



Basic Vegetable Gardening

Lesson 3b: Preparing the Soil

Lesson Summary: Boys and girls will begin to prepare the soil in the garden for planting.

Boys and girls will learn the importance of tilling the soil.

Length: 35 minutes. Do this lesson right before planting the seeds.

What you need for the lesson:

Tools for tilling or digging in the soil – shovels, hoes

Lesson Steps

1. (5 minutes) Introduction

Today boys and girls will work to prepare the garden for planting.

Ask:

Why is it important to work the soil before planting?

Answer: It is important to dig and work up the soil before planting for these reasons:

- to mix in fertilizer like compost
- so the seeds can germinate better by touching more of the soil,
- so plants can take up water better,
- so roots can grow better

2. (25 minutes) Prepare the garden and soil.

Have boys and girls make 5 smaller groups to do jobs below.

1. Take away brush around outside of garden
It is important to take away brush and other materials about one meter around the garden to control weeds and pests. Save the brush for composting.
2. Arrange the garden into sections for different plants. Use the garden plan.
3. Make paths to walk on.
4. Name sections (or wait until planting to do this).
Use a stick 30 -40 cm high. Put up a sign or write on the stick.
5. Till the soil using hoes and other tools.
Till the soil 20 centimeters deep. Make sure the soil is fine and loose so it has air mixed in well. Mix in compost if available.



3. (5 minutes) - Review

Talk about the questions:

- What did we do today?
- What did you learn?
- Why is it important to loosen soil before planting?
- What garden plans do we need to change before planting?



4. (1 minute) - Close

The next meeting will be transplanting seedlings and planting seeds in the garden. That needs to be done in 1 or 2 days while the soil is still loose.

