



Easy & Fun

No Weeding

Great Yield



Beautiful, Bountiful Plants

What You Need:

- ❖ Straw Bales
- ❖ Urea
- ❖ 10-10-10 Fertilizer
- ❖ Seedlings
- ❖ Water

To obtain optimum height and/or room for viney plants, use pallets under the straw bales.





Located on Hwy 33
Between
Baraboo & Portage

Open: M-F 8 am – 5 pm, Sat 8 am – 2 pm

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STRAW BALE GARDEN

Instruction Guide

W11942 Hwy 33 • Portage, WI 53901
(Located on Hwy 33 between Portage and Baraboo)

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Open: Mon. – Fri. 8-5, Sat. 8-2

STRAW BALE GARDENING INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) **Day 1:** Place your bales on their sides (Strings of the bale should be on the sides). Apply ½ cup of Urea to the top of every bale. Water the bales until completely saturated, about 5 gallons per bale. Wait an hour and repeat the process until the bales are completely soaked.
- 2) **Days 2, 4 & 6:** Water only; soaking them good.
- 3) **Days 3 & 5:** Add ½ cup of Urea to each bale and water thoroughly.
- 4) **Days 7-9:** Apply ¼ cup of Urea to each bale and water well. Note: fertilizer is now cut in half, but applied daily.
- 5) **Day 10:** Apply 1 full cup of 10-10-10 fertilizer and water well. At this point you should see channels developing from the water. Try to force the water and fertilizer into the areas around these channels, so the fertilizer doesn't wash through.

- 6) **Days 11-13:** Keep the bales moist.
- 7) **Day 14:** The bales should be ready to plant. They will be warm and the straw will tear out when you pull on it. When this happens you have a rich composted bale that is warmer than surrounding soil and the air, is weed free and holds plenty of water, but drains the excess easily.



- 8) **Plant with pre-started seedlings:** Make wells in the top of the bale large enough for seedlings entire root system. Place seedling, and cover with a small amount of potting soil to make sure roots are well covered. Water immediately to seal in the roots and get rid of any air spaces around the roots.

- 9) **Water Daily:** Early in the day is the best time to water; it's almost impossible to over water because the excess drains out the bottom.
- 10) **Fertilize:** Every 14 days, sprinkle a little 10-10-10 fertilizer on the top of the bales before you water.

NOTE: You can also grow herbs. Just space them as you would if planting them in the ground. Tall plants, such as corn, and root vegetables, such as potatoes and carrots, don't do as well in a straw bale. You may plant 2-3 tomato, squash or pumpkin plants per bale, 3-4 peppers, eggplant, cucumbers or zucchini plants per bale and 4-6 bush bean plants per bale. Add short annual flowers (less than 12" in height) to the sides or corners for color.

