Amazing Soil...
Raising It Up

Do you enjoy growing things? Do you want to harvest vegetables sooner?
Raised bed gardening may be for you.

Raised beds raise soil up so that water drains quicker than in your garden and as a result the soil dries out and warms up for plants to grow.

How big?

Raised beds can be different sizes. Usually we don't make them more than four feet wide so that we can easily reach the center of the bed. Shorter beds may be easier to work with than long beds.

Building Materials

Lots of different materials have been used to construct raised beds including stones, concrete blocks, lumber and railroad ties. You really are only limited by your imagination. Planter barrels are a mini version of a raised bed and are considered a container garden.

Soil for a raised bed can come from your garden or be brought in from another site. Mix organic matter like peat moss, compost or aged manure to the soil to make it easier to work.

This is interesting:

- Raised bed gardens have been used for centuries
- Raised beds can double vegetable production
- Taller raised beds can allow people with disabilities to garden

Fun to do:

You can start your own raised bed garden. Ask Mom or Dad if you could start a raised bed garden by using materials you may have around the home. You may have concrete blocks or some lumber that could be used to make a box you can plant in. The bed should be at least 6 inches deep. Soil can come from your garden or brought it from another site. Add organic matter to the soil before putting it in your bed. With your soil in place you are ready to plant. Be sure to monitor the soil in hot times for moisture levels — it is more likely to dry out than your garden.

To learn more about gardening, visit: www.extension.missouri.edu/lawn-garden