



PREPARING A VEGETABLE OR FLOWER BED

EXAMPLE FOR 10 x10 AREA

Locate the garden where it will get at least 5 to 6 hours of sun. Morning sun is best. Avoid areas with a lot of trees as the roots take moisture from the soil. Till or spade the area 6" to 9" deep. Do not do this when the ground is wet, as it will be difficult to work with later. Do not worry about a few surface weeds or grass clumps. 8 HP tillers will give you best results. However, it is not economical to rent a tiller for less than 400 sq. ft. Mix the following into the top 4" to 5" of soil and start planting.

1. 5 lbs. of garden lime (add this every other year or have soil tested for pH). Do not add lime if you are preparing a bed for acid-loving plants.
2. 1 lb. of **Merrifield Starter Plant Food 6-12-8**. (Add each year before planting.)
3. Three 40-lb. bags of cow manure. (Add each year before planting.)
4. 1 Bag Merrifield Planting Mix OR Leaf Gro

RAISED BED FORMULA

Multiply (length) x (width) x (depth). Divide by 10, and then divide by 27. This will give you the cubic yards of soil needed. (Dividing by 10 allows for soil shrinkage/expansion)

1. **Example:** A bed 10'x5'x12" deep to be filled with soil 10" deep
 $10 \times 5 \times 10 = 500$ $500 \div 10 = 50$ $50 \div 27 = 1.8$ cu. yd.

Buy about 2 yd. of topsoil. Each bag contains 1 cu. ft. of soil, 40 bags equals about 1 cubic yard. Add about 1/2 the other ingredients listed above, because it's only 1/2 the sq. ft. of surface area.

2. **Example:** A bed 80'x4'x6" high to be filled with soil 4" deep.
 $80 \times 4 \times 4 = 1280$ $1280 \div 10 = 128$ $128 \div 27 = 4.7$ cu. yd. of soil

Buy about 5 cubic yards of topsoil. Add about 3 times the ingredients listed, as 320 sq. ft of surface area will require about three times that of 100 sq. ft.

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