

Preparing Bed for Planting

1. Layout the shape of the bed with garden hose and/or marking paint.
2. Remove sod if good quality and usable elsewhere; otherwise spray weeds and grass with chemical such as Round-Up or any product with glyphosate as the active ingredient.
3. Roto-till as deeply as possible; front-tine tiller is best.
4. Grade out bed and define edge.
5. Add layers of amendments like a souffle:
 - a. 3-4 inches of soil conditioner (processed pine bark)
 - b. 2 inches of coarse red sand (not mason or white sand), available at mulch companies and construction supply companies
 - c. 1-2 inches of compost or leaf mold or decomposed manure (Black Kow, for example)
 - d. Cottonseed meal: heavy dusting
 - e. Bone meal: dusting
 - f. 1/8 inch of lime (dolomitic, which has magnesium)
6. Re-till, grade, level, and re-define edge.
7. Cover with less than ½ inch of mulch to minimize erosion. Rake back mulch to plant.

MASTER MIX BLEND

- 1 part compost of any kind
- 1 part soil conditioner (screened pine bark)
- 1 part coarse red sand

WOODLAND GARDEN MIX

- 1 part leaf compost
- 1 part pine bark
- 1 part coarse red sand

PERENNIAL BORDER/TREE/SHRUB MIX

- 1 part cotton burr compost
- 1 part pine bark
- 1 part coarse red sand