



Tips and Tricks to Get Started

Your Ultimate Guide to

Raised Bed Gardening



Hear From Our Experts

TIPS FROM KIT KRISMAN, ARMSTRONG GROWERS EXPERT



TIP 1

Find a sunny spot. Edible plants will need 8 to 10 hours of direct sunlight.

TIP 2

When building your raised bed, make sure that you build it big enough for what you plan to grow.

TIP 3

Use quality soil as it is a direct correlation to the health of your plants. You can mix your own soil or use raised bed soil from your local Farm Supply.

LOCAL FARM SUPPLY EXPERT

KAREN GRUBER

Farm Supply Staff, San Luis Obispo Store

With over 30 years of experience in the plant industry, I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in ornamental horticulture from Cal Poly. I gained valuable experience through an internship at a non-profit, native plant nursery in Southern California. Throughout my career, I've transitioned from managing my farmers market booth to owning and operating a small wholesale nursery, and most recently, working in the retail sector. What I enjoy most is helping friends, family, and backyard gardeners keep their plants beautiful and bountiful.

My tips for a healthy garden include:

- **Measuring Moisture:** Not sure if your plants have enough water? Stick your pointer finger a few inches into the soil; if it feels dry, it's time to water.
- **Pest & Weed Control:** Use landscape fabric to help prevent weeds and gopher wire to keep critters from digging through the bottom of your raised beds.
- **Fertilizing:** When replanting, incorporate a small handful of compost into the hole and mix with soil before placing the plant.

Visit me at the San Luis Obispo store for more tips!





Essentials for Your Raised Bed Garden at Farm Supply

Stop by your local Farm Supply and our knowledgeable experts can help get you started.



Cedar Raised Bed or Stock Tank

Choose the right size and height based on the crops you are growing, and your accessibility need. We carry a wide range for you to choose from.



Down to Earth Starter Fertilizer

Made for vegetables, herbs, flowers, and container plants. It's easy to apply and gives your plants the essential nutrients needed to get started.



Drip Irrigation System

Say goodbye to hand watering by installing your own irrigation system. Our irrigation experts in store are ready to help!



Neem Oil

Spray plants to protect against mildew, fungus, aphids, mites and other common insects.



Raised Bed Soil

Fill a new bed or refresh an existing raised garden. Promotes growth of veggies and lowers as well as bedding plants and ground cover.

What's Next

Now that you have all your supplies, it's all about location. Select a sunny location for your garden, providing at least 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight daily. Once your raised bed is established, it's time to fill it with your favorite veggies and herbs.



- Choosing Vegetables: Stop by any of our locations with nurseries and select from our wide range of starters or seeds from our selected growers. Consider starting with some easier veggies like lettuce, tomatoes, peppers carrots, or peas.
- Keep going with a fertilizer program. Plants, like people, need good nutrition to fight off diseases and to be strong and productive.

- Look for the appropriate treatment to keep pests at bay. Neem oil, bacillus thuringiensis and fungicides are good to have on hand.
- Weeds starting to show? Hula hoe is a gardener's friend for small beds.
- Time to harvest? Having gloves, clippers, and a harvest basket ready to fill are a must!



KNOW YOUR ZONE

Knowing your plant zone is essential for successful gardening, as it helps you choose plants that are well-suited for your climate. To determine your zone, check out the Plant Hardiness Zone Map developed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) at <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov>.



FAQ's

How much soil do I need?

Measure the length by width by depth of your bed to find out how many cubic feet of soil you will need.

How often do I water?

This depends on many variables, including soil type, plant type, and weather. Use a soil moisture meter to check for watering requirements. They are inexpensive and take the guesswork out of watering.

When can I plant?

We have great weather on the Central Coast, the rule

of thumb for most plants is after the last frost in your area. Bare roots and bulbs are two big exceptions to this rule. Check with your nursery staff on what to plant and when is the best time for your area.

How do I keep the neighbor's cats out of my garden?

We love all the neighbor's cats, but they aren't selective about where they do their busy... Different repellents can help keep them away without harming your plants or the cats.

STOP ON BY!

PASO ROBLES

2450 Ramada Drive
805.238.1177

SAN LUIS OBISPO

224 Tank Farm Road
805.543.3751

ARROYO GRANDE

1079 El Camino Real
805.489.5514

SANTA MARIA

1920 N. Broadway
805.922.2737

BUELLTON

700 McMurray Road
805.688.8101

