



## Straw Bale Gardening

Straw Bale Gardening can be easy and a great way to maximize small spaces. The key to this type of gardening is to condition and prep your straw bales for planting by breaking it down to compost. This takes two weeks of preparation. Straw bales are more available in fall, so you may want to plan ahead and purchase your bales in fall. You can reuse straw bales for up to two years depending on how it decomposed over the first year. If planting taller vegetables you may want to create a staking system immediately after planting. Bales are turned on their sides for planting (so the straw is perpendicular with the ground and the roots can easily grow into the bale). Think about layering vegetables so you have shorter plants or vines growing under your taller plants. You can also plant on the sides of the bale. Don't forget to water and fertilize your plants as they need it throughout the summer!

### Process for Conditioning Straw Bales:

Days in Process	Traditional Fertilizer	Organic Fertilizer	Water
Day 1	½ Cup	3 Cups	Water to Saturation
Day 2	Skip	Skip	Water to Saturation
Day 3	½ Cup	3 Cups	To Wash in Fertilizer
Day 4	Skip	Skip	Water to Saturation
Day 5	½ Cup	3 Cups	Water, Warm is Best
Day 6	Skip	Skip	Water, Warm is Best
Day 7	¼ Cup	1 ½ Cups	Water, Warm is Best
Day 8	¼ Cup	1 ½ Cups	Water, Warm is Best
Day 9	¼ Cup	1 ½ Cups	Water, Warm is Best
Day 10	¼ Cup	3 Cups	To Wash in Fertilizer
Day 11	Skip	Skip	Skip
Day 12	Plant Today	Plant Today	Water New Plantings

