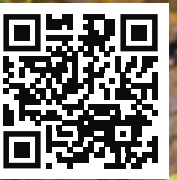


# Spring Home & Garden



**April 2024**  
A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE  
**PAYNESVILLE PRESS &  
EDEN VALLEY-WATKINS VOICE**

## Discover The Benefits of Raised Garden Beds

**Raised garden beds make it easy to maintain your plants and contribute to an orderly look in the garden.**



Raised beds aren't a new idea, yet they continue to be a hotly contested item of debate amongst all types of gardeners. According to sources such as Garden History Vol. 29, No.2 (Winter, 2001) by Patrizia Granziera, traces of raised gardening date back as far as 300 BC when the pre-Hispanic peoples of the Andes used them to prevent erosion. Since those times, raised beds still have a dedicated fan base all over the world. And there are good reasons for their popularity.

A raised bed, by definition, is a garden bed that is built up instead of down, into a position that solves all manner of gardening challenges. You can create raised beds simply by heaping soil up into a pile, or by using boxes to enclose and contain garden soil. Garden boxes are often synonymous with raised beds because some retaining wall or material almost always has to be used in order to maintain the integrity of the bed over time.

However they are defined, raised garden beds offer benefits to all types of gardeners. Listed below are just 11 of the many reasons to utilize a raised bed or two in your backyard this season:

- **Less weeds.** By all technicality, a weed is simply an undesired plant growing in an undesired location. This could apply to anything from grass and thistle to volunteer herbs and flowers. Either way, by having your garden's soil surface raised, this minimizes most other plant's ability to intrude.

- **Better water retention in areas that have super-sandy soil.** Soil water retention is essential to life. It provides an ongoing supply of water to plants between periods of replenishment (infiltration). Without a consistent source of water within the soil most crops would not be able to continue growth and survival.

- **Better drainage in areas with clay soils.** Having too much clay can cause an excess of water retention in your soil. Like humans, too much water for a plant is just as bad as not enough. Drainage ensures that the soil is properly aerated. If you have excess or standing water it can choke your crops; literally drowning them. The soil within a raised bed is far easier to control and maintain, thus easier to keep balanced for optimum draining.

- **More growing space.** Raised Garden Beds are a superior choice in circumstances where you have limited room to plant. With little access to soil or if you have no ground soil at all, a raised bed gives

you space to garden efficiently.

- **No soil compaction from human feet.** Because of the lack of compaction caused by foot traffic, a properly prepared raised bed allows a plant's roots to breathe. This means roots have the availability to travel deeper within the soil and establish a far better foundation for gathering water and nutrients.

- **Warmer soil earlier in the season.** With being located in Central Minnesota, sometimes gardeners find themselves limited with what they can grow. Yes, this can be mitigated to a degree by starting plants early indoors or in greenhouses, but nothing compares to being able to sow plants directly into the intended growing area for the season. This is especially important for plants and flowers that have taproots - as transplanting has it's risks of damaging these roots; hence hindering a plant's full growing potential.

- **Warmer soil for a longer season.** Raised beds warm up more quickly in the spring allowing for a longer growing season and better growing conditions as most plants tend to thrive and opt for more growth in warmer soil.

- **Soil that has basically a neutral pH unless you add something to change it (because you're filling it).** Soil pH affects the amount of nutrients

**Continued on page 2...**

**SPRING SELECTIONS AVAILABLE NOW**

- **Iron Orchid Designs** Transfers, molds, print inlays, stamps, ink & more
- **Country Chic Paint** Chalk style all-in-one furniture paint

*Vintage, Antiques, Collectibles, Unique and Repurposed Decor & More...*

**VINTAGE LANE**  
DECOR & MORE

312 1st Street North,  
Cold Spring, MN 56320

*Located in the same parking lot as Subway!*

**612-839-7413**

*Open Wednesday thru Saturday  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

vintagelanedecor.com • www.facebook.com/VintageLaneDecor

**Local, Fast, Flexible Financing**

MEMBER FDIC

**PERENNIAL BANK**

www.perennialbank.com

Paynesville 320-243-3702

Continued from page 1...

and chemicals that are soluble in soil water, and therefore the amount of nutrients available to plants. Some nutrients are more available under acidic conditions whereas others are more available under alkaline conditions. Most vegetables and flowers will grow adequately in soil that has a neutral pH, however fruit bearing shrubs like blueberries and raspberries prefer soil with a higher acidity. It's examples like these that should remind gardeners how important it is to know their soil's pH and to be wary of what their plants need and prefer for soil conditions.

