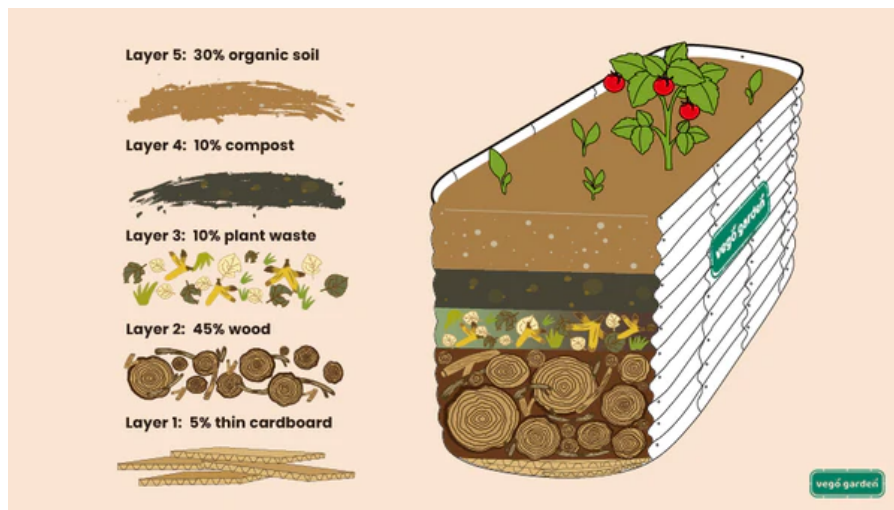


Timber Valley Garden – Status Report

There have been a lot of questions recently about the status of the garden. What are those sticks doing in there, Why is there cardboard? What a mess! Well, when we are developing a garden site with the help of people over 60, it takes time to put everything together!

We are using the hügelkultur system of growing our food in the raised bed. Hügelkultur is a centuries-old, traditional way of building a [garden bed](#) from rotten logs and plant debris. These mound shapes are created by marking out an area for a raised bed, clearing the land, and then heaping up woody material (that's ideally already partially rotted) topped with compost and soil. We are adapting this idea into our Vego beds.



We are essentially taking rotting wood and allowing it to compost in place for a superfertile, moisture-retaining garden bed. We will add branches, leaves, straw, cardboard, grass clippings, and manure or compost to the beds. Eventually the rotting wood will hold water like a sponge, making the bed drought-resistant.

The rotting wood hosts beneficial fungi, bacteria, insects, worms, and microbial growth that create nutrients that plants can use. Over time the beds will shrink as the wood rots, but we will always add more soil or compost to the top. We will create an ecosystem in which the beneficial organisms and our plants will thrive.

So give us time and it will all come together and look beautiful!