



Potting Bench Workshop

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I. Introductions:

Russ Lindquist: background = general contractor; woodworker; gardener; woodworking teacher, grades 7 – adult, Australia & USA; currently teaching Building Outdoor Projects class through Clovis Adult
What do you hope to get out of the workshop?

II. Materials to use for a potting bench:

Cedar, redwood, composite, old fencing (1x4-6, 2x4, 4x4,) raisin sweatboxes, or anything else that appeals to you. Sometimes people use old windows, old iron beds, or other old cabinets, furniture, or architectural details

Some materials can be readily obtained at:

Lumber yards

Stores like Home Depot or Lowes

Habitat for Humanity Re-store, Goodwill, used furniture stores, yard sales, demolition contractors, fence contractors

Finishes for your potting bench can be Watco Oil, Penofin, paint, etc.

III. Tools for your project

Tape measure

Safety glasses

Hammer/mallet

Chop saw

Cordless drill driver, drill bits

Framing square/speed square

Skill saw/circular saw

Clamps

Waterproof wood glue

IV. Hardware: Screws, bolts, hinges, hardware cloth, drawer pull, etc. per your needs & creativity

V. Planning your Potting Bench—Considerations

Location—shady, sunny, on cement, dirt or bricks, rough or smooth surface, covered area?

Size of top—what do you need? A popular size is approx. 2' deep x 6' long.

Ideal height is 32" or to top of hip bone from the floor.

Wheels or casters—Depends on the surface. Don't forget to include in height measurement.

You should have a back for shelving, storing hand tools, and decoration.

What features do you want? Sink? (You can attach a faucet and use a bucket for a drain.)

Storage—usually there is at least one large shelf at the bottom for bags of soil; shelves for pots, fertilizer, etc.

Possible accessories to consider: Sink; casters; hooks for tools & gloves; bins for potting soil storage, etc.

VI. Discussion/Brainstorming/Q&A about features you've seen that you like or other interesting ideas about Potting Benches

VII. Resources for ideas, plans:

Easy-to-Build Outdoor Projects—29 Projects for Your Yard and Garden, from the Editors of Popular Woodworking, Popular Woodworking Books (\$24.99)

The Best of Fine Woodworking: Outdoor Projects, Summer, 2013

Clovis Adult Education: www.clovisadultschool.com (Russ is teaching "Building Outdoor Projects" through Clovis Adult School @ Clovis West High School—contact him for details)

Google: many pictures, ideas, and links if you do a Google search for "potting bench pictures"

<http://www.familyhandyman.com>

UCCE Fresno County Master Gardener Website: <http://ucanr.org/sites/mgfresno/>