

Raised Bed Gardening

Agricultural Engineering Extension: Karen Funkenbusch, MA, and Willard Downs, Ph.D.

Raised Bed Construction Materials

Material	Advantages	Disadvantages
Wood	Easiest material to work with; fits well esthetically into any environment.	Treated wood can contain chemicals that can damage plants; can be expensive; tends to rot.
Stone	Blends well into most environments; large selection available.	May need contractor to construct wall due to weight and skill needed; usually permanent; can be abrasive.
Concrete	Very adaptable; can be pre-molded or poured on site; colors and textures can be blended well into urban environments.	Must have appropriate foundation; pouring may require a contractor; can be abrasive.
Cinder Blocks	Relatively easy to work with; cheap; holes are adaptable as planters.	Not very appealing esthetically; large and bulky; soil dries rapidly and requires frequent watering.
Bricks	Can be most esthetically pleasing of all materials; available in variety of colors.	Brick-layer may be needed to construct bed; expensive; tend to be permanent.
Salvage	Cheap; possibly free.	Can be abrasive; safety issues.
Terra Cotta	Very attractive; can be inexpensive; smooth surfaces tend to be less abrasive.	Tends to be very heavy.

For additional information contact your local Outreach and Extension Service or the University of Missouri-Columbia, 1.800.995.8503.

This material is based upon work supported by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), U. S. Department of Agriculture under special project number 2001-41590-01143 and the U.S. Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research under special project number H133B980022.

University Outreach and Extension does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability or status as a Vietnam-era veteran in employment or programs.

