

Using cross-ties for above ground planters - Duane and Anita

My flower planter is approximately 8' by 6' and has three levels.

One level is masonry and is about 2" above the surrounding grass level, the next is 6" out of cross-ties above that, and the third is 6" above the second level. My second planter is my herb garden and has two levels of cross-ties at 6" and 12" above the grass.

I used the cross-ties purposely to discourage the lawn grass from growing into the flower/herbs with their creosote impregnation.

To protect the flower and herbs roots, I lined the inside of the cross-ties with 1" foam insulation with aluminum foil on one side. I did this to protect the roots of the herbs and flowers in the winter time. I brought the top edge of the foam up even with the top of each level of the planters and cap it with 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" Galvanized roof edge to protect the fragile foam.

I have been using the planters for 6 years now and the foam is still in good shape and the perennial flowers and herbs have come back each year from their roots. Also, the foam probably minimized the creosote toxic effect on the plants

The black plastic polyethylene should work also, but should start below the bottom of the bottom cross-tie and bring the upper edge up to the top of the top cross-tie and be fastened to the top edge of the cross-tie.