

# STEPS TO MAKING A SIMPLE 4' x 8' RAISED BED

Remember, your new garden needs water!

Put your bed in 6 hours or more of sun!

Learn More At:  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep472>  
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<http://seminole-extension.eventbrite.com>

**STEP 1:** Take a soil sample from the area you plan to place your raised bed and get it checked for pH and/or nutrient content – The UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County can tell you more!

**STEP 2:** Remove the vegetation from the soil surface.

**STEP 3:** Place weed cloth, cardboard, or newspaper over the soil surface to prevent weeds from growing up into the bed. Professional weed barrier cloth as used in our demo garden is best!

**STEP 4:** If moles are an issue in your yard, lay down hardware cloth to prevent them.

**STEP 5:** Prepare the frame for a 4' x 8' raised bed using cinder blocks, wood, plastic, sandbags, or other materials. Our demo bed is made from 3 pieces of 1" W x 6' H x 8' L wood. Height should be at least 6". Next year we will add 4" or 6" more to the height of this bed and bring the height up to 8-12".

One 2 x 4 x 8 was cut into 4 pieces and attached for the purpose of supporting a winter cloth in case of freeze or frost. It can also be used to support a partial shade cloth to keep temperatures down as weather warms. The total cost of the pressure treated wood for this frame is about \$22.

**STEP 6:** Organic matter is key to successful gardening. It retains moisture and provides a slow release of nutrients. It also contains bacteria, fungi, & viruses that kill nematodes & other soil pests. Fill the bed with a soil mix containing plenty of organic matter. This could be any combo of composted manure, spent mushroom mix, potting mix, composted garden and kitchen waste, etc. Be sure you have good drainage!