



## **GGW Raised Bed Garden**

The overall dimension of the garden is **74 x 40 feet**. The wood chosen for the **16 raised beds** is **untreated cedar**, chosen for its natural durability and consistent shape. We purchased **96 6x6 inch timbers, each 16 feet long**. This was calculated to produce the least amount of waste and minimize the required cuts. **Each bed is stacked 3 timbers high**, making the beds **18 inches tall**. To accommodate the maximum growing space with adequate room between beds for our cameras and equipment, there is **4 feet between each bed and 6 feet between the outer beds** and the fence. The dimensions of each bed are **12 feet by 4 feet** with the exception of the four beds that parallel the length of the fence. They are each 12 by 3 feet to make this design and spacing work with the required spacing between beds and fence.

## **Irrigation**

Each bed has drip irrigation delivered from an in-ground system that was installed for this garden before the soil was added to the beds. For maximum efficiency and to minimize water use, the irrigation is on a solar-powered, locally monitored in real-time, which overrides the programs if conditions don't require supplemental irrigation.

## **The Soil**

The soil making up each beds comes from 60% composted top soil, 20% Certified Compost, and 20% composted manure, sourced directly from the animals on our farm: horses, goats and chickens. Read Joe's blog on [herbicides in manure](#) for the backstory on what happened from that manure once the plants went in. It's not good!

## **The Fence**

The fence is split rail cedar with 4 self-closing gates. To prevent small critters from accessing the garden, the interior is lined with black, vinyl coated 1 x 2 galvanized fencing, buried several inches into the ground. The fence height along the top rail is four feet. Although this may pose a future concern to [deer intrusion](#), time will tell. Through the first full season, we not had a single deer intrusion, even though they are all around this property.

Our theory for the success so far and the plan when we decided on just four feet high was two fold. First, the design of the garden within the fence is rather cramped and doesn't allow for much landing space (which they greatly prefer) should they consider jumping into it. The bed layout may also add to the perception that this is a confined space. Since deer have poor depth perception, they may also find this configuration a bit difficult to judge. Our second theory adding to the deer-free success so far, is that each bed received a light application of an organic nitrogen source, using Milorganite. Although not marketed as a deer-repellent, it has been shown to have repelling properties in university studies. See the link below.