

GROUND PREP

Good nutrition and a balanced diet are just as important to the plants in your garden as they are to your own good health.

All too often home owners spend good money for plants at their local Garden Center, dig holes, plant them and water regularly, only to be disappointed when the plants fail to grow and in the worst case wither away and die; the primary cause being a lack of proper ground prep.

Ground prep is relatively simple, requiring your labor, a balanced mix of organic amendments, such as: Canadian peat moss, cow manure, top soil and vermiculite. The first step will be digging the bed to a depth of eight to ten inches with a spading fork, removing all weeds and grass and breaking up the clods of earth as finely as possible. The second step will be spreading a two inch layer of Canadian peat moss, a one inch layer of cow manure, a one inch layer of top soil and, if the soil is clay, a one inch layer of vermiculite, then working all of this into the bed with a spading fork. The third step will be to rake the bed level and water it thoroughly to settle the soil, this is important as you do not want the soil settling away from the plants you install.

Your garden bed is now ready to plant, it's balanced mix of organic nutrients will reward you with healthy good performing plants and / or vegetables throughout the year. Remember, you can substitute your own good quality compost in place of the cow manure and also use it to top dress the garden once a year.