

How-to Plant a Pallet

Up-cycling pallets into planter boxes for gardens is a great solution to two problems – reducing waste and creating gardens in small spaces. To create your own DIY pallet garden you need the following materials:

1. Heat treated pallet
2. Landscape fabric (*Available from landscaping, garden stores and nurseries*)
3. Staple gun
4. Ply wood or wood backing
5. Hammer and nails
6. Quality potting mix (*1-2 bags per half pallet or 2-3 bags per full pallet*)
7. Plants (*15-20 per half pallet or 30-40 per full pallet*)



Step 1. Select and source your pallet

When building your pallet garden be sure to use **heat treated** pallets which have been stamped with a heat treated (HT) mark.



Step 2. Choose your pallet design

Based on the size of your site, you may choose to create a half or full pallet garden. Pallets can be cut in half using a circular or hand saw. Half pallet gardens are significantly lighter when planted, and enable you to create two designs from one pallet. You can also choose to create a horizontal pallet garden bed, or a vertical pallet garden.

Step 3. Encase the back of the pallet in landscape fabric

To prevent potting mix from falling out of your pallet, stretch landscape fabric around the sides, base and back frame of the pallet, stretch tightly and staple into the wood.



Step 4. Nail the ply wood across the back of the pallet, over the landscape fabric

Not all pallet gardens include ply wood, but nailing a sheet across the back of the pallet will increase the strength of your pallet garden and make the base more secure. You may also choose to clad your pallet with wood for a more solid aesthetic.



Step 5. Fill the pallet with potting mix

Pour the potting mix into your pallet. If you are planting a vertical garden, prepare a deep groove between the slats of the pallet to place your plants. If you are creating a horizontal garden bed, simply fill the pallet with potting mix and plant directly into the space provided.



Step 6. Planting

Select and plant your herbs, flowers or succulents. If you are planting a vertical garden, position your plants so that the root balls are placed between the slats and tuck them in **firmly**. Add extra potting mix to pack tightly.



Step 7. Water in and wait

Thoroughly water in your pallet garden. If you are creating a vertical garden, be sure to rest the pallet horizontally for a few days to let the roots take hold before bringing the garden to an upright position.

