



Top Gardening
Tips For Everyday
People



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Hello and thank you for checking out the Aussie Green Thumb guide to raised garden beds, a topic that has proven very popular over the years on my website. In fact it is one of the top 3 most searched for terms throughout the whole website - fancy that!

In this bonus report I will look at 5 reasons why raised garden beds are a good idea, and cover my review of the Bunnings ACQ Treated Pine Garden Bed.



Many of the questions that I field at Aussie Green Thumb are with regard to vegetable gardening. How to improve the soil, how to grow good tomatoes, how to, how to, how to. I am more than happy to field these questions and hopefully I am able to answer them sufficiently most of the time.

With that in mind, a raised garden bed is something that I recommend to anyone who wants to improve their vegetable garden with limited space or know-how.

I actually have four of raised garden beds installed in my own backyard and they are working like an absolute treat.

I wanted to cover the question though, why should you consider using raised garden beds in your garden, particularly if you want to grow vegetables?

In this report I am going to share the top 5 reasons why I think you should consider using raised garden beds for your next vegetable gardening venture.

Reason 1 – Raised garden beds reduce the compaction of the soil.

Though it is true that plants need good, solid, secure soil to grow in it is equally true that they need light, air filled soil to thrive. Raised garden beds, by nature, have soil that is much less compacted than general garden spaces.

This is partially because when you build a raised garden bed, you have to fill it and this naturally reduces how compacted the soil is. It also remains less compacted because you have no need to walk in the garden bed, so the soil will maintain a level of looseness.

This enables more air to be trapped and maintained in the soil, which plant roots need to survive.

Reason 2 – Raised garden beds are easier to use.

Raised garden beds are easier to use because the garden bed, being raised, is much closer to you. There is less need to bend down or squat.

They are also easier to use, as long as they are designed well, because they bring order to your garden.

Vegetables are generally planted in rows and raised garden beds are easiest built in rectangles and this natural order helps make raised garden beds easier to use.

Reason 3 – Raised garden beds utilise moisture more efficiently.

Plants need moisture to survive, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to know this. Raised garden beds better utilise the water that is available.

Light, fluffy, air filled soil is generally better at both absorbing large amounts of water but also at dissipating, or removing, excess water.

As water seeps into the soil, soil that isn't compacted absorbs what it can and then allows the rest of the water to sink deep down into the soil, which is basically what is known as drainage.

Most plants need well draining soils to thrive and raised garden beds encourage this.

Reason 4 – Raised garden beds help plants to grow for longer.

Another thing about vegetables is that they generally prefer to grow in warm (note warm, not hot) soils.

Raised garden beds tend to warm up quicker but also tend to not overheat. This, again, has a lot to do with the air in the soil.

Because they tend to warm easier, it means the natural gardening seasons can be slightly extended each side because the soil will warm better than in normal garden beds.

Raised garden beds better use the available sunlight.

Reason 5 – Providing organic matter and fertiliser is easier and more efficient.

With raised garden beds, your garden is very clearly defined.

You also generally tend to use all the space in a raised garden bed.

This means that all the organic matter that you add and all the fertiliser you provide go into growing healthy plants.

When using a garden bed that is level with the surrounding area's, nutrients from the organic matter and fertiliser that you add can leach away into surrounding area's which don't necessarily need nutrients.

Final thoughts

If you are keen to grow vegetables I very strongly recommend you consider using raised garden beds - whether you build them yourself, or purchase a ready-made kit.

They say that an average, 4-5 person family could grow all the vegetables they need for a year with 6 1.5m² beds!

For most places this is probably more than you can fit, but most places could fit 2-3 of this size and even in 2-3 beds you can grow a lot of vegetables.

Why not consider installing a raised garden bed or three soon?

Product review: Bunnings ACQ Treated Pine Garden Bed



As some of you may be aware, generally speaking it is good to stay away from using treated pine in building raised garden beds because most treated pine is treated with chemicals that include arsenic.

There is conflicting evidence as to whether the arsenic actually does or does not leach into the soil, and as such most people stay away from this.

However, ACQ treated pine is safe because the treatment chemicals used DO NOT INCLUDE arsenic or chromium for that matter. As such, ACQ treated pine is great for use in building raised garden beds.

The Bunnings ACQ treated Pine garden beds

I stumbled across this product when I myself was trying to work out which wood I would use to build a garden bed. When I saw a pre-cut and ready to DIY assemble packed garden bed that was priced at only \$49 I thought all my Christmas' had come at once. To build this myself I would have struggled to do it for less than that price (at wholesale price it would be possible) and the added labour this would save me appealed greatly. The website lists the price at \$59 but I did only pay \$49.

Because I am actually naturally skeptical about 'pre-made' things I actually only bought one first because I wanted to road test this product before committing to using these for my entire vegetable garden. I took it home and started putting it together to see just how easy this product was to use and whether or not it suited my needs. I can safely say it exceeded my expectations on nearly every level.

True to their word every part of the assembly was ready to go. The pine sheets were pre-drilled and the screws included in the kit. All I had to do was grab my drill, put the right philips head drill piece in and get to work. I had the frame together in about 30 minutes.

I then moved the frame into position. It was light-weight enough to be able to move once assembled but felt very strong and stable. It measures 120cm x 120cm x 31cm which is a little lower than I would have liked, but for the ease of use I am happy with that. I'd probably have built my own to 40cm. After putting the frame together I filled it with my desired soils and manures and also built a simple polypipe reticulation system into it.

I was so happy with this product that I actually went out and bought another two and set them up in the same way. The second and third frame only took me about 20 minutes each to assemble since I knew exactly what I was doing. Filling them took about an hour total and adding reticulation about another half an hour. All up my entire project would have been about 5-6 hours tops, an easy weekends work.

I'd strongly recommend this product if you are looking to install raised garden beds at your place.