

Organic Gardening: How to Prepare the Soil

Organic gardening means gardening without the use of artificial pesticides, chemicals or potentially dangerous substances. It doesn't matter what you're growing--flowers, trees, bushes, fruit trees, vegetables--as long as it's being cultivated in a natural way. The most popular feature of organic gardening is that there's no danger of consuming chemicals in organically grown herbs, vegetables and fruit.

Preparation of the soil is essential to successful organic gardening. Since you won't be using chemicals to artificially enhance the health of your soil, you need to make sure that the soil is in top condition to begin with. Although it will take some extra time and effort, the results will be well worth your investment.

What you need is rich compost material to mix in with the soil. Many organic gardening enthusiasts insist on creating their own compost. If you're not quite up to that yet, rest assured that it's possible to buy organic compost from garden centers or like-minded gardeners. But you really might want to think about starting your own compost bin for next year, it's not really that difficult to do.

Back to preparing the soil. Basically, you'll be adding some things to the garden bed and allowing them to sit through the weeks before planting. Take care that you only add natural ingredients though. As these organic items decompose, nutrients are created.

Your first order of business is to loosen and turn the soil. Next, gather up some organic materials and add them to the garden bed. You can use sawdust, shredded newspaper, used coffee or tea grounds, ashes from your fireplace, and even fruit and vegetable waste from your kitchen. Add one or more items, whatever you have. You don't have to collect everything on the list. It will work better and faster if you make the material as small as possible. For example, you can chop or grate kitchen scraps into smaller pieces before adding them to the soil.

Once you've added organic material, turn the soil a couple of times to make sure the new items are thoroughly mixed in and covered. Go outside, water the garden bed and stir it around again about two or three times a week. After you've done this for three or four weeks, your soil will be ready to start setting out plants or putting in seeds.

Want to make your soil even richer? Start preparation in the fall before the first freeze. Then your organic garden will really be producing some beautiful bounty the next spring.

About the Author

Another informative article on organic gardening from DIY Gardening Tips.

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