

# Home Gardening From A-Z

## 2. Preparing the Soil / Weeds

For thus saith the Lord...  
Break up your fallow ground,  
and sow not among thorns."

Jeremiah 4:3









- **Clear up the rocks**
- **Dig up the sod**



- **Use a silage tarp**





- **No Till Method**







- **Raised Beds**





- **Modified raised beds**









07/11/2008



- **Tractor plowing**

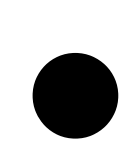






- **Rototillers**





# Broadfork

[treadlightbroadforks.com](http://treadlightbroadforks.com)

Quickflip

[forwardfarmtech.com](http://forwardfarmtech.com)





# Soil Types

- **Clay** is fine silt that holds water and often is rich in nutrients.
- **Sand** is mostly large particles of silicates. These keep the soil open for water and air.
- **Silt** is not as fine as clay and not as coarse as sand.
- **Humus** is organic matter and is key to productivity. It holds everything together and provides structure to light soils, and eases up heavy clays.







- Topsoil
- Bedrock
- Water table
- Drainage



# Mulching with Compost

to Build up the  
SOIL





# COMPOST vs HUMMUS

[helpmecompost.com](http://helpmecompost.com)



# Path Widths

12 inch

18 inch

Or

24 inch





# Bed widths

Standard 30 inch beds







# Grow Boxes







Vertical Gardening





Trellis to make you jealous  
**Josh Sattin YouTube**



**WEEDS**

One day I walked by the field of an old lazybones,  
and then passed the vineyard of a slob;  
They were overgrown with weeds,  
thick with thistles, all the fences broken down.  
I took a long look and pondered what I saw;  
the fields preached me a sermon and I listened:  
"A nap here, a nap there, a day off here, a day off there,  
sit back, take it easy—do you know what comes next?  
Just this: You can look forward to a dirt-poor life,  
with poverty as your permanent houseguest!"

Proverbs 24:30-34 MSG

# Know your enemy:

Observe, Observe, Observe!

- Some weeds don't just produce from seeds.
- Weed spectrum changes with time.
- Soil chemistry
- Soil temperature
- Light levels
- Weather

**Cultivation** is the shallow stirring of the surface soil in order to cut off the small weeds and prevent new ones from growing. It deals with them before they become a problem.

**Weeding** takes place after the weeds are already established. Weeding deals with the problem after it occurs. Weeds are in competition with your plants for space, sunlight, water, and nutrition.



- 1. Let sleeping seeds lie**
- 2. Mulch.**
- 3. Weed early and often**
- 4. Chop off their heads**
- 5. Space your plants close together**
- 6. Water the plants you want,  
not the weeds you've got**
- 7. Pull when wet, Hoe when dry!**
- 8. Natural Safe Herbicides**
- 9. Leave no bare ground**
- 10. use the flame weeders**
- 11. Some organic matter contains  
a lot of weed seeds**
- 12. Pre-emergent**
- 13. Diligence: Take care of the weeds often.**
- 14. Transplanting over direct seeding**





# Eat Your Weeds

\***Amaranth**- Is nutritious, can help ease fever, headache, nausea, stomachache, and other digestive disorders. Rub the weed juices on insect bites.

\***Lambs quarters** - Has more nutrition than spinach, It's better for you steamed or sauteed, but I have used them in my daily green smoothies. If you are sensitive to oxalates then only eat them cooked.

\***Purslane** - Is rich in Omega 3's

\***Young Dandelions** - Is highly nutritious and has many medicinal benefits.

\***Miner's Lettuce** - Is used in salads, soups & sautees. Rich in C & Iron.





# Weed Barriers & Mulch

- Compost
- Pine wood chips and needles
- Straw
- Fabric ground cover
- Plastic culture from **Duboise Agrinovation** in Canada, **Soil Biodegradable and compostable Black Mulch Film -bio 360**  
[www.duboisag.com](http://www.duboisag.com)
- Tarps





- Leaves
- Grass clippings
- Newspaper
- Cover crops
- Manure
- Mushroom compost
- Crushed seashells
- Pecan shells
- Etc...





