Food Growing System

Raised beds:

Pros; warm up more quickly in the spring; no soil compaction

Cons; dry out more quickly in the summer

No till practices:

Pros; time saver; cost saver (no machines necessary)

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Manure mulch/Compost:

Pros; weed suppression; adds nutrients and organic matter to soil; food for macro-and microorganisms; coolingin summer; warmingin winter; prevents soil erosion; helpswith water retention Cons; may contain weed seeds if only 3-6 months aged

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Planting/seeding practices/Fertilizer:

Pros; seed and plant through manure mulch; fertilize into the plant hole and around the base of these edling after filling soiland mulch back in; fertilize over the seed furrow afterreplacing the mulch.

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Drip irrigation:

Pros; water where needed; no disease from splash up; no disturbance tosoil communities; easy purchase ofparts from www.dripworks.com
Cons; clogs up with dirtywater, so use a filter(sean.coronis@gmail.com for recyclingof 4-inch driptape)

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Fertilizer Breakdown

- Blood Meal/Alfalfa Meal Nitrogen 1 Unit
- Bone Meal/Rock Phosphate Phosphorus 1 Unit
- Greensand Potassium 1 Unit
- Kelp Meal Micronutrients ½ Unit
- Limestone Calcium, Magnesium 1 Unit
- Apply liberally on and around plants and water in well.
- After 2 years of returning compost to the soil and mulching with manure use each year until compost and manure are sufficient to feed the soil.
- Keep adding limestone to sweeten the acidity of the manure.

Irrigation Supplies

- (<u>www.dripwork</u>).com
- Faucet connector (female)
- Mainline (1/2-inch recommended)
- ½-Inch Fittings:
 - Elbow (or Tee if more than one garden bed)
 - Figure 8
 - Shut Off Valve
 - Barb
 - Drip Tape
 - Grip Sleeve
 - J Hooks



Garden Mounds in January.



Garden Mounds in June.



Greenhouse Boarded Beds.



Cover the grass with black plastic, securing with heavy objects and landscape fabric staples.



Leave the black plastic on the grass for at least 3 months, preferably during the summer.



If there's time plant summer crops into holes in the plastic.



Staple plastic to the board with a lip on one side that folds under on installation.

Remove the surface plastic.

Level the area.

Run a string around the shape of the bed with stakes at each corner.

Start at a corner with a board - 1x8 or 1x10 - and secure it with rebar inside and outside on either end.

Level the board so that it's at right angles to the soil surface and along its length.



Complete three sides with boards, leaving one end open to fill the bed with soil.

Once the fourth side is in place, firm the soil around the inside of the boards, removing the inside rebar stakes as you go.

Hammer the outside stakes down until they are just below the tops of the boards.

If the boards are more than 4 feet in length, use 3 rebar stakes.



Layer compost on top of the soil (if you have it), and then top up the bed with manure.

Make sure that the manure covers the soil (DON'T mix the soil and manure!) to eliminate light from the soil so that most weed seeds stay dormant.





Run the drip tape so that there are about 6 inches between the lines and secure with J-hooks.



Connect the drip tape to the mainline arm with connector barbs.



Connect the arm to the mainline, which connects to the wat

Run trenches between the drip lines down to the bottom of the manure, but not into the soil below.

Place seed at the bottom of the trench and then cover back over with manure.

Sprinkle fertilizer over the seed line and water in lightly.

Free up the drip lines so they lie on top of the soil.





Or plant starts at intervals between the drip lines, fertilize into the planting holes, as well as around the stem, and water in well.



Emitter tape can be woven between ornamental plantings, leaving 2 feet between foot length or less.



You can create hoops with rebar and a bender, or use PVC pipe and secure each pipe to tape and screws.



Secure the hoops at their apex by purlins running the length of the bed, attached to the hoops with zip ties.



Greenhouse film doubled at the basewith grommets inserted every 2-3 feet, and screwed into the board.

 You can coverthe hoops with greenhouse film, Reemay, netting, and/or shade cloth, asneeded.

Securethe coveringswith J-hooks, staples, screwsorweights.