

## **Bed Preparation for vegetables:**

In preparing a bed for vegetables it is wise to take a soil sample first. Send to the Texas Plant & Soil Lab. A form is included with this information. Ask for (organic recommendations) and let them know that you want to grow vegetables.

Soil in vegetable beds require a bacterial oriented soil. Composted manures like cow, goat, horse, and rabbit work very well. Composted chicken manure is high in phosphorus. A little is ok but don't over use it.

Leaf Mould compost is an excellent compost to add to the composted manures.

Preparing the area: Water the area to moisten the soil the day before you dig. Measure and stake out the bed size. Use A flat head shovel to remove Grass. Dig and turn in at 8" the existing soil. Add the following ingredients.

Raised Beds: It is wise to have a raised bed built at least 8" high. Cinder blocks are better than lumber. Do not use treated lumber if you want an organic garden. If you want your bed double high the cinder blocks have holes where 1/8" rebar can hold them in place.

Dry Molasses: This is an excellent sugar source to build beneficial bacteria in large quantities. 10 to 20 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft.

Humate 70%: Humate is a carbon that contains positive ions. Humate is used To help to break up clay that has a negative ion. Humate helps with drainage and with moisture hold power if the soil needs it. Humate also is used to buffer toxins in the soil. Add: 3 to 5 lbs. of 70% Humate per 1000 sq. ft.

MicroLife: An purpose organic granular fertilizer 6-2-4 add at the rate of 5 lbs. per 250 sq. ft. Mix in.

Nature's Way soil: Has a "Garden & Flower Bed Mix". This a high quality soil That you add to the existing soil and amendments. This is purchased by the 40# bag or by the yard and delivered.

Compost: Mix in your composted manure and Leaf Mould from Nature's Way . On a 3.5' x 40' bed, I use 12 to 16 cubic feet. About 4 or 5 wheelbarrows full.

Planting Transplants. (Hexagonal Spacing).

Foliar Feeding: Once or twice a week foliar feed seedlings with Liquid Bioform or Ocean Harvest.