



**edibles**

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# Your First Vegetable Garden

This tiered bed makes it easy to raise lots of produce in a small space.



**1** Cut 1×4 lumber to 4-foot lengths. We used rot-resistant cypress. You will need 10 pieces to construct a two-tier bed such as this one. Lay boards in place to determine the feasibility of the location you have chosen.





**2** We stained the boards to complement the shed in the background. This is an optional step based on personal preference.



**3** Attach boards to metal corner brackets with stainless steel screws. We used six corner brackets and four inline connectors, available in a kit from Gardener's Supply Company.



**4** Check positioning of frame with level. Adjust height with shims if needed. Secure frame to ground with raised bed stakes (included in corner bracket kit), then cover with plastic caps (also included in kit).



**5** Excavate sod beneath the frame to a depth of 6 inches to free up space for root growth. Remove sod from shallower front tier; simply turn sod over in the deeper tier in back.



**6** Fill beds with soil mix. We created a fluffy mix using two parts Fafard garden soil with one part each mushroom compost, peat moss, and composted cow manure. Mix soil ingredients well, then tamp firm.



**7** Fill the bed with your choice of plants. We used an assortment of vegetables and herbs from [Bonnie Plants](#). Scratch in some slow-release fertilizer, then water deeply several times a week. □

**CORNER CONNECTORS:** GARDENER'S SUPPLY CO., [GARDENERS.COM/BHG](#)  
**LUMBER:** SOUTHERN CYPRESS MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, [CYPRESSINFO.ORG](#)  
**SOIL MIX:** FAFARD INC., [FAFARD.COM](#) **VEGETABLES:** [BONNIE PLANTS](#), [BONNIEPLANTS.COM](#)