trellised to save garden space.

