

Stacked Herb Garden Is Great Solution for Small Spaces

By: Victor Panichkul

My stacked herb garden is planted with chives, Italian parsley, cilantro, oregano, thyme, sage, basil and rosemary.



After putting in the raised beds for my vegetables, I decided that I needed a compact space where I could efficiently grow several varieties of herbs without having them crowd each other. I wanted to also make it easy to maintain. Using my graphic design skills, I came up with simple stacked square frames that looked like a pyramid once they were put together.

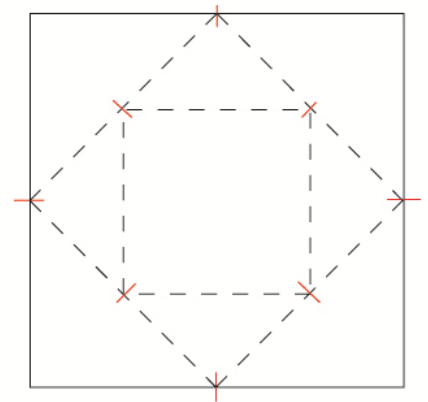
I decided that the bottom (and largest) level would be 4-foot square, and I used some twine and sticks stuck into the ground to mark this space. Then, to

determine the size of the next level up, I marked the middle of each 4-foot side with another set of sticks stuck into the ground and connected those sets of sticks with more twine. I repeated this step for the third and smallest square that would be the top-most frame. See design below for a better idea of what I mean.

Then all I had to do was measure each side, go to the hardware store and have them cut untreated lumber to those lengths for me. I also got a box of roofing nails. Once I was home, I hammered together the squares and stacked them one on top of the other. I then filled the frames with a mixture of manure, topsoil, peat and planting mix, and planted the herbs. Over the years, this herb garden structure has served me very well and it's given me great joy being able to grow my own herbs to use in the kitchen.

If you don't have a lot of space, it might be the perfect solution for you.

Happy gardening and cooking!



Note: When building raised beds, use untreated wood. Treated wood has chemicals in it that will leech into your garden soil and end up in your herbs or vegetables.

About the Author:

Victor Panichkul is a journalist and writer by training; a cook, wine lover and photographer by passion; and a lover of the outdoors since moving to Oregon more than 6 years ago. He is a native of Bangkok, Thailand. (www.thetasteoforegon.com)