

FAIR OAKS HORTICULTURE CENTER RAISED VEGETABLE BEDS

Building the Raised beds

The beds were built individually by building the bottom box which was screwed together at every corner, moved into place and leveled. The boards on the long sides were butted up against each other initially. When level, the top boards were screwed together and placed on the base. Then a piece of 2x4 the height of the bed was screwed over the inside seam. Two L-brackets were screwed onto each board at the corners.

On the long side of each bed at the corner, a metal support pole was pounded into the ground a little lower than the bed to allow room for the cap. The adjustable brackets were attached to the wood and tightened. At the center seams of the long side, 12 inch holes were dug and the support poles were pounded into place. The brackets were attached, tightened, and the cement was mixed and poured into the holes.

When the cement was set, the mending plates were hammered inside the beds over the side seams to help prevent the boards from shifting. Two were used on each side of the bed for a total of four per bed. Caps were placed over the poles and the beds were filled with a mixture of 70 percent top soil and 30 percent compost.

FOHC Vegetable Garden Raised Bed Costs (2012)

Materials and cost for each bed (4' wide x 20' long x 18" tall)

Quantity	Item	Cost per Unit	Total
4	2x6x10 rough redwood	\$ 21.50	\$ 86.00
4	2x12x10 rough redwood	48.00	192.00
1	2x12x8 rough redwood	38.40	38.40
1	2x6x8 rough redwood	17.20	17.20
16	Metal "L" bracket	2.57	41.12
---	Wood screws	n/a	5.00
2	Mending plates	1.10	2.20
6	Metal tube (fence) pole, 2 ³ / ₈ " diameter	6.30	37.80
6	Adjustable wood adapter clamp (bracket)	2.27	13.62
6	Cap for metal pole	1.00	6.00
2	Bags of concrete mix	2.15	4.30
3.7 yards	Soil/compost (70% topsoil, 30% compost)	24.00	88.80
TOTAL			\$532.44

Each bed consists of one (1) 12-inch high board and one (1) 6-inch high board to make a bed 18 inches high. Two (2) "L" brackets were used at the corner on each board, so each corner of the bed has four (4) "L" brackets for a total of 16 "L" brackets per bed.

Two (2) 10-foot long boards were used on each side of the beds, for a total length of 20 feet per bed. At each seam at the middle of each bed, a metal pole was set into concrete to add stability. At each corner of each bed on the long side, a metal pole was driven into the ground for stability at the corners. Each pole was cut 12 inches longer than the height of the bed. The poles were capped instead of being filled or left open.

Approximate Cost for a Raised Bed in the Home Garden

Using the above costs, the following would be the approximate cost of a 4'x8'x12" raised bed in the home garden.

Quantity	Item	Cost per Unit	Total
2	2x12x12 rough redwood	\$ 57.60	\$115.20
8	Metal "L" bracket	2.57	20.56
- - -	Wood screws	n/a	n/a
1.2 yards	Soil/compost (70% topsoil, 30% compost) (Note: There is normally a delivery charge for less than 3 yards of soil – check with supplier.)	24.00	28.80
TOTAL			\$164.56