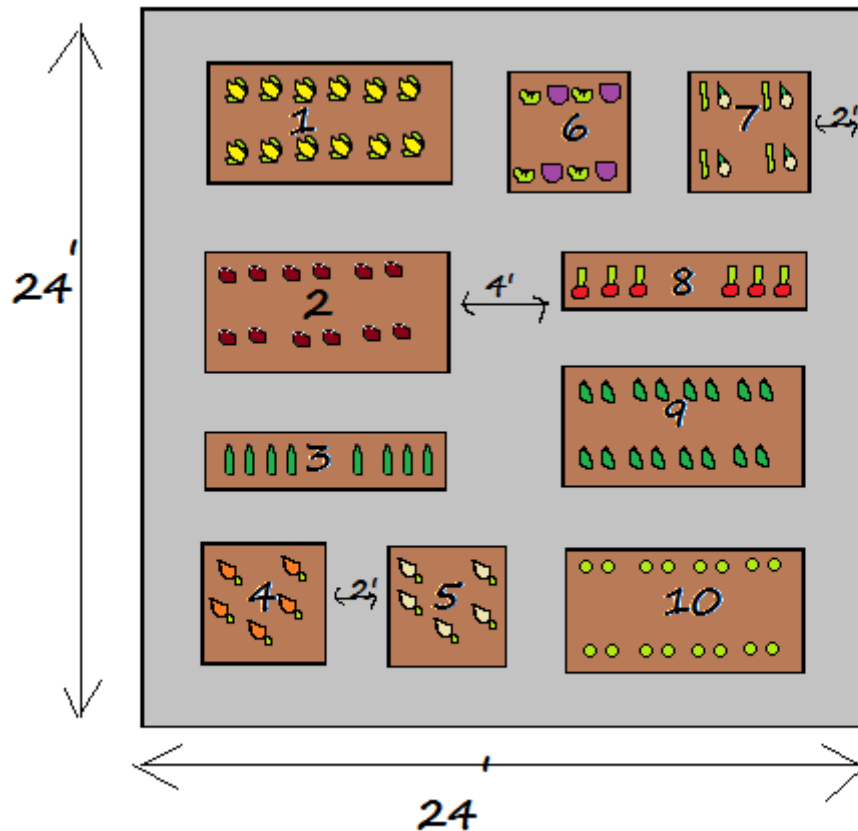


Large Vegetable Garden Layout

24 x 24' Raised Bed Vegetable Garden



Vegetable Garden Layout

Diagrammed Sections

- 1 - 4 x 8' bed with sweet corn
- 2 - 4x8' bed with potatoes
- 3 - 2x8' bed with asparagus
- 4 - 4x4' bed with carrots
- 5 - 4x4' bed with parsnips
- 6 - 4x4' bed with cabbage and lettuce
- 7 - 4x4' bed with celery and onions
- 8 - 2x4' bed with radishes
- 9 - 4x8' foot bed with beans
- 10 - 4x8' foot bed with peas

Tools and Materials

- Measuring tape
- Stakes and string
- 96 feet of edging material
- 576 square feet of landscape fabric
- 576 square feet of gravel, 3-inches thick
- Raised bed material
- 25 1-by-12-inch boards, 8 feet long for bed lumber
- Approximately 15 bags of peat moss
- Approximately 30 bags of planting soil
- Approximately 30 bags of compost
- Trellis material
- 4-foot rods or poles
- Garden twine
- Vegetable seeds or plants
- Garden signs for each bed

Steps

1-Select a location for your garden.

The area needs to receive a minimum of 8 hours of direct sunlight each day, have good drainage, and be near a water source for easy watering. The area should also be fairly level for ease of construction. Measure out and mark a 24-by-24 foot square in the selected area. Mark the square using stakes and string for a straight edge.

2-Install some form of edging to mark the garden.

Landscape timbers, bricks, stones, logs, cinder blocks, and short fences would all work well for this purpose. Install the edging at least 3 inches high all the way around the garden area. The stakes and string can now be removed.

3-Cover the inside area of the garden with landscape fabric.

Pin the fabric down with landscape pins. The fabric will kill the grass beneath it and help prevent weeds from growing in your garden.

4-Cover the entire area with a 3-inch layer of gravel.