• **Less soil erosion (especially, if the bed is framed).** While the issue of soil settling over time is still something to consider, it's an issue that is still preferable to losing soil entirely. Factors like, water, wind, animals and foot-traffic will remove soil from a standard garden given enough time. But raised beds offer an artificial barrier that retains that soil and reduces loss from natural factors.

• **Raised beds can be a temporary structure.** Renters who ache to have a garden should start the discussion with their landlord by showing them a nice photo of a raised bed. A neat, tidy and properly built garden box can enhance a property's value and be a feature instead of an eyesore. If the landlord still says no, a temporary garden can be built by using a



removable garden box. The box is simply set on the ground, cardboard is placed over the grass inside, and the box is filled with soil. When you move, take the box with you, spread out the soil, and throw down grass seed again.

• **A better gardening option for handicapped individuals.** Gardening is something that everyone should be able to enjoy, but for individuals with limited mobility, this can be a real challenge. With the gardening surface raised to an ideal height and width for the gardener, actions such as kneeling, bending over and crouching are all removed. Raised gardens can even be designed to accommodate benches on them to make sitting while tending to your garden simple. Because of these features, raised garden beds are an ideal choice for handicapped and elderly individuals wanting to garden. Whether you're a novice or an expert gardener, no matter what your preference may be, raised beds make growing your favorite food, herbs, and flowers a great experience.



*Specialists in Many Service Areas*

- Radon Testing & Mitigation
- Plumbing
- Heating & A/C
- Comfort Club Maintenance Program
- Water Treatment Systems
- Water Softeners
- Reverse Osmosis & Distillers
- Iron Filters

**320-243-3644**

[www.vossplumbing.com](http://www.vossplumbing.com)



#107252 RMT - NRPP Certified  
#107251 RT - #58961PM

**Spring INTO THE SEASON WITH THESE SAVINGS!**

**15% OFF STOREWIDE**  
*Some products have a limited supply. (\*See exclusions below)*

**CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAYS**  
**APRIL 11, 12 & 13**

**STORE HOURS:**  
MON-FRIDAY: 8AM - 7PM  
SATURDAY: 8AM - 6PM  
SUNDAY: 10AM - 4PM



**FLEET SUPPLY**

**YOUR COMPLETE FARM & HOME STORE**

30055 HWY 55, PAYNESVILLE, MN 56362 • (320) 243-3556

\*Exclusions Include: Twine, Lawn mowers, Gas, Diesel, Kerosene, Tobacco Products, Hunting & Fishing Licenses, Additional Sale Items

*Minnesota's Best Kept Secret*  
**LOST & FOUND**



Clothing & Jewelry, Home Decor, Seasonal Items, Memorials & Religious Items, Spa & Kitchen Accessories, Antiques,..... and more!

*We're located at*

200 State Street N  
Eden Valley, MN

Mon.-Sat. | 9:30am - 5:30pm

**320-453-5678**



# How to bring beneficial bees back to the garden

Bees, birds and butterflies play integral roles in pollinating many of the crops humans rely on for sustenance. The National Pollinator Garden Network, through the National Wildlife Federation, recently launched the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge, an effort to increase the amount of nectar and pollen food sources as the organization aims to reverse the alarming decline of pollinators such as honey bees, native bees and monarch butterflies.

Many people are afraid of bees because of their propensity to sting. Unlike their wasp and yellow-jacket cousins, honeybees and bumblebees are much more docile and content to hop from bloom to bloom without paying humans any mind. The only time such bees may resort to stinging is if someone inadvertently steps on them.

Bees are beneficial for yards. Gardener's Supply Company says one out of every three bites of food humans take depends on a pollinator. That's because about 150 crops grown in the United States depend on pollinators. Even though there are 4,000 species of native or wild bees in the continental United States, many populations are in decline. According to the Pollinator Partnership, various areas of North America have lost

more than 50 percent of their managed honeybee colonies in the past 10 years.

Bringing these important pollinators back will take a little work, but it is possible.

