



Pallet Gardening



If you have spent any time online looking at DIY trends you have seen people using pallets, or more correctly, re-using pallets, for all kinds of projects. Pallet gardens seem to top the list. Here are the tips you'll learn in today's class about making a pallet garden of your own.

- ☀ A full size pallet filled with soil is heavy. You can cut a pallet down to a more manageable size with a skill saw and an old blade.
- ☀ Select a pallet that is sound with at least 6 boards on the front side. Make sure all the boards are in reasonably good shape.
- ☀ Staple landscape fabric to the inside of the pallet on the backside of the front. Use plenty of staples to attach it securely. ¼" staples work best in hardwood pallets. Longer staples may be too hard to get completely in.
- ☀ Staple landscape fabric to the outside of the pallet on the backside. Be sure to staple securely along the top of each board to prevent soil from getting behind the fabric when you fill the pallet.
- ☀ Use lightweight potting soil to fill your pallet. Tamp the soil down as you go and fill the pallet to the first opening to start.
- ☀ Cut cross shaped slits in the landscape fabric on the front where you want to put plants in the first opening.
- ☀ Remove plants from the pots, wrap the plant in a scrap of landscape fabric, place the plant inside the pallet and pull the wrapped plant through the hole to the front.
- ☀ Continue the process filling with soil to the next opening, cutting slits and inserting plants filling the pallet to the top.
- ☀ Plant across the top of your pallet too.
- ☀ Put your pallet garden where it will live for the season before you water it. Even the cut down pallets will be heavy. If you chose to attach it to a wall be sure to use heavy duty hardware and install it in wall studs.
- ☀ At the end of the season, remove the plants and shake the soil out so the pallet can dry out over winter. A hardwood pallet in good shape should last for many seasons.

Pallets can be used for either vegetable or flowers or a combination of the two. They can be used to garden in very small spaces including balconies or patios.

Nearly ½ billion new pallets are built every year. It is estimated that in the United States alone about 2 billion pallets are in constant use every day. Re-using these sturdy items takes just a little imagination and elbow grease. We hope you enjoyed today's class and thank you for joining us.