

No-Dig Gardening

No-dig gardens are built up above the ground as opposed to the traditional dig down style of garden. They are popular, particularly for growing produce, because Australian soils can be too nutrient poor or deficient to grow a broad range of vegetables.

No-Dig Beds:

- Can be built anywhere, even on concrete
- Are great for people with bad backs
- Are hard for dogs, rabbits and toddlers to 'play' in

How to build a No-Dig Garden

- Locate on a level spot that benefits from full sun, as most vegies like this best.
- Consider pedestrian access and whether the spot can be used permanently. Once full, moving the garden bed will be difficult.
- Mark out and form the walls, these should be at least 30cm high. You can use anything including old rocks, sleepers, bricks, blocks or pavers.
- If the garden bed has a base, ensure there are adequate drainage holes.
- Build a no-dig garden by first lining with multiple layers of newspaper or cardboard before filling with compost/soil mix.
- Then stack alternating layers of fine and coarse organic materials. For example, start with a layer of pea straw, then with a layer of aged cow manure, a layer of compost, and repeat the layers finishing with a thick compost layer.
- Planting can be done into the top compost layer. Make a small hole to fit the seedling in and plant. Water in well. The plant will eventually establish a strong root system in its nutritional base.
- In summer, mulch around your seedlings with a straw based mulch. At the start of the next season, simply lay some fresh compost over the remaining mulch layer and plant as usual.
- As the layers rot down, top up with more layers of aged manure and compost.

