



Hügelkultur

and other raised bed tips

Arcadia Center For Sustainable Food and Agriculture

Veteran Farmer Program



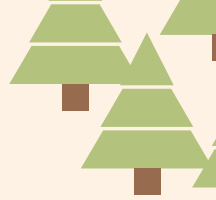
Mobile Market



Farm Education



Mission: To cultivate vibrant local food systems that prioritize health, equity and sustainability from the farm forward.



Live, Eat, Grow Program

To expand urban agriculture along Richmond Highway in Alexandria, VA by supporting gardens and helping build capacity in schools, community centers, and places of worship.

L.E.G. Garden network

supports new and existing community and faith-based gardens along the Route 1 corridor.

L.E.G. School Partners

The program is designed to grow and support school gardens along Route 1.



L.E.G. Interns

High school Interns receive hands-on farm and gardening experience

L.E.G. Food System Efforts

Advocacy and policy work that ties L.E.G. work to other system wide efforts at the local and county level

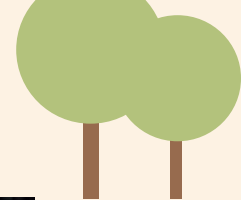


What is

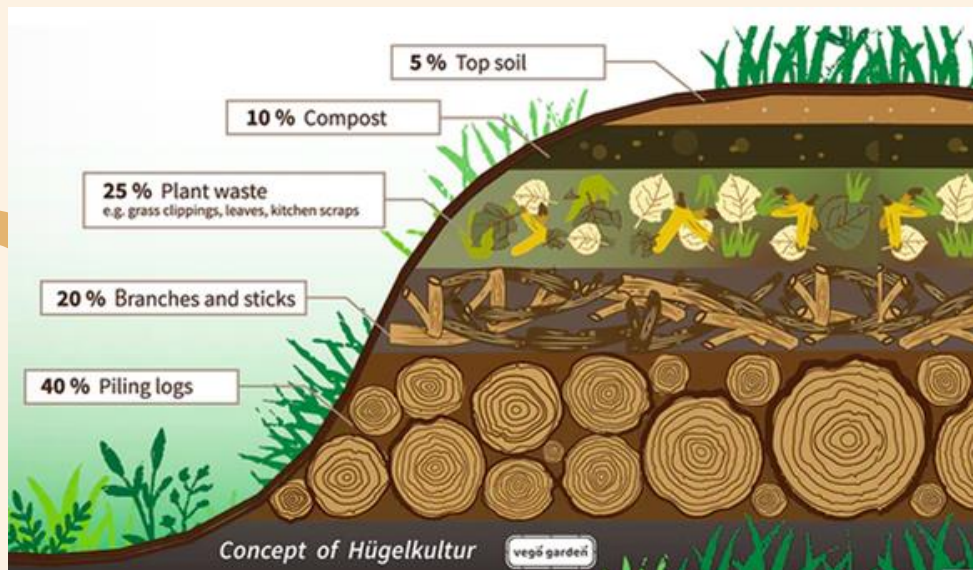
Hügelkultur?

Is a German word that means **mound culture** or **hill culture**. A hügelkultur is a mounded raised bed layered with rotting logs, twigs, leaf litter, topsoil and compost.





It's all about the layers!



First Layer ----> WOOD

- Hardwoods break down slowly and therefore your hugel bed will last longer, hold water for more years and add nutrients for more years.

Woods that work best:

Alders, apple, aspen, birch, cottonwood, maple, oak, poplar, willow (make sure it is dead or it will sprout).

Trees types that work okay:

Black cherry (use only rotted), cedar/juniper/yew (anti-microbial/anti-fungal, so use only at very bottom or unless already well-aged. pine/fir/spruce

Trees to avoid:

Black locust (will not decompose), black walnut (juglone toxin), old growth redwood (heartwood will not decompose and redwood compost can prevent seed germination).



Second and Third layer ----> Twigs and leaf litter

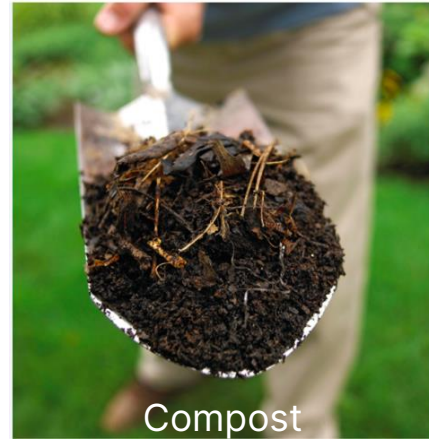
- Add DRY branches and twigs
- Press and stomp them down to reduce air pockets
- Wood chips can also be used
- Layer in leaves, grass clippings, kitchen scraps.
- Water as you add layers in



