

# **INSTRUCTIONS**

## **BUILDING A 4X8 RAISED BED 18" DEEP**

Materials

Tools Required

Shop and On-Site Assembly

Filling the Beds

(no photographs)

# 1 18" DEEP RAISED-BED FRAME WITH METAL HOOPS

## MATERIALS SHOPPING LIST

- 6 2x10x8' pressure treated pine
- 2 1x4x8' pressure treated pine
- 4 10' long 1/2" diameter EMT (Electric Metal Tubing)
- 2# 3" screws (must be compatible with PT lumber)
- 1# 2" screws
- 4 16" wooden stakes, pressure treated
- 16 1/2" EMT metal straps

The use of thinner boards, such as 1" cedar fence boards, is not recommended. The pressure of the soil inside the raised bed will cause thinner boards to bow out, possibly crack.

## TOOLS REQUIRED

- Electric drill with 3/16" bit
- #2 Phillips-head screw gun or screwdriver
- Tape measure
- Hammer
- Circular saw
- Framing square
- 4' level
- Pipe bender \*\*\*see note\*\*\*

\*\*\*The pipe bender is available from Johnny's Seeds and costs \$59.00

[Quick Hoops Bender 4' Diam. - Quick Hoops Benders - Johnny's Selected Seeds](#)

Heavy gauge wire can be used instead. Appropriate lengths are cut and the ends stabbed into the soil. They work well enough to support row cover, but are not nearly as sturdy or attractive as the metal pipe. Trellis material cannot be attached to wire supports.

## **ASSEMBLE YOUR DEEP RAISED-BED FRAME**

### **STEP 1: CUT LIST - MAIN FRAMES**

- 4 2x10x96" PT pine (2x10x8')
- 4 2x10x45" PT pine
- 8 1x4x18" PT pine

### **STEP 2: ASSEMBLE FRAMES, LEVELS 1 & 2**

- A. Drill 4 3/16" pilot holes in the end of the 96" 2x10
- B. Attach 96" /10 to 45" 2x10 with 4 3" screw
- C. Repeat and join the two 'L's together for the first level.
- D. Repeat process to make the second level. You now have two 9" boxes ready to be stacked.

### **STEP 3: SET YOUR RAISED BED FRAMES INTO PLACE**

Choose the most level spot (in full sun) you can find. Dig out high side if necessary or cut filler wedges if leveling creates a large gap.

- A. Place first box in place. Using a level, determine which corner is the highest.
- B. Drive a stake into this corner. Drive the stake several inches into the ground until it feels solid. Fasten the stake to the box using 2 - 2" screws.
- C. Proceed to the next corner. Right to left or left to right does not matter. Drive a stake in this corner. Lift this side until level. A mattock is handy for this task. Fasten the stake to the box using 2 - 2" screws.
- D. Square the box. Place the framing square on an inside corner and adjust the position of the box to line up with the square. Or, you can use a tape measure. Measure diagonally corner to corner. Move the box until the two measurements match.
- E. Move to the next corner and drive a stake. Lift until level and fasten stake to the box.
- F. Move to the last corner and repeat.

### **STEP 4: AFFIX THE SECOND TIER**

- A. Place box #2 on top of first box.
- B. Fasten the boxes together using the 1x4x18" boards.
- C. Use 4 boards on each long side. Using a framing square, mark a reference line for the edge of each fastening board. \*\*\*Note - Leave enough space at the ends for the attachment of the EMT straps that will hold the hoops.
- D. Install 2 1/2" EMT straps beside each 1x4x18" board. It's easier to install the hoops and straps at the same time, rather than try afterward to guide the hoop-ends through the fasteners.
- E. Bed is ready to fill. Cover with plastic until it's time to plant to keep the soil dry and ready, and to prevent nutrient leaching.

