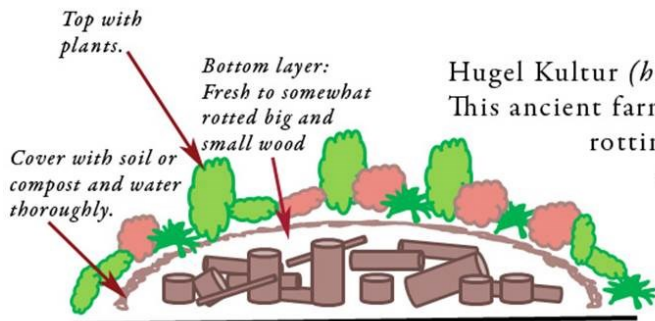


What is Hugelkultur?

An old European farming method



An inside view of a finished Hugelkultur berm.

Hugel Kultur (*hoogle culture*) is German for “Mound Culture.”

This ancient farming technique mimics how forests naturally behave, with rotting trees releasing nutrients to feed other plants. It is a useful way to make a growing place for plants using excess wood or soil. Hugelkultur can be self-watering and often requires no watering during the dry season! Soil fertility is improved and the mound tends to moderate the soil temperature.

How to build a Hugelkultur bed:

1. Wood is laid out on the ground (or put in a slight trench). Largest material goes on the bottom.
2. Layers of organic material like leaves, cut grass, plant clippings are added.
3. The mound is completely covered with compost or soil. Then it's planted with the desired plants (vegetables, flowers, bushes, etc.).
4. Lastly, it is thoroughly watered. This is key, the wood absorbs the water and then during dry periods, moisture is released back to the soil and plants. When it next rains, or is watered, the wood re-absorbs the moisture and the cycle repeats. The larger the wood on the bottom, the more effective the self-watering process is!