Pea gravel, drainage gravel, and crushed granite will all work fine. This gravel will help the garden drain and provide walkways between the raised beds. The edging material should hold the gravel inside the garden area.

5-Construct raised beds for the garden.

You will need four 4-by-4 foot beds, four 4-by-8 foot beds, and two 2-by-8 foot beds. Lumber is the easiest construction method, see below for instructions on constructing these beds with lumber. Arrange the beds inside the garden area as shown on the diagram. All beds should be a minimum of 2 feet apart from the edge and each other for adequate walking room.

7-Spread a thin layer of peat moss in the bottom of each bed.

This will help with drainage. Fill the beds 3/4 of the way full with planting soil. Add compost to the top of the beds and work it into the soil. Add extra compost to beds 1 and 2. Corn and potatoes are heavy feeders and need lots of compost.

8-Build three pea trellis for bed number 10.

Make the trellis by tying long rods together at the top with garden twine (see diagram below) and placing them in the garden bed. Rods can be made of wood, metal piping, PVC pipe, or bamboo.

9-Mark each bed with garden signs.

Be sure to say what number the bed is and what is planted in it so you can keep track.

10-Plant each bed as follows:

1. Start sweet corn seeds indoors, and then transplant outside in late May or June. Plant the corn seedlings directly into the compost, leaving 12 inches between each plant.
2. Plant potato starts directly into compost. Mid-March is the best time for planting.
3. Asparagus is a perennial vegetable. Plant 1-year-old crowns in the bed to start. Leave 1 foot between each plant, and plant 3 inches below the surface.
4. Sow carrot seeds thinly into the bed 1 inch below the surface. The best time for planting is early March to the end of June.
5. Plant parsnips in March directly into bed. Sow seeds thinly 1 inch below the surface.
6. Buy a seed mixture package of cabbage and lettuce, or mix seeds yourself. Sow seeds in March to July. The seed should be planted very thinly, 1/2 an inch below the surface.
7. Plant an alternating row of celery and onions. Use onion sets for easier planting, and plant 4 inches apart. Sow celery directly into bed after last frost. Leave 8 inches between plants.
8. Sow radishes in the spring after the last frost. Plant directly in the bed, 1/2 an inch below surface.
9. Plant bush beans in this bed. Start with plants for best results. Plant one bean plant every 1 foot in this bed.
10. Plant peas beside the trellis. Place two trellises in this bed. Plant one pea plant or seed at each leg of the trellis, for six plants total. Plant in March for a early summer crop, or July for a fall crop.

How to Build a Lumber Raised Bed

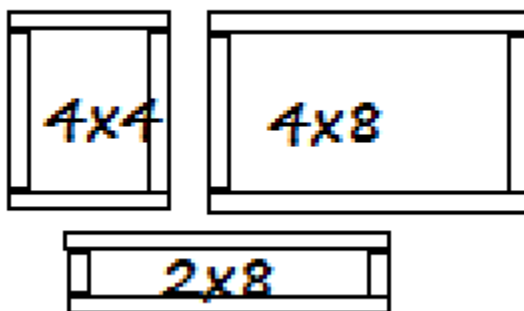
Use cedar lumber for best results and weather protection. You will need 25 1-by-12 foot boards measuring 8 feet long.

Cut the following using a circular saw:

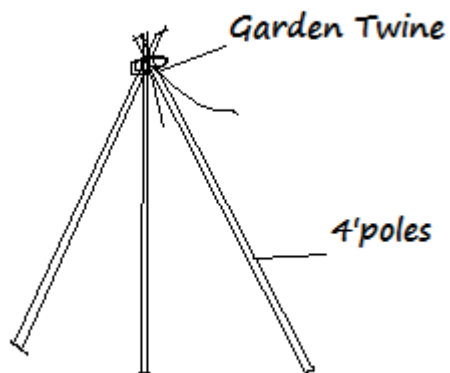
- Leave 12 of the boards whole.

- Cut 12 of the boards in half for 24 4-foot boards.
 - Cut the last board into four 2-foot lengths.
1. Arrange the boards on their sides according to the diagrams.
 2. Screw them together with three 2-inch wood screws at each corner.
 3. Make four 4-by-8-foot beds, four 4-by-4-foot beds, and four 2-by-8-foot beds.

Lumber Raised Bed Diagram



Trellis Diagram



Tepee trellis