

Ed's Raised Box Recipe

Materials for a 12"x4'x8' box-may be scaled up

2-12" x 4' x 8' sides

2-12" x 2' x 4' ends

4-2" x 4" x 12" ends blocking/reinforcing

Approx. 36-2 ½" screws or 16d common nails

Flattened cardboard to cover 6' x 10' patch of lawn as weed barrier

Build box and place on top of cardboard

Filling

4-6" of manure fresh or composted-worm food/nutrients/organic matter

One-two buckets of fish scraps if you dare/high nitrogen and some phosphorus

Two buckets coffee grounds-scent camouflage for fish with the manure/ nitrogen

Four to eight buckets seaweed/potassium and trace minerals

Two to four buckets spent brewers grain /organic matter and nitrogen

Mix in one to two quarts of wood ashes/ potassium and lime

Finish filling box with good draining topsoil or even sand until heaping-this will settle

Cover with clear plastic for the winter to allow worms and soil microbes to break down the mixture

Cook for six months

Uncover in late April/early May and add one quart of balanced organic blend fertilizer- well mixed in top 4" of soil

Plant seeds and stand back

Water as necessary

PVC hoops covered with clear plastic may accelerate growth

Harvest, Rinse, Repeat

If starting in spring, better to use composted manure and brewers grain

You may build two boxes side by side with a two foot path between, stand up 20' lengths of 1" PVC pipe hoops, two feet apart, cover with clear plastic and voila-a hoophouse you can standup inside!

Use a ten foot length of 2"x 4" with 1 ¼" holes drilled for a ridgepole through which the PVC is pushed