

HOW TO MAKE A RAISED BED SALSA GARDEN

PROJECT GUIDE



DIFFICULTY: BEGINNER
DURATION: 4 HOURS

INTRODUCTION

You know a project is easy when the directions say “just add water.” Making a Raised Bed Salsa Garden from a kit is almost that easy, since you only add dirt, plants, and water. Raised bed kits come in many sizes, so you can choose one that fits into your available space and holds as many plants as you want. Elevated, ergonomically designed kits eliminate the strain of bending over when you garden. Some even have casters, so you can roll them around. Kits with self-contained watering systems automatically water your plants; drainage holes on the bottom allow the excess to drain away.

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MATERIALS

- Raised bed kit, 48 by 96 inches
- Weed block fabric
- Soil
- Stakes
- Tomato cages
- Velcro plant ties
- Wire plant ties with cutter
- Plants or seeds (see Step 5 for suggestions)

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STEP 1

SELECT A LOCATION

Choose a sunny spot for the bed. Since it will sit on top of the ground, you can easily add good soil and amendments. Raised beds are great for yards with poor or compacted soil.



STEP 2

ASSEMBLE YOUR KIT

Put your raised bed kit together according to the manufacturer's instructions. Some kits are stackable, so you can grow plants with long root systems.



STEP 3

LINE BED WITH WEED BLOCK FABRIC

Weed block fabric is porous and will allow water to pass through it for drainage. This is a barrier between the soil in the bed and the soil in your yard that helps keep weeds and grass from growing inside the bed.

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PROJECT GUIDE



STEP 4

ADD SOIL

Add enough soil and compost to almost fill the bed.



STEP 5

ADD PLANTS OR SEEDS

The following list will supply all the plants needed to grow your own Salsa Garden.

Front of box (left to right):

- 1 oregano (any kind)
- 9 red onions

Middle of box (left to right):

- 1 cilantro
- 1 serrano, Fresno chili, or chile de árbol pepper (staked)
- 1 Roma tomato (caged)

Back of box (left to right):

- 1 cilantro
- 1 jalapeño, hot banana, or garden salsa pepper (staked)
- 1 Roma tomato (caged)

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PROJECT GUIDE



STEP 6

HELP YOUR PLANTS GROW

As they grow, support plants as needed with stakes, props, or cages. Stakes are available in various lengths, and plant props help keep plants upright in strong winds or bad weather.

Secure your plants to the props or stakes with Velcro plant ties, which are gentle on stems and leaves and easy to rearrange, or with wire ties. Wire ties are strong and come with a built-in cutter, so you can cut the length you need.

Water regularly if rainfall is scarce. Plants need about 1 inch of water weekly once they are actively growing.