



CENTRAL UTAH WATER  
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

# RAISED BEDS

Not to be confused with the college days when you put cinder blocks under the legs of your bed to make it taller for more storage space, vegetable raised beds are a superb way to grow your own food!

## **Definition**

Raised beds are really just garden spaces created above ground level in a container of some kind, and there are countless options for what that could look like.



## Benefits

Using raised beds allows you to create an ideal soil medium in which to grow your vegetables, and you will likely have fewer weeds. They are easy to maintain, requiring only hand tools. They will give you a higher yield per square foot of space, and they will allow you to use less water, less fertilizer, and less pesticides.

## Building Materials

Raised beds can be made from cedar, redwood, bricks, cinder blocks (the same ones you used in college to raise your bed), vinyl, concrete, corrugated metal, or a combination of these and other materials. They can be purchased in pre-fabricated kits, or they can be built from scratch.

## Soil

You can create your own soil mix to fill the raised beds using 1/3 part peat moss, 1/3 part vermiculite, and 1/3 part compost. Other alternatives include purchasing a bulk garden soil mix or a quality top soil from a local nursery or garden center.



### **Size**

The sizing is up to you, but 3' or 4' wide is ideal for easy access. Length is often somewhere from 4' to 8'. Raised beds should be a minimum of 6" tall, but 10-12" is better, and 24" is even better.

### **Location**

Raised beds need to be located in a sunny spot of the yard since vegetables need 6-8 hours of sunlight per day. South and west facing areas are best. They should be placed where there is easy access since you will be going there often to maintain and to harvest.

### **Water**

Water with drip irrigation. Either in-line drip or point-source emitters will work. Keep them on a separate valve from sprinklers and perennial or shrub beds because their water needs are different.



## Vegetable Varieties

Nearly any vegetable can be grown in raised beds. Just be sure to give them the space they need. Adding trellises for vertical growing of squash, cucumbers, beans, etc. is advantageous. See USU's list of recommended vegetable varieties below.

[Recommended Vegetable Varieties](#)

[Downloadable Raised Bed Plans](#)

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# Free Online Classes

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## Sprinkler Crash Course

Wednesday

March 10 @ 7:00 pm

[Details & Registration](#)

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Saturday

March 13 @ 10:00 am

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Dealing with Deer

Wednesday

March 17 @ 7:00 pm

[Details & Registration](#)

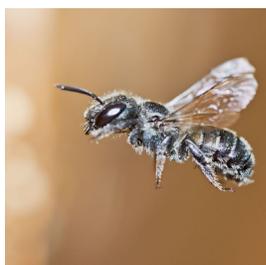


Design Workshop

Saturday

March 20 @ 10:00 am

[Details & Registration](#)



Planting for Pollinators

Wednesday

March 24 @ 7:00 pm

[Details & Registration](#)



Composting Basics

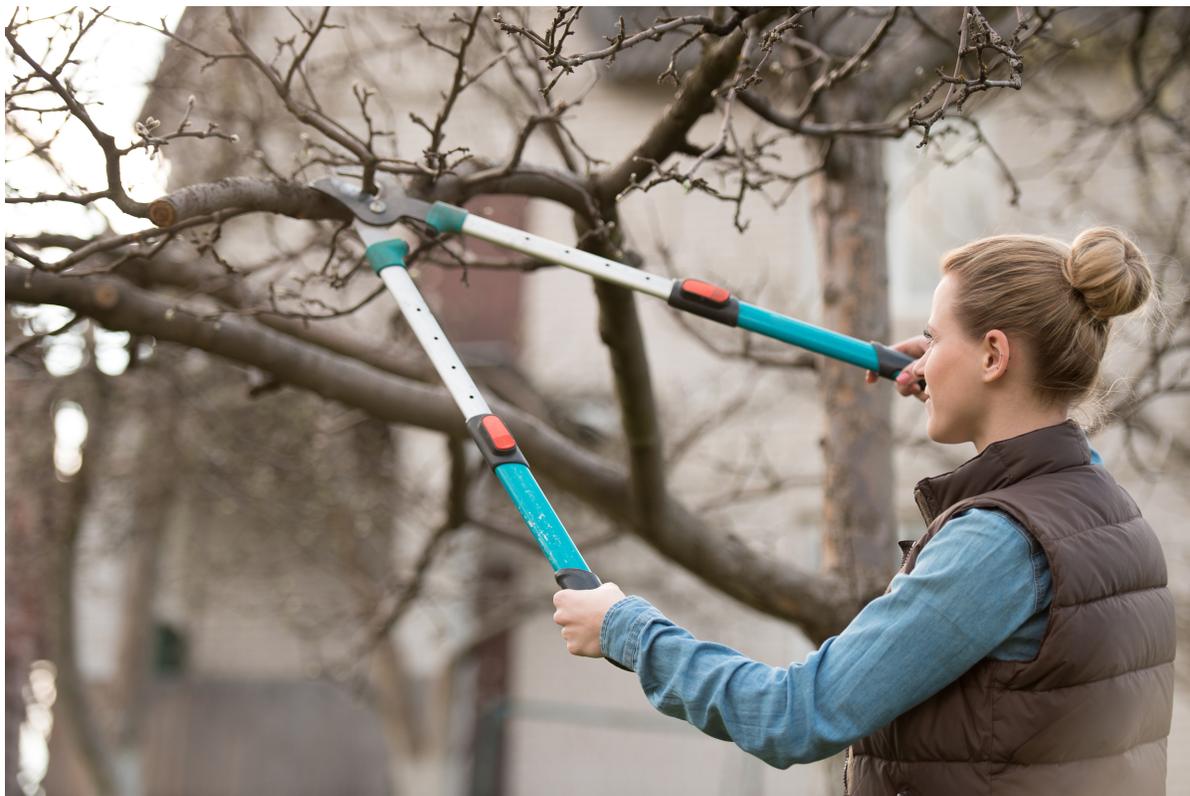
Saturday

March 27 @ 10:00 am

[Details & Registration](#)

[See All Classes Here](#)

# Winter Pruning



The best time of year to prune trees is the latter part of winter, while the trees are still dormant and buds have not yet begun to swell. This is easier on the trees, and it makes it easier for you to see the branching patterns with the leaves gone. February and March are generally good times to prune. For information specific to pruning fruit trees, check out USU's [Pruning Fruit Trees](#) fact sheet or attend the online [Fruit Trees at Home](#) class on February 17th.

It's important to prune out dead and diseased branches to help maintain tree health. Branches that are potentially hazardous to structures or people should also be removed. Crossing and crowded branches should be pruned out, ideally when they are small, to improve a tree's form and to prevent branches from rubbing against each other or growing into each other.

**More Pruning Information**

# Plant Highlight



## Pasque Flower

*Pulsatilla vulgaris*

This is one of the earliest flowers to emerge in the spring, often blooming before the end of March! Its fuzzy stems pop out of the ground and begin flowering prior to forming leaves, signifying the end of winter with a bold splash of color. Can be mixed with spring-blooming bulbs like daffodils and tulips for added interest and texture variety.

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Plant Type:         | Perennial           |
| Mature Size:        | 4-10" T x 8-10" W   |
| Light Requirements: | Full Sun/Part Shade |
| Hardiness Zones:    | 4-8                 |

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## Landscape Specialist

[Job Description](#)



## Conservation Assistant

[Job Description](#)



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