**How to build a simple 4x8’ raised bed**

**Materials:**

* **Lumber:** For each layer of the bed you will need two eight foot long pieces of wood and two four foot long pieces for the ends of the beds.
* **A Drill**
* **Wood Screws or nails**
* **Landscaping fabric or weed barrier with landscaping pins**

**Steps:**

* **Clear out the area where beds will be placed of all weeds and any large rocks. Make sure that the soil is reasonably level.**
* **Once bed area is prepared place the landscaping fabric down over the garden site and pin it into place.**
* **Now you will begin to construct the layers of the bed. Lay out the lengths of wood into their appropriate positions with the four foot length being your ends and the eight being your sides. Place the lumber in a jigsaw like pattern which you will alternate with each layer. See diagram below for example.**
* **Once the wood is laid in place, screw or nail the ends of the wood together.**
* **For the next layer do the same to fasten the sides together. Once fastened you will screw or nail the layers together. Mark on the wood where each screw or nail is placed with a pencil so you don’t screw into a screw or nail into a nail.**
* **Once you’ve built the bed up to the appropriate height you want fill up the boxes with dirt. You may add a layer of gravel to the bottom to help with drainage support although it is not necessary.**

**Tips:**

* **Use Timberlok screws which are meant for fastening wood.**
* **Use untreated lumber to avoid contamination with harmful chemicals from treatment of wood. Alternatively you can use cedar which is naturally resistant to rot.**
* **Do each of the layers separate and then drill them into place after they’re all completed.**
* **Consider creating large pathways to support multiple gardeners and wheelchair access. Larger paths are better if gardeners want to use a lawnmower around the beds too.**
* **Shorter beds may be better for smaller children while taller beds may be more accessible to older folks with mobility issues. Most plants need at least 12 inches to grow and thrive.**