

Components of a Raised Garden

What is needed to have a successful raised bed garden?



1. Weed and Mole Barrier (optional)

Weed Barrier



Consider using a weed barrier for raised beds 12” or deeper that is being placed on top of sod that has not been removed or on top of an area that is infested with weeds especially if [quackgrass](#) or Canadian Thistle ([see pictures here](#)) is present. Even with a clean site, a weed barrier is generally a good idea.

Mole Barrier

In some sites, moles and other related critters can sneak in under the garden bed and eat your precious root vegetables. If you notice mole tunnels or nests in your area, consider using ½” wire fencing to keep them out of your raised bed!



2. Walls

Usually, most of the financial, labor, and decision-making costs are spent on the walls of a raised bed. Some of the considerations that most gardeners take are:

1. How long do I want this to last?
2. How big and deep do I want my raised bed?
3. Costs
4. Appearances
5. Transportation and delivery of materials
6. Accessibility to accommodate special needs
7. How to construct the raised bed
8. How to stabilize or fix the walls

Extending the Life of a Wooden Raised Bed

If using untreated lumber or repurposed wood for the raised bed garden walls, consider treating it with [Tall Earth Eco-Safe Wood Treatment](#) to extend the life the raised bed.

Assembling the Walls

Nails and screws which tie the walls of the bed at their ends, is the most common and least expensive way of securing the walls and possibly the most susceptible to failure due to rot. Metal brackets with screws are an alternative solution that many will utilize – some of them being very ornate.

Components of a Raised Garden

What is needed to have a successful raised bed garden?



[Learn more about how to assemble and secure the walls.](#)

3. Soil

- If importing soil from a supplier, consider a 50/50 mix of topsoil and compost.
- Refer to [Bulk Topsoil and Compost Locations and Cost](#) for more information on obtaining soil and compost within Hamilton County.

4. Accessories (optional)

Irrigation Systems



Irrigation lines can be distributed to each bed from the source through underground plumbing either to the raised bed or via garden hose. Some raised beds will include an individual hose valve with a soaker hose that runs throughout the raised bed to irrigate the plants. In addition, more precise irrigation systems, like drip irrigation can be installed.

Hoop House

Some raised beds can be equipped with ways to attach or install a hoop house (like a miniature greenhouse) to start plants in, offer protection, or extend the length of the growing season.

