



RAISED BED GARDENS - LINKS AND RESOURCES

(links from NC State Extension unless otherwise noted)

NC Extension Gardener Handbook, chapter 16 - Vegetable Gardening: garden types

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/16-vegetable-gardening#gardentypes>

NC Extension Gardener Handbook, chapter 18 - Plants Grown in Containers

https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/18-plants-grown-in-containers#section_heading_8772

Raised Beds - Guilford Gardening Journal (N.C. Cooperative Extension, Guilford County Center)

<https://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Raised-Bed.pdf?fwd=no>

Raised Beds (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/raised-beds>

Central NC Planting Calendar for Annual Vegetables, Fruits and Herbs

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/central-north-carolina-planting-calendar-for-annual-vegetables-fruits-and-herbs>

- Planting Calendars are also available on their website for both Eastern and Western NC

NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox - <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/>

Soil Testing - Resources and Links (from NCDA&CS and NC State Extension)

<https://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Soil-Testing-Links-2021.pdf?fwd=no>

Herbicide Carryover in Hay, Manure, Compost, and Grass Clippings

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/herbicide-carryover>

Controlling Weeds by Cultivating and Mulching (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/controlling-weeds-by-cultivating-mulching>

Excluding and Repelling Problem Wildlife from the Garden (Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst)

<https://ag.umass.edu/home-lawn-garden/fact-sheets/wildlife-excluding-repelling-problem-wildlife-from-garden>

Build a Salad Table, plans and materials (University of Maryland Extension)

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/building-salad-tabletm>

Build a Vertical Garden from a Wooden Pallet, step by step w/pictures (Texas A&M Agrilife Extension)

<https://travis-tx.tamu.edu/about-2/horticulture/basic-landscape-design/from-trash-to-treasure/build-a-vertical-garden-from-pallet/>

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Municipal Compost Information - Guilford county locations

<https://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Municipal-Compost.pdf?fwd=no>

NC Bulk Compost Map (NC Composting Council) – shows sites throughout North Carolina

<https://carolinacompost.com/bulkcompostmap/>

Where do I get soil for my raised beds? And how much do I need?

Source: Gunter, C. 2018. Vegetable Gardening, Chapter 16. In: K.A. Moore, and L.K. Bradley (eds). North Carolina Extension Gardener Handbook. NC State Extension, Raleigh, NC. <http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/16-vegetable-gardening>

Raised beds are generally 8 to 12 inches high, 3 to 4 feet wide, and as long as desired or as dictated by the materials used.

Raised beds can take many forms, and so can the soil used inside them. For shallow beds with no support, use topsoil from neighboring pathways and mix it with existing soil and organic matter. Soil can be piled up and flattened to make a raised bed under 6 inches high. To prevent soil erosion, gently slope the sides of the bed.

If making a taller raised bed or one in a framed box, you may need additional soil. If your soil is good quality loam, you can screen your soil into the raised bed and add 50% compost. You can also purchase garden or top soil blends bagged from a nursery. Or soil can be ordered by the cubic yard from a landscape company. To calculate how many cubic yards of soil you need, consider that one cubic yard of soil is:

$3 \text{ feet} \times 3 \text{ feet} \times 3 \text{ feet} = 27 \text{ cubic feet}$

To find out how many cubic feet you need in a raised bed, multiply the length by the width and depth of your raised bed (convert all measurements to feet). If your bed is 4 feet wide by 10 feet long by 18 inches deep, that would be:

$4 \text{ feet} \times 10 \text{ feet} \times 1.5 \text{ feet} = 60 \text{ cubic feet}$

Divide the number of cubic feet by the number of feet in a cubic yard (27):

$60 \text{ cubic feet} / 27 \text{ cubic feet} = 2.22 \text{ cubic yards of material}$

Be sure to ask about the components of the blend. Simply purchasing a raised bed mix is not enough to maintain a garden over the long term. To keep nutrient levels high in the soil, raised beds need to be amended after each growing season by adding a 1-inch to 4-inch layer of organic material.



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