

ENGAGE
**CHOOSING
MATERIALS**

This month is all about building. There are plans for building your own raised bed along with help budgeting to build the garden of your dreams. You have many choices of materials, so consider what will work best for your budget and capacity. Hopefully, with a little perseverance, you can supply your garden with materials donated from within your community, such as used lumber or second-hand tools. When sourcing new materials, try to keep the health of plants, people, and the planet in mind:

- Good for the earth: reuse where possible and choose sustainably produced and harvested materials.
- Good for people: buy from small and local business to reduce transport costs and support local economy.

Emphasize recycling and upcycling. Check Craigslist, garage sales, and thrift stores such as Habitat for Humanity ReStores. Building your garden provides a wonderful opportunity to teach your students about the waste cycle. Utilizing secondhand materials is budget friendly and encourages creative problem-solving while producing little or no waste.