



# Keyhole Gardening

Keyhole gardening is a sustainable garden method originating in South Africa where a thin layer of topsoil and minimal rainfall are standard growing conditions. A large amount of nutritious, organic food is produced in the least amount of space and with the least amount of water.

## **Advantages:**

- minimal watering
- no fertilizing
- easy access to crops with small, raised bed

## **Highlights:**

- raised bed often built in a circular shape, approx. 6 feet in diameter with a composter placed in the center of the enclosure
- walls of the bed are 2-3 feet tall, can be built with cement blocks, formed cement, rocks, metal or wood
- notched "pie slice" provides opening for access to a composter within bed
- composter moistens and nourishes the soil, thus creating its own fertilizer
- soil is composed of compost, paper products
- recommend using 3parts "brown" (leaves, paper)/ 1part "green" (grass clippings) compost mix -prevents compost forming excessive heat
- mulch and water garden initially
- water garden using 1-2 gallons of water daily through the composter as needed