

## Working with Landowners that have small acreages

A very common bond in working with diverse groups of people is the desire to raise plants for food and cultural purposes. Working with the Native American community in Michigan has provided, Glenn Lamberg, American Indian Liaison with an insight of the needs of many tribal members.

The most common request from the tribal community is assistance with growing medicines, ceremonial and garden plants. The development of raised beds is a great way to fulfill those needs in the back yard, small lot, next to senior housing or in a multi-family housing complex. Raised bed construction and maintenance is a great way to assist people that are seeking assistance on plant cultivation, soil management and plants for their area. This is particularly true for persons with limited experience in an area, those that are elderly and physically challenged members of your community.

Here are just a few of the advantages of raised beds:

- Quick to warm up in the spring for an early start of growth.
- Easily accessible to those confined to wheelchairs.
- Very convenient and easy to manage for elderly individuals.
- Usually easier to maintain for better weed control and watering.
- Easy to maintain spreading plants, such as sage.
- Easier to be made inaccessible to plant damage from small animals.
- Can be made to be covered with plastic for frost protection in the early spring and late fall.
- Usually easier to maintain visual attractiveness.

The next time you ponder how you can make a difference in a person's life that is on a limited acreage or in a housing development in your community, consider raised bed gardening information and guidance.



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