

## *Raised Bed Gardening*

### *Information*

Raised bed gardening is often encouraged solely on the benefit of being easy to reach, easy to work and beneficial for the control of spreading plants. The rapid warm up of the soil and the opportunity for the plants to get an early spring start was probably the reason early natives of Michigan and northern climates used this technique.



This photo of sweetgrass on April 17, 2003 is a great example of the rapid growth that occurs when the soil has a chance to warm up from many directions. This photos was taken in Fremont, Michigan and the spring of 2003 has been a cold, wet period with few days in the high 50's.

The right side of this raised bed is sweetgrass and the left side is sage. The sage is about 1 ½ inches high and the sweetgrass is nearly 5 inches. Local grasses in the area are not growing this well in established lawn areas. The sweetgrass and sage shown above are plantings made in May of 2002.



Photos of the raised bed were taken by: Glenn Lamberg on April 17, 2003. This raised bed is about 20 inches high, lined with plastic. The bottom of the bed is left open for drainage and the first 10 inches of the bed is filled with sand and the last 10 inches are filled with good topsoil material, including organic materials and some fine textured soil.

Details on building raised beds and finding the proper materials are available from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service office in your community or contact: Glenn Lamberg, American Indian Liaison, 231-924-2060 x. 110 or email: [glenn.lamberg@mi.usda.gov](mailto:glenn.lamberg@mi.usda.gov)

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