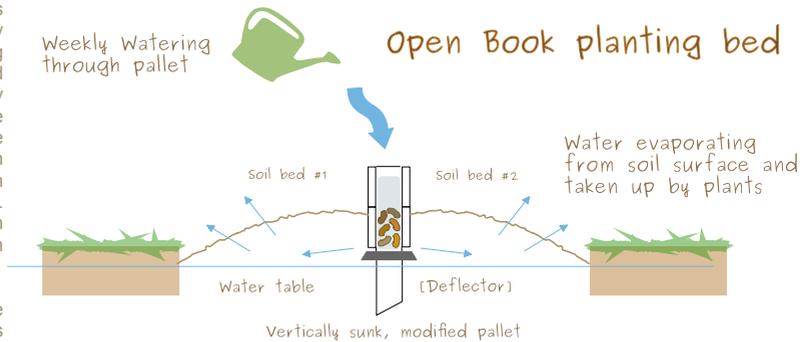


# Open Book planting bed system

## What is this "Open Book planting bed" system all about then ?

In a nutshell it is a borderless, slightly raised soil bed, stacked against a cut in half, modified and vertically sunk pallet.

This bed divider is positioned centrally between two opposing banks of soil. A 'recycled plastic' plank is loosely fixed to the base of the divider, leaving a slot type gap at the bottom on both sides, creating an elongated open box. Which is then filled with stones collected from riddling your soil.



The plastic bottom to the box retains the stones as well as acting as a deflector to direct the water from your weekly watering, into the centre of each bed, see diagram.

Diagram illustrates how water & minerals are pulled across the roots of plants in this planting bed system.

## History, How did this idea start ?

Basically the gem of an idea started when I questioned the need for a furrow between two parallel rows of potatoes to try to save space. If I could insert a wooden partition between the two ridges and then heap the soil either side of this wooden partition, I wouldn't have to spend so much time earthing potatoes up. They would have a deeper section of soil in which to grow. The most cheaply and readily available wood to me was pallets.

It was only once I started experimenting with this soil-against-a-wooden-box way of creating planting beds, that I started to realise how many advantages it had over other approaches.

I noticed very quickly that I was getting less failures, more vigorous growth and higher yields for less watering. It would appear it was more than just a simple box sunk in between two banks of soil.

## 10+ Advantages of Open Book planting beds ?

- 🌱 This planting bed design acts like a simplified 'Wicking bed' which boosts growth & yields.
- 🌱 Reduces the amount of water required as water goes direct to roots.
- 🌱 It works with the water profile on your plot rather than against it.
- 🌱 The pallet bed divider, slows soil compaction and keeps air flowing through the soil.
- 🌱 'Scoop & Heap' of your existing soil, no requirement to get more soil to build up bed.
- 🌱 You can stand or lean on the divider, further reducing soil compaction
- 🌱 Easier and cheaper to construct than 'popular' wooden Raised beds
- 🌱 Recycles a waste construction material that would have ended up in landfill.
- 🌱 Creates a use for the removed stones from riddling your planting beds
- 🌱 Creates a solid structure from which to attach climbing frames; fruit cages, barrier fabric and cloches
- 🌱 Scalability, each divider is 1.2m in length and with a 'paired bed' width of roughly 1.4m, means its straight forward to divide up your allotment or plot.

See [www.allotment-ideas.co.uk](http://www.allotment-ideas.co.uk) for more detailed information.

Or email: [info@allotment-ideas.co.uk](mailto:info@allotment-ideas.co.uk) (for information on how to purchase ready-made dividers).

