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Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Institute of Agriculture  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

# Yard 'n' Garden



C. GUSTAV HARD      ORRIN C. TURNQUIST  
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ST. PAUL, MINN. 55101

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## GOOD SOIL PREPARATION PAYS

Most of our soils will produce a good garden crop if they're given proper cultural attention. A good gardener will use organic matter to improve the soil structure as well as fertilizer to supply nutrients for the crop.

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Early in the spring apply manure, compost or peat to the garden at the rate of 3-4 bushels per 100 square feet of area. Mix this thoroughly into the soil with a tiller to a depth of 7-8 inches. This will improve the structure of the soil, helping it to hold more water and air for better plant development.

\* \* \* \*

After the soil is leveled with a rake or harrow, apply the plant food. Use 3 pounds of any complete fertilizer per 100 square feet of area. Examples of complete fertilizers are 10-10-10, 5-20-20, 8-16-16. Scratch the fertilizer into the upper inch or two of soil with a rake so it will be readily available for the young seedlings when they start to develop.

\* \* \* \*

Be sure to wait until the garden soil is dry enough before working it. A good test is to compress a small amount of soil in the hand. If it's not sticky and crumbles when you release your fingers, it's ready to work. If it sticks together in a ball, it's too wet to work.

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