

Creating your own garden and growing your own food can be a wonderful, satisfying experience with benefits for the whole family. You can supply herbs and vegetables for your kitchen. You can experience the joy of watching the seeds you've planted grow. You also have complete control over the end product, from soil composition to chemical exposure. The process of building your garden provides lessons about how much water we need for food, what foods grow best in our local climate, how to cut down on fertilizers and pesticides that might otherwise enter our waterways. Most of all, the process of growing your garden can teach you to make more sustainable choices when you shop.

Supplies needed

Here is a simple step-by-step plan for one of the most basic raised bed gardens with a simple irrigation plan.

Lumber

(4) 10 foot long 2"x 12" plantation grow or recycled redwood planks

Brackets and fasteners

- (4) 2" x 6" galvanized L-Angle brackets
- (1) Box of #9 x 1.5" connector screws
- (1) Drill / screw gun

Chicken wire

- (1) Roll of 4 foot x 50 foot 20-gauge galvanized poultry netting
- (1) Staple gun

Soil

(5) Cubic yards Nature's Care Organic Potting Soil by Miracle-Gro

Irrigation Used

- (4) The Toro Company 12" pop-up sprinklers (PN 89-3979) with water efficient nozzle (O-T-10-QP)
- (1) The Toro Company Hose End Timer (PN 53746)

Pipina

- 40 feet of 3/4" PVC pipe
- (4) PVC SCH 40 3/4" x 1/2" side outlet elbow
- (1) Teflon "plumbers" tape
- (1) 4 fluid ounce PVC pipe glue
- (1) PVC cutting tool

Additional hardware, including 3/4" PVC garden hose female adapter (along with an elbow, tees and couplers)



Clear a 10-foot by 10-foot space that receives at least six hours of sunlight a day. Then lay out your lumber.

Fasten your brackets



Roll out enough chicken wire to cover the bottom of your garden before covering it with soil.

Trim the excess chicken wire.





Staple the wire to the sides of the garden.

Use the PVC cutting tool to cut PVC pipe into equal lengths small enough to make a square within your garden. Join each corner by coating each end with PVC pipe cement, then insert into the PVC side outlet elbow. By now, your PVC should be a completed square, with an open end at each corner to insert your pop-up sprinklers





Place your pop-up sprinklers into the PVC at each corner of the garden. The top of the sprinkler should be at least six inches above the top of the garden walls.

Drill a large diameter hole on the corner of your garden with closest access to your hose.





Use the additional hardware to build a connector between your PVC pipes and your garden hose. The connector should be high enough to allow the PVC garden hose adapter to run through the hole you've just drilled.

Spread the soil and smooth it out.



Get ready to plant.

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