

## Alternatives to traditional rows

There are a number of ways to grow produce. Some of the variations below are space-saving ideas; others are for special need situations.

**Mounded or ridged rows:** Mound rows to improve drainage and to warm soil faster in spring. This method was used by Native Americans over 500 years ago.

**Raised beds:** Soil is held in place by some type of structure, usually a wood frame, which can be 12 to 36 inches high. Raised beds are used to improve drainage or fertility when existing soils are poor, to create a small, neatly contained garden, or to make gardening easier for gardeners with physical disabilities or limitations.

**Containers:** Produce is grown in some type of container filled with a soilless potting mix. Drainage holes are necessary to allow excess rainwater to escape. Many new varieties are excellent for containers. This is a good gardening option for apartment dwellers and deck or patio gardens.

**Vertical gardening:** Plants grown in the soil or in containers are staked or trained on a trellis to grow upward. Plants may also be grown in hanging baskets.

**Square-foot gardening:** Plants are grown in one or more one-foot squares. The point of this method is to maximize production from available space and minimize weed pressure.

