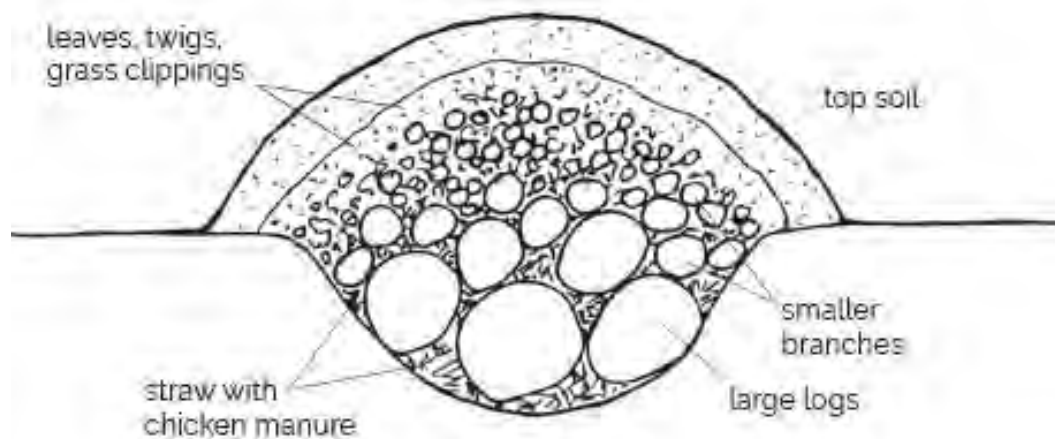


Hügelkultur



Hügelkultur, pronounced *Hoo-gul-culture*, is a German word that means *mound culture*. It's a centuries-old practice of building a raised garden bed from rotting wood and plant material.

In permaculture, we look to nature for solutions and use existing natural processes to make our work easier, more energy efficient, and sustainable. We also aim to recycle materials and energy by capturing, storing, and using them on site. Hügelkultur checks all these boxes.



Hügelkultur carries many benefits:

- It provides the garden with a long-term source of nutrients. As the woody material breaks down in the soil, it creates a very stable humus because carbon compounds called *lignin* in the wood resist decomposing, providing benefits to the soil for a very long time.
- The bed requires little watering but holds water well. The decomposing woody materials act as a sponge beneath the soil, and the mulch on the surface layer helps retain moisture.
- The diversity of material (including wood, leaves, and soil) encourages a variety of beneficial insects, fungi, and soil microbes.
- Logs or branches slowly rot, allowing for the slow release of nutrients into the garden bed, which is great for gardening in areas with poor soil.
- This no-till method uses no equipment to disturb the soil, so beneficial microbes are enhanced rather than harmed.
- The technique recycles “waste” material.