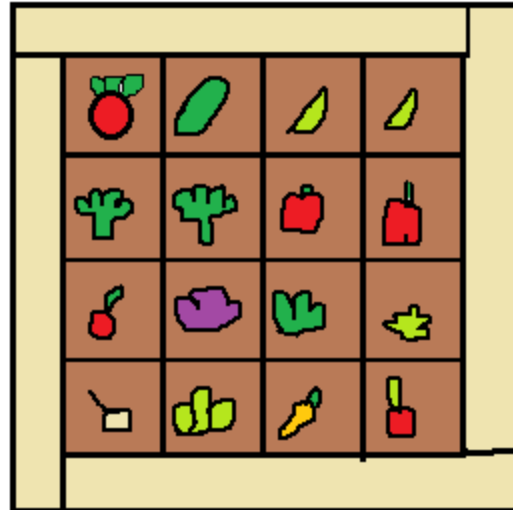


Compact 4x4' Raised Bed Vegetable Garden Plan

Tools and Materials

- Measuring tape
- 4 square feet of landscape fabric
- 8 landscape pins
- 2 1x12x12-foot boards
- Circular saw
- 24 2-inch wood screws
- Drill
- 2 1x2x12-foot boards
- 1 4x4-foot piece of trellis netting
- Staples
- Staple gun
- 2 bags of gravel
- Shovel
- 3 bags of planting soil
- 1 bag of compost
- Garden twine



Steps

1-Select a level, sunny spot for your garden.

The area should be near a water source for easy care when planted. Measure out a 4-by-4 foot square on the ground. Cover the square in landscape fabric and pin it down with landscape pins. This will prevent weeds from growing in the garden.

2-Cut your lumber for the bed.

Cut the 12-foot long 1-by-12-foot boards into fours. You will have eight 4-foot long boards now.

3-Arrange four of the boards on their sides on a flat surface.

The boards should form a square with their ends overlapping in a pinwheel pattern (see picture). Screw the square together at each corner using three 2-inch wood screws evenly spaced. Repeat to make a second square.

4-Cut the lumber needed for the front supports and the trellis.

Cut the 1-by-2-foot board to make pieces for trellis and supports. You will need two 2-foot long pieces, one 4-foot long piece, and two 6-foot long pieces. The 6 and 4 foot pieces will be for the trellis, and the 2 foot pieces will be the front supports.

5-Attach the squares together with the front supports.

Place the two squares on top of each other on the landscape fabric. Align the squares perfectly. Put one of the front supports across both squares in the inside front corner. Attach the support by screwing it into each square. Use a wood screw every 4 inches. Repeat with the second support.

6-Build the trellis with the remaining lumber.

Put the two long boards on a flat surface parallel to each other and 4 feet apart. Put the third board across the tops of them and screw it on with two screws on each end. Stretch the piece of trellis netting across the three boards and staple it on every 4 inches.

7-Place the trellis inside the raised bed.

Slide it back so the bottom of it is against the inside of the raised bed. Screw the bottom of the trellis to both of the squares in the same way you screwed the supports on.

8- Add gravel.

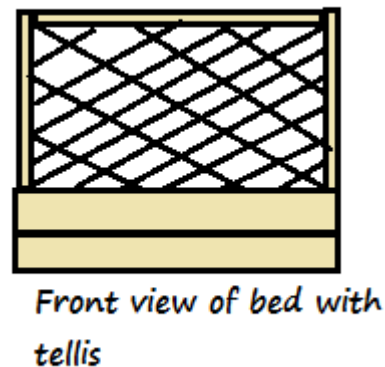
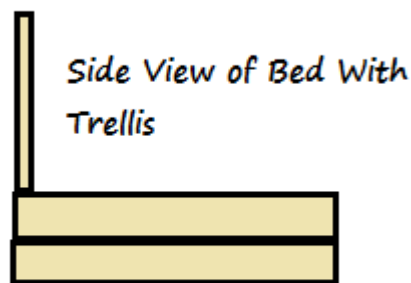
Shovel a 4-inch layer of gravel into the bottom of the bed and smooth it out. This will help the bed with drainage.

9-Mix soil and compost.

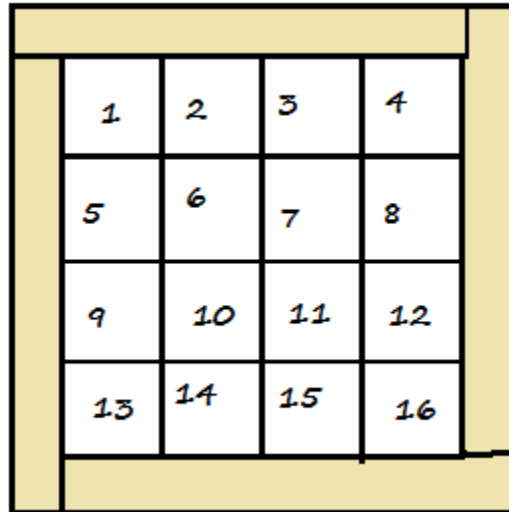
Make a mixture of three parts planting soil and one part compost. Shovel the mixture into the raised bed until it is full.

10-Divide the bed into sections.

Make a mark every 12 inches along all four sides of the bed. Stretch a piece of twine from one mark, to the opposite mark and staple it on. Repeat on all of the marks to divide the bed into sixteen 1-foot sections.



Planting Sections and Instructions



Please note that exact planting times will vary by your geographical location.

1. Tomato - Purchase a young tomato plant in late May or early June. Plant the tomato in the center of the first planting section. As the tomato grows, train it to the trellis by loosely tying its stalk to it.
2. Cucumbers - Purchase a packet of cucumber seeds. Make a mound of soil in the center of the planting section. Plant three cucumber seeds in the center of the mound 2 inches below the soil. The best time for planting is May to early June. The cucumber may need to be trained to the trellis.
3. Pole Beans - Purchase pole bean seeds and plant in March to May. Make four mounds in each corner of the section and plant two seeds in each mound 2 inches below the soil.
4. Pole beans should also be in section 4.
5. Broccoli - Purchase broccoli seeds and sow in April or May. Sow the seeds thinly on the soil surface then cover with about 1 inch of soil.
6. Broccoli should also be in section 6.
7. Peppers - Purchase two pepper plants. Plant each plant in the center of each section in the spring 2 weeks after the last frost.
8. Peppers should also be in section 8.
9. Beets - Purchase beet seeds and soak them in water for 24 hours. Sow the seeds while they are wet, 1 inch deep, and 3 inches apart. Plant in April.
10. Cabbage - Purchase four cabbage plants. Plant one cabbage in each corner of the section in July or early August.
11. Spinach - Purchase spinach seeds and plant in early spring. Sprinkle the seed lightly over the section. Cover with 1 inch of soil.
12. Parsley - Purchase a parsley plant. Plant the herb in the center of the garden center.
13. Onions - Purchase onion sets in early spring. Plant one bulb every 4 inches in the section. Press the bulbs 1-inch below the soil.

- 14.** Leaf lettuce - Purchase a lettuce mix seed package. Sprinkle the seeds lightly over the soil. Cover with about 1/2 an inch of soil.
- 15.** Carrots - Purchase carrot seeds and plant in June. Sprinkle seeds lightly over soil and add a 1-inch layer of soil over top.
- 16.** Radishes - Purchase radish seeds in early March. Sprinkle seeds lightly over the soil and cover with 1/2 an inch of dirt.