

DIY Pallet Garden Instructions



Materials:

- One Pallet*
- Landscape fabric
- Staples
- Pieces of scrap wood or a piece of plywood the same height and width as the pallet
- Screws
- 2 Large bags of potting soil (depending on pallet size it may be a bit more or less)
- Additional wood for standing up (optional)

**Pallets come in all different sizes. The size of the pallet doesn't matter, but make sure somewhere on it is stamped HT. This means the pallet has been Heat Treated and no chemicals are in the wood that could potentially end up on your dinner plate. Pallets can be found for free from craigslist or someone who has a connection with a warehouse.*



Tools:

- Hand saw
- Drill
- Scissors
- Staple Gun
- Sand paper (optional)
- Hammer (optional)

Instructions:

1. The first step in making a pallet garden is to check your pallet for any rough edges or nails that are sticking out. This is especially important if there are going to be children working with the pallet garden. Sand off any rough spots and hammer in or pull out any nails.

2. Take the landscape fabric and measure a piece for the back of the pallet. Depending on how wide the landscape fabric and the pallet are, it may take more than one piece to cover the back. Make sure to leave enough fabric so that the sides can be covered as well.
3. Staple the fabric all around the outside. Then, stand the pallet up and staple the fabric along the sides. Once this is done, the whole pallet, except for the front that will be planted, should be covered in landscape fabric.
4. There are different methods for finishing the pallet. To save money, I used scrap pieces of wood to secure the back of the pallet. Putting wood on the back helps to prevent the landscape fabric from ripping, but it also prevents the pallet from drying out rapidly. If you have the budget a piece of plywood measured to the back makes a very tidy finish. As long as something is used on the back as extra support the possibilities are endless.
5. If the plan is to simply lean the pallet up against a wall then it is now ready for filling. Proceed to step 6. Some people use pallet gardens on the ground like raised beds, which requires no wood on the bottom or legs for standing. If the pallet is going to be free standing there needs to be some support. Here are two different options:
 - The first pallet uses cut triangles to form feet.
 - The second uses scrap wood attached to the top and going straight down to stand the pallet up.
6. **Before filling the pallet make sure the legs have been attached (if using) and it has been moved to the location where it will permanently reside.** Fill the pallet with soil. Do not pack the soil so tight that plants will have a hard time growing. I recommend filling the pallet, watering it, and giving it a day to settle. This will ensure that once you plant there is very little shifting of plants or seeds.
7. Plant! Pallet gardens are great for young children because they can't trample small seedlings and the wooden rows keep plants organized into sections. Here is a list of plants that do well in pallet gardens: radishes, lettuce, kale, swiss chard, strawberries, beans, bok choi, spinach, arugula, herbs, and flowers. The bottom row can be used to grow things that spread out like squash and melons.
8. After planting watch as the pallet turns into a living wall. Make sure to thin and water well. Consider having students paint the pallet before planting! Have fun and be creative.