- Plants that offer cover can be attractive to bees that desire a respite from the sun and heat. Coleus and other ground cover offerings can be handy.
- Offer water in shallow dishes, as even bees need a cool drink to stay hydrated.
- Bees like various plants, so plant more than one species. Some plants that bees tend to like include alyssum, aster, geranium, bee balm, poppies, and clover.
- When planting, include some native species.
- Brush piles, dry grasses and dead woods offer nesting areas for bees.
- The Gardener's Supply Company also says that bees find blue, purple and yellow flowers most appealing. Opt for more of these hues when planning gardens.
- Above all, avoid using pesticides in the yard. Even organic ones can be toxic to bees and other pollinators, and they may contribute to colony collapse disorder.

With these techniques in mind, homeowners can attract more bees

to their yards and gardens, which can benefit bees and humans alike.



## Quilting on the Crow

Edge to Edge Long Arm Quilting

115 Augusta Avenue  
Paynesville, MN 56362  
Cell: 320-492-0353  
Main: 320-243-4399

**Renaë Wirkkula**

Barn quilting classes available on request!

Call to make your appointment today!

QUILTINGONTHECROW@GMAIL.COM

WWW.QUILTINGONTHECROW.COM



**LUMBER • HARDWARE • RENTAL • PAINT**

**Offering a wide selection of building materials, hardware, plumbing, electric, paint, supplies, and rentals**



**Your Home Builder Specialist**

**Paynesville 320-243-4202**  
**www.mmlumber.net**



**Your home, your way.**

**WE'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN.**

Trust your local credit union for all your home financing needs. Whether it's new construction, renovations, or purchasing a new home, our top-rated mortgage team will guide you through each step.

[MYMAGNIFI.ORG/HOME](http://MYMAGNIFI.ORG/HOME)





# PAYNESVILLE GARDEN CENTER & LANDSCAPE

Paver Patios • Retaining Walls • Bedding Plants  
Trees & Shrubs • Decorative Rock & Mulch • Tree Moving  
Stump Removal • Landscape & Perennial Installation

## STOP BY TO BROWSE OUR SELECTION!

We have in-stock quality products  
to get your landscape/garden  
project started this spring!

Annuals (*available early May*),  
screened black dirt, bulk grass seed  
in sun or shade mixes, rip rap for  
shoreline repair, bare root trees &  
shrubs, lawn fertilizer  
and weed control.

**SPRING IS FOR PLANTING!**

**320-243-3509**

**185 Hwy 55, Paynesville**

**HOURS: Mon - Fri 8 - 6,  
Sat 8 - 4, Sun 11-3 (May & June)**



**Opening April 15th**



# SJP DESIGNS

SARA JO POLLOCK  
INTERIOR DESIGNER

[P] 320.593.3031  
[E] SARAJO.POLLOCK@GMAIL.COM  
823 N. SIBLEY AVE. • LITCHFIELD, MN 55355



RESIDENTIAL &  
COMMERCIAL DESIGN

FULL TIME DESIGNER SINCE 2006  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN  
INTERIOR DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MGMT

### DESIGN CONSULTATIONS MAY INCLUDE:

- TILE & CUSTOM TILE DESIGNS
- FLOORING: CARPET, WOOD, TILE, VINYL, ETC.
- HUNTER DOUGLAS WINDOW COVERINGS
- PAINT COLOR SELECTIONS
- ART & ACCESSORY SELECTIONS & PLACEMENT
- CABINETS & FINISH SELECTIONS
- EXTERIOR SELECTIONS
- LIGHT FIXTURE SELECTIONS & ELECTRICAL WALK THROUGHS
- PLUMBING SELECTIONS & PLUMBING WALK THROUGHS
- COUNTERTOP SELECTIONS

CONSULTATION FEE \$45 PER HOUR • MINIMUM ONE HOUR.

CONSULTATION TIME SPENT ON FLOORING, TILE AND/OR  
BLINDS IS WAIVED IF THOSE MATERIALS ARE PURCHASED  
THROUGH SJP DESIGNS LLC.

# SCHU'S PUMPING SERVICE LLC.

**Serving Central MN for all  
your septic pumping needs!**

Located in Eden Valley, MN

Open 24/7 • Emergency Calls  
We pump septic, holding tanks,  
and lift stations

Josh Schumacher | Owner and Operator

Call to schedule your appointment today!

**[320] 298-1154**



**WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME  
YOUR SEPTIC TANK WAS CLEANED?**