

Keyhole "Senior Friendly" Garden

Licking County Master Gardener Volunteers
Learning Center for Gardening



Our beautiful keyhole garden hides a clever secret! The heart of this garden is a compost basket, which is easy to reach from the notch in the circular bed. This well-designed twist on a raised bed garden is a highly efficient way to provide nutrients and water that plants need to thrive. The design also helps the senior gardener thrive; our keyhole garden wall is tall enough that we do not have to bend over while working in the garden, and small enough that the entire bed is within arm's reach.

WHAT GROWS HERE

A keyhole garden is ideal for growing herbs, flowers, leafy greens and vegetable plants. Our keyhole garden features a variety of plants that showcase the diversity of this planting method, illustrate the concept of companion planting, and provide vegetables that are donated to local food banks along with the pantry garden food.

Our plant list includes:

- Annual flowers
- Frosted Explosion Grass
- Bush Green Beans
- Nasturtiums
- Carrots
- Tomatoes

In addition to providing an edible flower with a peppery flavor, nasturtiums act as a trap crop for pests like aphids, whiteflies, and some beetles, protecting nearby tomatoes, beans, and carrots. Beans fix nitrogen in the soil, which benefits plants growing nearby. Carrots help keep the soil loose.

HOW WE GROW IT

The keyhole garden is constructed using layers of compost, manure, wood ash and other nutrient-rich materials, so it is more productive than most home gardens. The compost basket can easily be filled throughout the growing season. The stone walls not only look great, they also help retain moisture.

Resources

<https://ccmgatx.org/resources/articles/article-repository/2024/april/what-exactly-is-a-keyhole-garden-anyway/>

https://txmg.org/elpaso/files/2017/08/Keyhole-Garden-Brochure-Pg-2-of-2_Aug2017_PDF.pdf



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