

CONSTRUCTION OF RAISED BED GARDEN BOXES WITH REMAY FABRIC TENTS OVER HOOPS—Greg Demers

Materials per box:

3- 2”X10” or 12”X 8 ft

2-2”X4”X 8ft (may sub. 4-2”X2”X 8 ft)

4-1/2 in. X10ft cpvc plastic pipe,

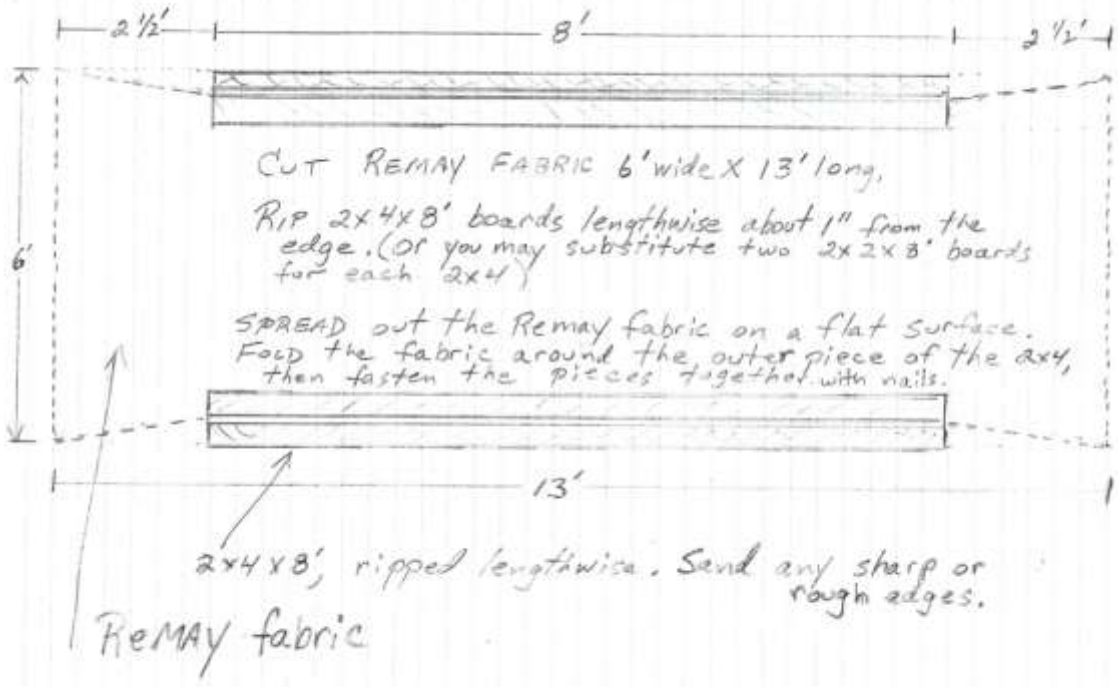
16-1/2in cpvc pipe clamps with screws

16-20 galvanized 4 in nails or screws

Remay fabric: appx 6 ftX13ft—we buy the agricultural remay at the A P Greenhouse

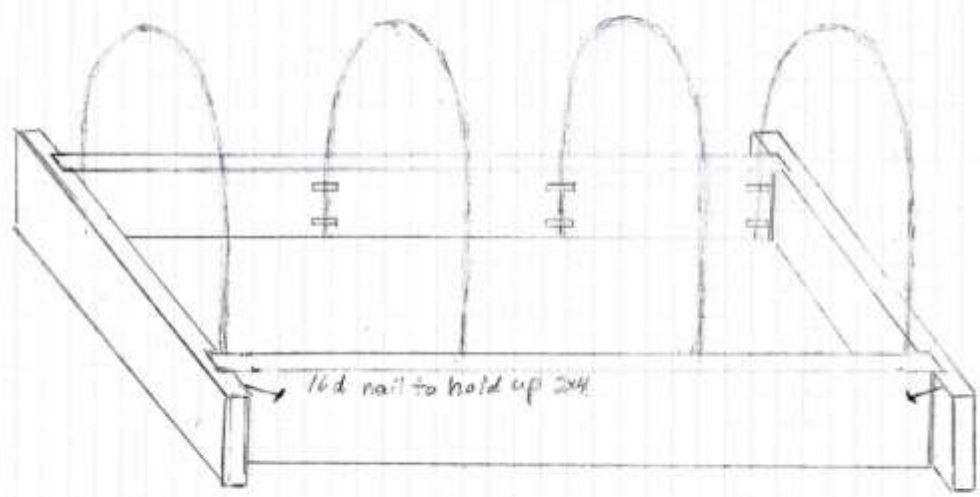
Construction:

1. Cut one of the 2”X10” or 12”X 8ft boards in half to serve as the end boards. The other two 2”X10”-12”X8ft are the sides.
2. The end boards may be notched about 2” from each end to accept the adjoining side boards(see picture) This will help the frame from spreading outwards when filled with soil. An alternative to notching the end boards is to use 2”x4” nailer blocks in the corners to reinforce the joints.
3. Fasten the ends to the sides using the 4” nails or screws, you may predrill holes to prevent splitting.
4. Cut the cpvc pipe to about 6.5 ft long. If you want higher hoops, make them longer and vice-versa. (You might need to adapt the remay fabric as well.) Fasten the pipes to the inside of the side boards with the pipe clamps, spaced an equal distance apart.
5. Make the remay tent per instructions with the diagram.
6. When finished, just drape the tent over the hoops. The tent boards rest on the outside of the garden box on 16d galvanized nails to keep them in place, one at each end. The fabric on the end is weighted down with a small length of 2X4.
7. Painting: We use an exterior primer followed by two coats of good quality exterior acrylic latex, inside and out. This helps them last longer. We periodically reapply the outsides and tops with paint to keep them looking good. We have chosen not to use pressure treated or chemically treated wood.
8. Before we set them into place, we dig the topsoil from the perimeter and paths to the center of each box and level the boxes. We add lots of compost, chicken manure, rotten hay, fish bone meal, wood ashes or lime to amend the soil. This will bring the soil to about 3-4“ from the top. Rake the soil level and plant. In the fall, I plant garlic after adding more fishbone meal, compost, etc. and powdered kelp. I mulch right away. If the beds are for beets, spinach, etc. I amend them in fall with the same, rake it in, so they are ready to plant by May 1st under the remay tents. We put the tents on one week before planting to warm the soil up. Level the paths between the boxes and cover with old carpet or tyvar and wood chips or sawdust for a more maintenance free garden area.
9. We remove the remay when the garlic/veggies hit the top of the tents. In a warm summer, you can take it off sooner. If it rains, we peel off the remay to let more water in or when we water once week. We roll it up on the 2”4” and store it dry in a shed. It usually lasts for about 5 years before we need to replace it again on the boards.



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RAISED BED GARDEN BOX, with PLASTIC PIPE HOOPS for REMAY FABRIC TENT



DIMENSIONS: Approx. 4' x 8'

(*not drawn to scale)

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