

Container and Other Methods of Gardening

- Vegetables can be planted in containers or any system that provides light, nutrients, water, and aeration of the root zone.
- Such systems may or may not use an actual container.



"Hugelkultur"- Hill Culture Composting Method



Step 1: Pile leaves, pine needles, lawn refuse and other compostable material, then wet pile with water, add fertilizer & stomp down.



Step 2: Top with a layer of finished compost approx. 3"-4" in depth.



Step 3: Level off compost and prepare for planting directly from seed or with transplant.



Plot was planted with both transplants and seeds (eggplant, cauliflower, peppers, and tomatoes were transplanted; bush beans, kohlrabi, beets, and gourmet lettuce from seed.



Shallow Pool Gravel



Step 1: Drill holes in side of pool approx. 3" from bottom of pool. This will regulate water levels in pool. Also, drill hole in lid of bucket 1/2" from edge.



Step 2: Set up bucket for nutrient solution placing rocks, bricks, or wood around edges of bucket.



Step 3: Fill pool with gravel approx. 4" to 6" in depth. Fill with water & sprinkle non-soluble fertilizer.

Step 4: Fill bucket with nutrient solution and place into pool with hole in the lid propped to the same level as the water level in the pool. Transplant vegetable plants into gravel. The bucket will provide plants with water & nutrients.



Many different vegetables can be grown.

Constructing a Tire Gardens



Cut one side wall off of the tire with a box cutter



Line the bottom with plastic such as trash bags folded in half.






Place removed side wall upside down into tire to hold plastic in place. Creates a shallow soil bed.



Fill the tire with a soil mixture and plant your seeds or transplants. Zucchini and Summer Squash transplants were planted.



Wick Garden






Lay out and wet down a synthetic blanket, sprinkle with non-soluble fertilizer.




Sprinkle seeds, cover with mulch (pine needles over lettuce & hay over onion sets).

Fill buckets with nutrient solution and set upside down on wick to keeps plants fed and watered.

Some watering is needed to keep from drying out but the buckets are the sole source of nutrients to the plants whose roots will cling to the wick. Mulch will keep the sun off the wick and support the plants as they grow.







Growing in Straw Bales

- It takes about ten days to prepare bales for vegetable growing.
- Keep Bales wet for first 3 days.
- Sprinkle each bale daily with ½ cup calcium ammonium nitrate per bale for the next three days and continue to water well.
- The bales will heat up and begin to compost.
- Reduce to ¼ cup ammonium nitrate for next 3 days & continue to water.
- On tenth day add 1 cup of 10-10-10- fertilizer and water well.
- Bales should be cool and ready for planting on the 11th day



Shallow Bed

This shallow bed was constructed with 2x4s.

3 rows of corn planted with a row of sunflowers. Picture is 4 days after planting

16 days after planting. Works with tall plants the root systems intertwine and support their height

The soil mixture used in this shallow bed was 7 parts loam, 4 parts compost, and 2 parts sand with added 10-10-10 slow release fertilizer mixed together in a cement mixer.