Fourth and Fifth Layer ---> Topsoil and compost



+



< 12 in



+



+





- 45 bags \$
- Transportation \$
- Plus compost \$



8ft x 3ft x 17in
1.3 cubic yards or 34 cubic ft
To fill: \$213.38



Wood logs

FREE



Twigs and leaf litter

FREE



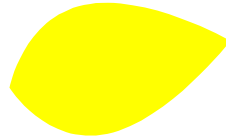
Top soil and compost

Q80.70

BENEFITS

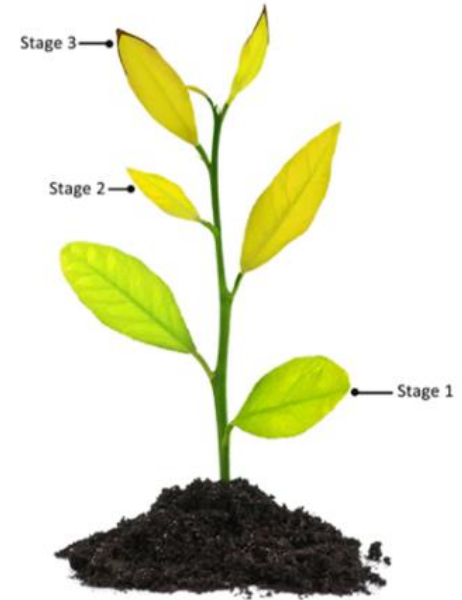
- The gradual decay of wood is a consistent source of long-term nutrients for the plants.
- A large bed might give out a constant supply of nutrients for 20 years (or even longer if you use only hardwoods).
- The composting wood also generates heat which should extend the growing season.
- Hugelkultur beds are ideal for gardening in very dry areas with minimal irrigation.
- Soil aeration increases as those branches and logs break down
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- The logs and branches act like a sponge. Rainwater is stored and then released during drier times.
- You can shape them and design them.
- Supports heavy feeding plants.

Potential issues:



The first year of break down means the wood (and fungi) steal a lot of the nitrogen out of the surrounding environment.

- Add nitrogen during the first year.
- Plant crops that add nitrogen to the soil (like legumes).
- Plant species with minimal nitrogen requirements is necessary,
- Add plenty of organic material on top of the wood.
- After the wood absorbs nitrogen to its fill, the wood will start to break down and start to give nitrogen back in the process.
- In the end you will be left with a beautiful bed of nutrient rich soil.



Hugelkultur Design

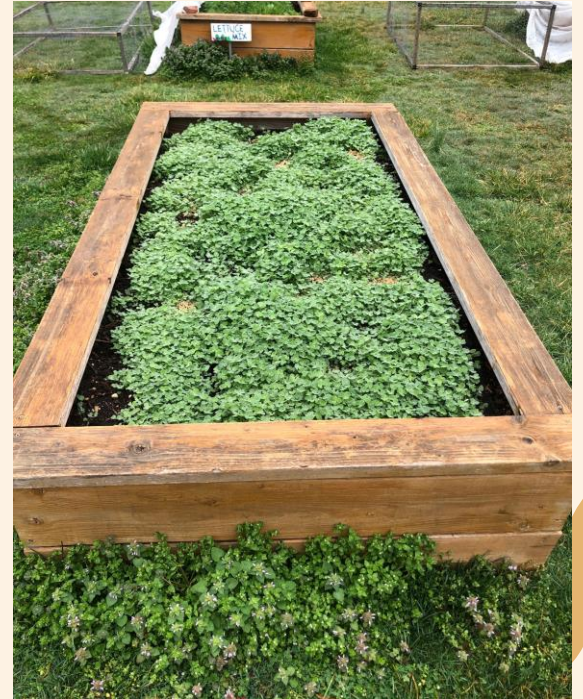






Other raised bed tips!!

NEVER LEAVE YOUR SOIL EXPOSED!



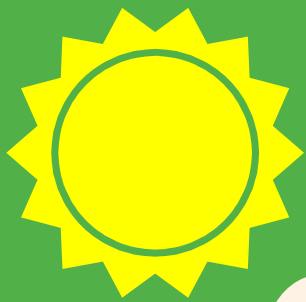
Cover Crop

- ❑ **Crimson Clover in the Spring and Fall**
- ❑ **Buckwheat in the summer**

Benefits:

- ❑ Building soils by adding organic matter known as “green manure.”
- ❑ Controlling erosion by reducing water runoff and nutrient leaching.
- ❑ Suppressing weed growth by providing a dense foliage canopy.
- ❑ Managing pests by reducing harmful nematodes and soil fungi.
- ❑ Attracting beneficial pollinators.
- ❑ Fixing atmospheric nitrogen and adding it to soils





Questions?



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