

Constructing Raised Garden Beds

We conveniently situated our garden between the [greenhouse](#) and the [barn](#). After experiencing the severity of the high desert climate, we decided that our best shot at success

Withstanding the Elements

I'm not exaggerating, more than half of the days this year have been exceptionally windy. We're not sure if this is a trend that will be exacerbated by climate change or if it was knock down trellising. At an altitude of 5500' the sun's intensity is also a concern. Plants often bake in the sun and their fruit is prone to sunburn. Other elements to take into pouring rain can also damage plants.

With all this in mind, we designed raised garden beds that are framed out to 8' feet high. Shade cloth, wind barriers and trellising materials can be easily attached the sturdy frame spanned over the top.



photo by Mel@ByExample.com



photo by Me

Constructing Raised Garden Beds

Each of the 4' x 8' raised beds are constructed from pine lumber that has been sanded, primed and painted with exterior house paint. The interior of the raised beds are protected by adding another 2" x 8" board. The corner posts are 4" x 4" and are connected at the top by a 2" x 4" frame. Four stakes driven into the ground about each

Building Soil for Garden Beds

By far the toughest part of the job has been creating fertile soil to fill each of the raised garden beds. We experimented with strawbale planting and filled several of the garden beds with local sand with goat manure from a nearby farm along with composted kitchen scraps and straw. Future garden beds will rely on manure created by our breeding rabbits and



photo by Mel@ByExample.com



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Planting, Harvest & Seed Saving in Raised Beds

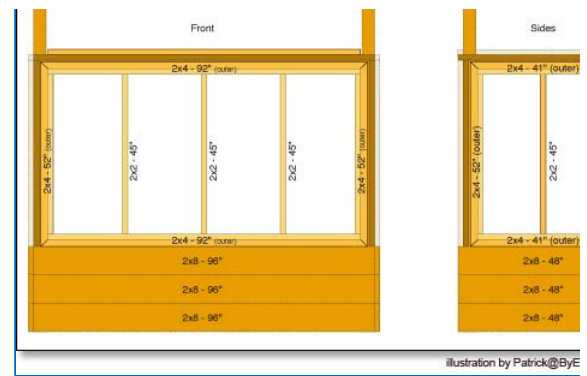
Planting and harvesting in raised beds is a lot easier on the body than working in a garden that has been sown directly in the ground. There is a lot less kneeling and bending c

Another issue we've had with our in-ground beds are mischievous cats. The raised beds are less susceptible to attack and are easier to protect. In fact, we are designing hardw

In future years we hope to practice seed saving. We will be making screen panels that attach to each of the frames to prevent cross pollination by roaming insects.

Cold Frames for Raised Beds

With winter approaching we are also designing panels that can be attached to our garden beds to act as cold frames. With this method we hope to extend our growing season i



[Click here](#) to download a PDF version of our raised garden bed plans.

[Click here](#) to download a PDF version of our raised garden bed plans with cold frame attachments.

Garden Fence

We recently installed a garden fence. [Click here](#) to read more about garden fencing and how to build a fence.



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