

PREPPING A BED

WHAT IS PREPPING A BED?

Prepping a bed is making a space ready to plant new plants. After we choose the space, called a bed, we loosen the soil, add compost to it, and make the surface smooth and flat.

WHY DO WE PREP BEDS?

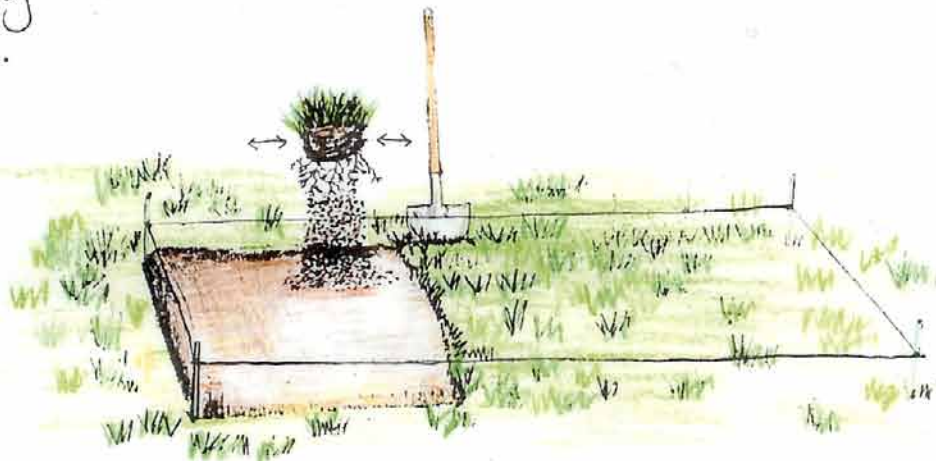
We prep beds because we want to give our new plants or seeds good soil to grow. Loose fluffy soil allows the roots of plants to grow easily and find enough water and nutrients. Adding compost gives nutrition to the plants and makes them healthy.

WHAT TOOLS DO WE NEED?

Digging forks, shovels, trowels, rakes, compost, buckets or wheelbarrows, poles and string.

HOW DO WE PREP A BED?

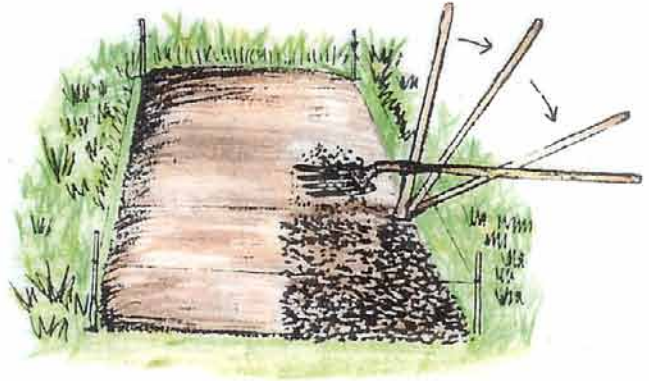
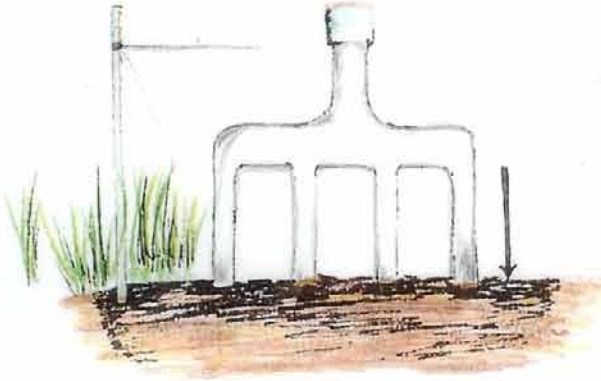
1) Use poles and string to make borders around the bed. We never step or lean on a garden bed because we don't want to compact the soil.



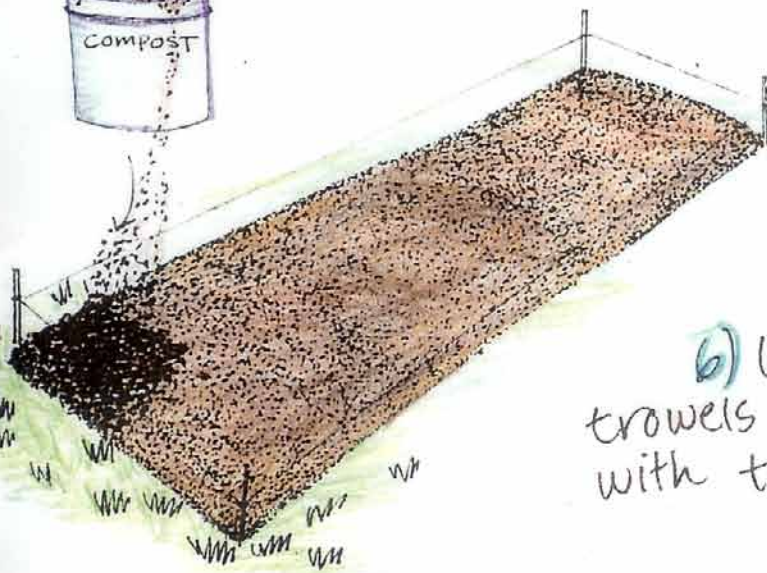
2) Remove any weeds in the bed by digging them out and shaking the dirt off the roots. (see weeding card)

PREPPING A BED cont...

- 3) Use digging forks, shovels, trowels or hands to loosen soil and break up clumps. Dig your tool into the soil and lift straight up without turning the soil over (earthworms and other soil creatures like to stay buried away from the sun).



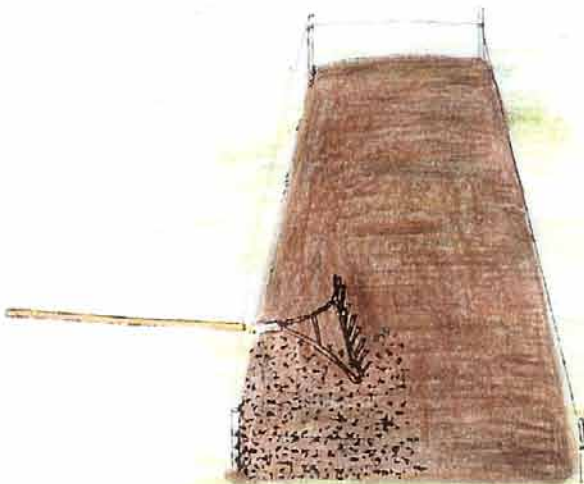
- 4) Bring compost to the bed in wheelbarrows or buckets.



- 5) With rakes or hands, spread the compost evenly over the entire bed, about $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 inch deep. Don't skimp on the edges.

- 6) Use digging forks, shovels, trowels or hands to mix the compost with the soil.

- 7) Use rakes or hands to make a smooth flat surface on the bed. Be careful not to pack down the soil!



CONGRATULATIONS!
Now the bed is ready to plant!