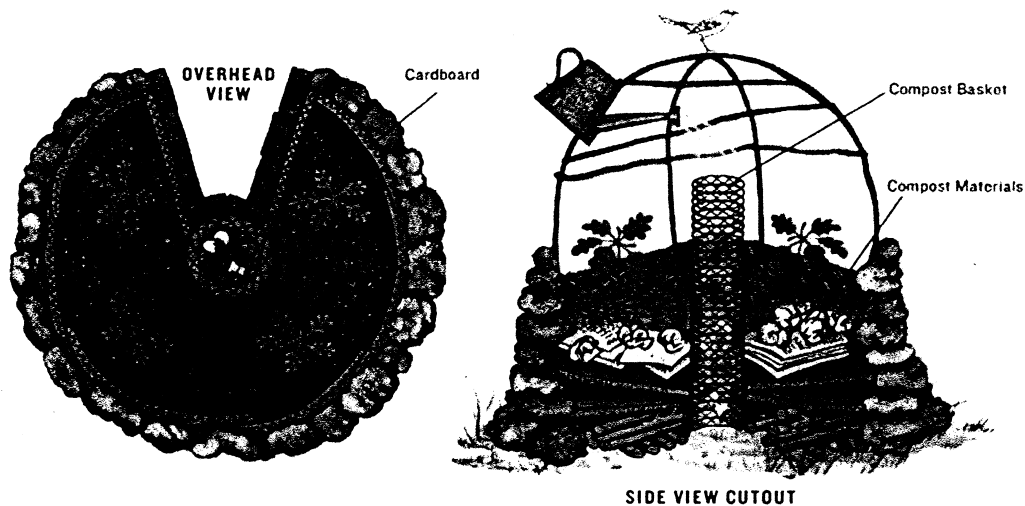


Unlock Your Own Keyhole Garden



Follow these guidelines to get started:

1. Measure a 6-foot diameter circle to define the inside wall of your garden.
2. Notch the circle (like cutting a wedge of pie) so you can access the basket at the center.
3. Construct the exterior wall about 3 feet high using rocks, metal, timbers or any material that can support the weight of wet soil.
4. Use wire mesh to create a tube about 1 foot in diameter and about 4 feet high. Stand the tube in the center of the circle.
5. Line the outer walls with cardboard and fill the garden area (but not the wire mesh tube in the center), with layers of compostable materials, wetting it down as you go. Fill the last few inches with compost or potting soil. The soil should slope from a high point at the top of the center basket downward to the edges of the garden.
6. Fill the center basket with alternating layers of compostable material, along with layers of kitchen scraps and herbaceous weeds that provide the plants with moisture and nutrients.
7. Water the center basket and the garden only when the plants will not survive without it. This forces the plants' roots down toward the center basket.
8. Feed the garden by adding more kitchen scraps, lawn clippings, etc., to the center basket.
9. Consider arching a framework of thin wires over the garden. During the hottest months, the wires can support a shade cloth, and in winter, plastic sheeting creates an instant greenhouse.
10. Enjoy the fruits (and vegetables!) of your labor.

Adapted by Abigail Pritchard from [texascooppower.com](http://www.texascooppower.com)

<http://www.texascooppower.com/texas-stories/nature-outdoors/keyhole-gardening>

Retrieved 2/23/13

A few little notes and links

A keyhole garden introduces a no-dig, permaculture design in the form of a raised bed with a continual feed at the top for manure, vegetable scraps, paper and other brown and green matter.

I. Keyhole Gardens: A Drought Tolerant Composting Garden

by Bev Walker (Sundownr) May 3, 2012

<http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/3726/>

Keyhole Garden Benefits

- Center compost basket provides a steady supply of plant nutrients and amendments
- Uses less water with mulching and moisture from center basket; drought-tolerance
- Depending on outer wall materials, soil can be warmer than traditional raised beds
- Garden can be modified per owner's needs, like child or handicap accessibility
- The short bed distance (from outer wall to center basket) is easy to tend
- Gardens require a small area, a maximum of 6-1/2' (2 meters) diameter
- Recycled material use makes the gardens inexpensive, or free, to build
- The raised design removes threat of trampling by pets and humans
- Saves steps by adding garden waste to the handy center compost basket
- Keyhole Gardens can be made temporary or permanent
- Keyhole Gardens can be an attractive feature with a good aesthetic design plan.

II. Some really interesting interpretations of the concept can be found on the

Inspiration Green website - <http://www.inspirationgreen.com/keyhole-gardens.html>

III. The Ins and Outs of a Keyhole Garden

September 10, 2013 | Maria Woodie

<http://www.hortmag.com/weekly-tips/garden-design/the-ins-and-outs-of-a-keyhole-garden#sthash.mkA1nbdS.8W3Vemt0.dpuf>