



Why Raised Beds?

1. Perhaps the most important advantage is **greatly reduced soil compaction. Plant roots need air.** In an ordinary garden, you can't avoid stepping in the garden bed occasionally when doing your everyday gardening. A properly designed raised bed garden allows you to do all your gardening from the garden path.
2. Plants can be **spaced a little closer together** in a raised bed because you don't need places to step. This **increases productivity** per square foot of bed and **reduces weeding** when the plants begin to mature. *Note: Avoid the temptation to crowd your plants. You will still want to use generous plant spacing because your plants will grow much larger in raised beds.*
3. Raised beds tend to **drain away excess moisture** better than ordinary garden beds. This is another advantage that helps the plant roots to breath, but because of this, raised beds tend to dry out more quickly in hot weather so they will need closer attention to watering needs; can be overcome easily with a drip hose down the center
4. **Soil conditions and types can be controlled more efficiently** in a raised bed with properly prepared soil and they can be varied easily from bed to bed. Raised beds are the answer when topsoil is thin or the surface below is hard or not acceptable for growing.
5. **Water, fertilizer, compost, mulch, etc. need only be applied** to the raised garden beds rather than the entire garden.
6. Various studies have shown that **raised garden beds produce 1.4 to 2 times as much vegetables and flowers** per square foot as ordinary beds, due mainly to the above advantages. You can have a **smaller and more manageable garden that produces more goodies** for your table.
7. Raised garden beds **bring your garden closer to you.** Raised beds are after all, **raised!**
8. Raised beds tend to **bring more order and pleasing geometry** to your garden, especially when forms or edging are used to define them.
9. Raised beds can **extend your gardening season.** They tend to warm up a little sooner in the spring and remain productive later in the fall.
10. You can **do your gardening from the comfort of the garden path.** No more bending over to pull weeds or trim plants. Sit on a stool or put a seat board on your garden wagon!
11. Veggies grown in raised beds are often **less likely to get root rot, white mold or other issues.** Plus, raised beds are **a breeze to weed:** turfgrass doesn't creep in from the sides, and you can pluck out weeds before they have a chance to take hold.
12. Another good reason: The raised bed frame **provides a uniform foundation to fit and secure a removable rodent-control screen "tent"**, so it is easier to prevent predators from getting in.