Advantages of
Open Raised Bed Gardening

Growing More Food . . . in Less Space

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The techniques discussed in this presentation and more gardening information are on our website blog archived under the subject: Gardening at **www.cobrahead.com/blog**

A 2012 video discussing raised beds is viewable here: http://video.wpt2.org/video/2237342226/

References:

How to Grow More Vegetables*, *(and fruit, nuts, berries, grains and other crops) Than You Ever Thought Possible On Less Land Than You Can Imagine by John Jeavons. Publisher: Random House, Inc.

Grow a Sustainable Diet by Cindy Conner. Publisher: New society Publishers.

The New Organic Grower : A Master's Manual of Tools and Techniques for the Home and Market Gardener by Eliot Coleman and Sheri Amsel and Molly Cook Field. Publisher: Chelsea Green Publishing Company

These books are in distribution and can be found in most general information bookstores, online, in libraries, and often in used book stores.

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Open Raised Bed Gardening

Open Raised Beds offer advantages to both the beginning gardener and the veteran gardener/grower interested in maximizing food production while using the least amount of outside material inputs.

Beds can be easily placed in existing gardens or cut into lawns or other open areas.

Open beds use few external material inputs and can be a good choice where soil conditions permit and maximum food output is desired.

The technique includes spacing of plants in blocks rather than rows. As these blocks of plants mature they form a green canopy that suppresses weed growth below the leaf cover. Production is also greatly increased when compared to traditional row planting methods.

The method requires large amounts of compost to replace nutrients used by the intensive plantings.

Crop rotation benefits the system by reducing pest and disease buildup. Rotation also appears to improve soil structure.

Deep tillage is not part of the system and current agricultural theory cites deep tillage as a problem as it destroys both soil structure and beneficial animals and microorganisms in the soil.

Trellising and other external aids can increase production, and the gardener's ingenuity in developing external aids can reduce the necessity of buying gardening materials.

The system can be extremely cost-efficient and ecologically sound as no power equipment and minimal external inputs are required.