

Raised Bed Supply List

- 4'x8'x10" (minimum depth) raised garden bed*
- Eight bags potting soil mix (2 cubic feet each)
- Eight bags soil conditioner (fine ground bark mulch; 2 cubic feet each)
- Four bags composted manure OR mushroom compost (2 cubic feet each)
- Three bags coarse shredded mulch (for soil moisture retention; 2 cubic feet each)
- 3 pound bag gypsum** (for summer garden)
- 3 to 4 pound bag granular fertilizer for vegetable gardens
- Insecticidal soap (for soft-bodied insects)
- Bt dust or spray (organic sourced insecticide for controlling caterpillars, aka worms)
- Fungicide (fungal plant diseases can seriously impact plant health)
- Sturdy tomato cage, twine, or other way to support large or climbing plants



Seeds or transplants for early spring and late summer planting (mature plants cannot tolerate high heat): **beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, lettuce, mustard greens, radishes, spinach, and turnips**

Seeds or transplants for late spring and summer planting (cannot tolerate frost): **Cucumber, eggplant, peppers, tomato, and zucchini**

Check "The Alabama Vegetable Gardener" at www.aces.edu for a complete listing of crops and planting dates.

Helpful tools include:

- hose, nozzle, or watering can to transport water to garden area
- gardening gloves
- hand trowel
- hand cultivator

*Raised beds can be constructed from preassembled kits or various materials you may already have on hand. Limestone may be needed depending on the soil/potting mix you choose. Find more information at "Raised Bed Gardening," Extension publication ANR-1345 (www.aces.edu/blog/topics/lawn-garden/raised-bed-gardening/).

**Using the ratio of compost to potting mix should give a balanced pH for vegetable growth. Summer crops will still need soil calcium for sturdy fruit production. A 4-foot by 8-foot bed needs 6 cups, or 3 pounds, of gypsum for each summer garden.

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