



EASY-VEG

KIT SET VEGIE GARDEN

Filling the garden up.

Well there are many ways to fill the garden, you may have your special formulae, but I will detail two of the recipes I have used. Both are organic and produce well.

Recipe 1.

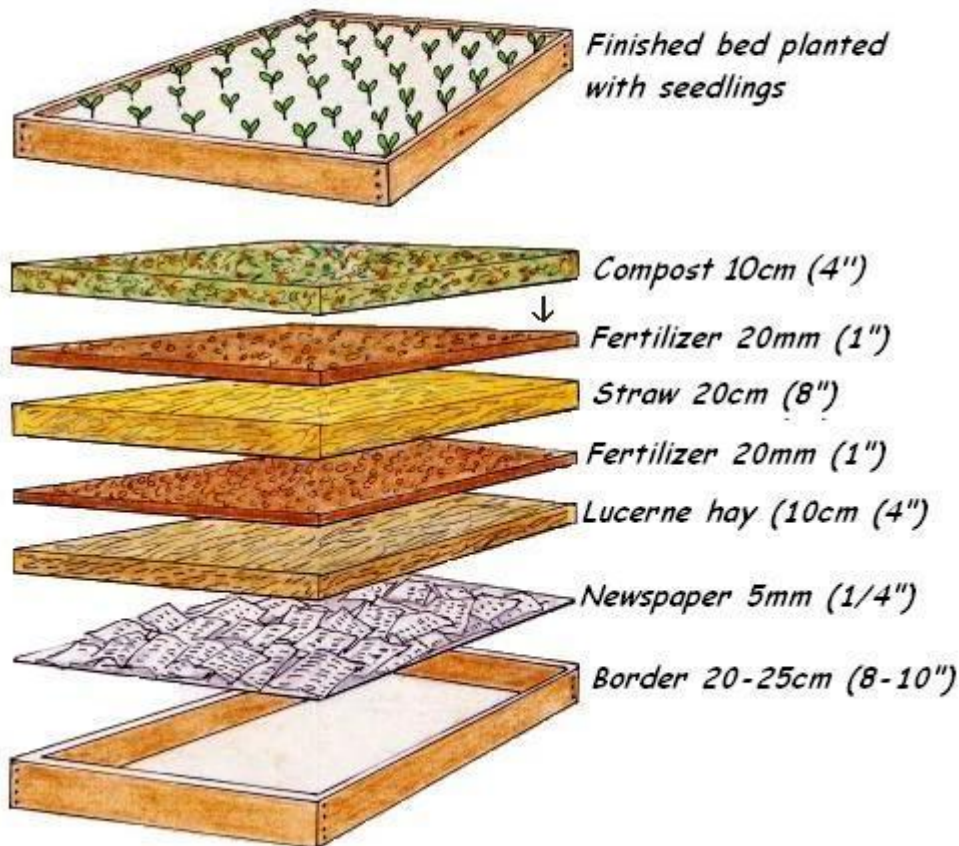
I can't lay claim to having discovered this recipe, but I planted a raised vegetable garden in June using it and have had lots of fine produce, and No Weeding!

1. Begin with a newspaper layer of, 15 to 20 pages, cardboard, sacking, natural carpet etc to at least 5mm thick.
2. Lay down a layer of pads of lucerne hay leaving no gaps, to a height of 100mm.
3. Layer some good organic fertilizer on top to a height of roughly 20mm. This can be just about any sort of good quality material like well rotted chicken, horse, cow or sheep manure. If you don't have this sort of material available, sprinkle a layer of good natural commercial fertilizer. No need to go the full 20mm depth with commercial material.
4. Add a thick layer of loose straw to the garden 200mm and another layer of fertilizer and then top it off with 100mm of compost.
5. Water the garden until it's wet but not soaking. You can now start planting your seedlings immediately for an instant garden!

Here's a diagram of the process when starting a vegetable garden the no dig way.

Note that some of the measurements are in imperial.

It will NOT look neat like this! You also do NOT have to have these exact layers, materials and quantities. Nature does not use a tape measure — use whatever you have at hand or can easily buy.



Building a vegetable garden like this (seriously messier than these pictures) can be achieved in a couple of hours if you have the materials on hand

A good idea, if you want to plant out your garden the same day you build it, is to water the layers of materials as you lay them down. The straw layer in particular takes some time as straw does not readily absorb water. Pre-soaking the bales in standing water can also help if it's an option for you.

Organic gardening is all about a garden in tune with itself.



Plant in clumps rather than rows if it suits the sun situation. Rotate your crops so you take full advantage of your growing season. The secret to having a really successful no dig garden is planning

A bale of lucerne and a bale of straw will do a garden about 2m by 1.5m. If you have a reasonable growing season, get one underway and start the second later.

Keep topping up your gardens as they bed down and rotate your crops. Each time you re-plant a patch, add some compost and always mulch around the new plants. The mulch will keep down weeds, retain moisture and promote fast, healthy growth.

Recipe 2

This one is also organic and its components are a lot easier to manage as they are bagged and can be obtained from Easy-Veg.

Below is a list of the quantity of materials you will require for your garden.

Garden Name	Herbie	Gourmet
Bags Required 40l Compost.	7	21
Bags Required Sheep Pellets	1	2

1. When you are getting ready, mix water crystals into a bucket, leave until fully expanded. Optional.
2. If you are installing to lawn or grassed areas, first place a layer of paper or cardboard as in Recipe 1.
3. Half fill the garden with the compost.
4. Spread half the amount of sheep pellets onto this compost and half the amount of expanded water crystals. Mix well.
5. Repeat steps 2 and 3.
6. Once fill and before planting it is **important to fully water the garden to full capacity** as the Compost could be very dry. This can be checked by making sure that the compost is wet from the top down and 100mm past where the plant roots will be.

Please check regularly on www.easy-veg.co.nz for useful links and guides that are being added.



Comments and feedback sent to info@easy-veg.co.nz are always welcome and appreciated.

This information is a living document and I will update you by email of further developments.

Mick Palmer