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PLANNING THE GARDEN

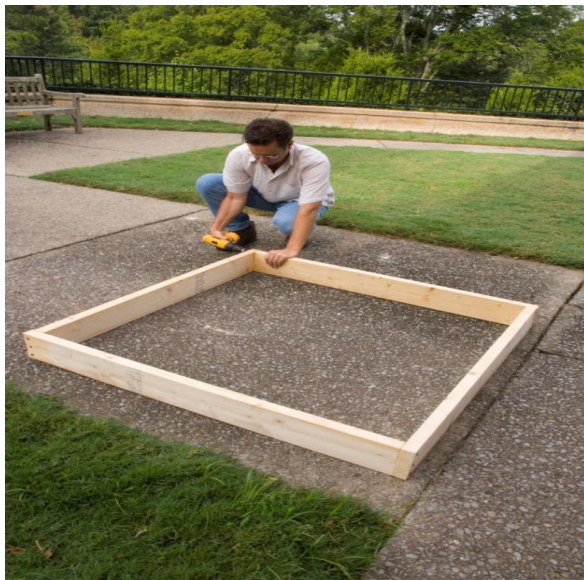
Garden Location

- Need 6-9 hours of sunshine daily
- Stay Clear of trees and shrubs
- Locate close to house for easy access
- Existing soil is not important since it is recommended to use raised beds

Raised Bed Construction

Recommend to use Cedar or cedar blocks

For cedar, select material in either 8, 12, or 24 lengths so that there is minimal wastage



For a 4X9 concrete block structure one block high, you will need 21 cement blocks

- **4 x 4 Cedar Beds** **\$ 90.00**
- **Concrete Block** **\$ 25.00**
- Lay cardboard or newspaper in the bottom of the bed to kill existing sod or use a product such as Round Up to kill existing sod
- Purchase the best **Raised Bed Soil Mix** bagged material from local nurseries or box store or purchase bulk soil mix from specialty soil builder suppliers



- Bags of Raised Bed Material:
- Nature's Care - 1.5 cu. ft/bag
- Raised Bed & Potting Mix - 2.0 cu. ft/bag
- Both Bags cost \$7.97/bag a leading box store
- Need 16 Cu feet for a 4 X 4 X 12" deep

16 divided by 1.5 cuft/bag = 11 bags x \$ 7.97 = \$87.67

Drip Irrigation

Approximate Cost for a 4x4 raised bed is about \$75.00

Square Foot Gardening

- Gardening method where you build up your garden in a series of squares.
- Each square is 12 inches x 12 inches, an area of 1 square foot.
- Grouping the small 1 foot squares together into blocks measuring 4 foot x 4 foot creates 16 different squares.

Lay Out the Grids

- Mark of 12” along each side and end utilizing small nails or hooks and then connect with coated string



- Each square can then be planted with a different crop.
- The number of plants in a square depends on the variety, how far apart the plants should be planted and how big the plant will eventually get.
- Carefully spacing seeds rather than planting the entire seed packet. In this way fewer but stronger plants will grow.

Plant 1 Square Foot

Broccoli

Cabbage

Tomatoes

Eggplant

Peppers

Plants 4 square foot

Leaf lettuce

Chard

Strawberries

Plants 9 per square foot

Bush Beans

Spinach

Beets

Two Growing Seasons- Spring and Fall

See Recommended Planting Dates for North Texas and Recommended Varieties.

A Final Thought

Start Small and grow what you like to eat. HAPPY GARDENING

