



## *No digging Gardens and Companion Planting*

An ideas sheet from the Queux Patio Plant Centre

The following two pages cover the creation of simple planting places and ideas suitable for school use. The no digging aspect makes this suitable for all ages and abilities. It is a very flexible idea.

Fill your space with wonderful gardens - the easy way! Perhaps you have an available area but it is filled with rocky hardcore and impossible to dig, or perhaps you're simply just very busy? Good news! This no hassle style of gardening can be done by everyone!

# NO DIGGING!



Layer gardening is a garden building system that calls for no digging, no tilling, no weeding, hardly any tending - no kidding! You simply layer organic matter & plant your plants!

One of the great advantages of this style of gardening is, you can have your garden wherever you'd like, even if there is no decent soil in that spot! Because we are building the soil up & not digging down into it, good soil is not an issue! You could even have your new garden on top of a bed of stone, or an old driveway if you so choose!

Then choose to plant companion plants that benefit each other-

Eg-

Plant tomatoes with marigolds and the marigolds protect the tomatoes from pests

Plant courgettes with nasturtiums and benefits also include the pretty edible flowers





## *No digging Gardens = the circle of garden life Green, Clean and Free from Chemicals..*

A no digging garden or a raised garden bed consists of layering organic materials on top of soil to create a rich environment for your plants, in this case, vegetables. It is one of the easiest ways to get home grown vegetables on your dinner table. The garden literally composts the materials while feeding the plants.

Using a raised garden bed means that it doesn't matter what sort of soil you currently have. Simply build a layer of organic materials over the top of your surface and start growing! Benefits of a no digging garden or raised garden bed:

**\* It's easy to build \* It's virtually maintenance free. \* It copies nature's ideal environment for your plants.**

You will need a sunny space and a reasonably level surface or create terraces. Beyond that, just add a few ingredients and you're on your way.

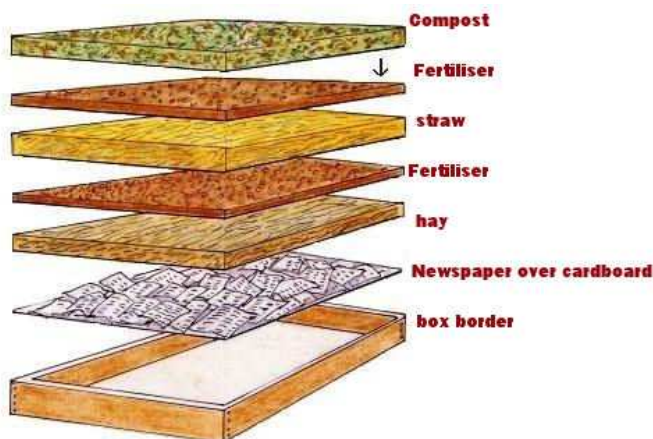
It helps to surround the garden or bed with some sort of border material. This can be bricks, logs, planks or rocks and can be 20-25cm high (8-10 inches) or more. A raised border contains the organic material within, discourages invasion of surrounding lawn or weeds, deters various people and animals, and means less back-breaking bending, but if you have enough space, you don't have to. Remember this is not exact.

Begin with a newspaper layer of at least 5 pages to 20 pages, plus cardboard, sacking etc depending on the ground it is on and any persistent weeds such as couch grass. Lay to at least 5mm (¼ inch) thick. If you have couch, docks, ivy etc, definitely put down a strong first layer such as well overlapping cardboard or at least 20 plus layers of newspaper.

Lay down a layer of hay leaving no gaps, to a height of 10cm (4 inches). Layer some good organic fertilizer on top to a height of roughly 20mm (1 inch). This can be just about any sort of good quality material like well rotted chicken, horse, or cow manure. If you don't have this sort of material available, sprinkle a layer of good natural commercial fertiliser. No need to go the full 1" depth with commercial material.

Add a thick layer of loose straw to the garden 20cm (8 inches) and another layer of fertiliser and then top it off with 10cm (4 inches) of compost.

Water the bed until it's wet but not soaking. You can now start planting your seedlings immediately for an instant garden!



**You do NOT have to have these exact layers, materials and quantities. Nature does not use a tape measure — use whatever you have at hand or can easily obtain.**



## *Companion Planting = Everybody needs Friends!*

Companion planting means putting plants together in the garden that like each other, or help each other out. Companion planting can have a real impact on the health and yield of your plants.

Organic gardeners try to achieve a balance in their gardens so that they don't require chemicals for pest or disease control. Companion planting can play a significant role in assisting with pest control. It's a methodology that has more to do with observation than science, but it does seem to work. Some combinations work because of scents they use to repel insects, others work because they attract good bugs.

Make your own observations while trying some of the combinations listed on the chart below.

When planning your garden, take some time to think about the layout of your garden to incorporate some of the companion planting ideas.

### Companion Planting Chart for some popular Vegetables

Vegetable	Really likes to be with...	Really dislikes to be with...
Asparagus	Basil, Tomato, Nasturtium, Parsley	Onion, garlic, potato
Beans	Carrot, cabbage, cauliflower, cucumber, marigold,	Chives, leek, garlic
Broad Beans	Brassicas, carrot, celery, corn, lettuce, potato	Fennel
Broccoli	Celery, chamomile, dill, rosemary	Oregano, Strawberry
Brussel Sprouts	Potato, Thyme	Strawberry
Cabbage	Beetroot, potato, oregano, sage	Strawberry, tomato
Carrot	Beans, lettuce, onion, peas, radish, tomato	Chives, dill, parsnip
Cauliflower	Beans, celery, oregano	Nasturtium, peas, potato, strawberry, tomato
Celery	Cabbage, leek, onion, spinach, tomato	Parsnip, potato
Courgette	Nasturtium	
Cucumber	Bean, celery, lettuce, pea, radish	Cauliflower, potato, basil
Leek	Carrot, celery, strawberry	
Lettuce	Carrots, radishes, strawberry	Beans, beetroot, parsley
Melon	Corn, radish	Potato
Onion	Bean sprout, broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, strawberry tomato	Bean, pea
Pea	Beans, Carrot, corn, cucumber, radish	Onion family
Potato	Bean, corn, cabbage, pea, aubergine	Cucumber, pumpkin, squash, sunflower
Pumpkin	Corn	Potato
Tomato	Asparagus, celery, carrot, parsley, marigold	Corn, fennel, potato