

# Chapter 4

## How do you make a garden?

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## To start a garden the following tasks have to be done.

- 1- Put a fence around the garden.
- 2- Clear the soil surface.
- 3- Leveling
- 4- Preparation of the soil.

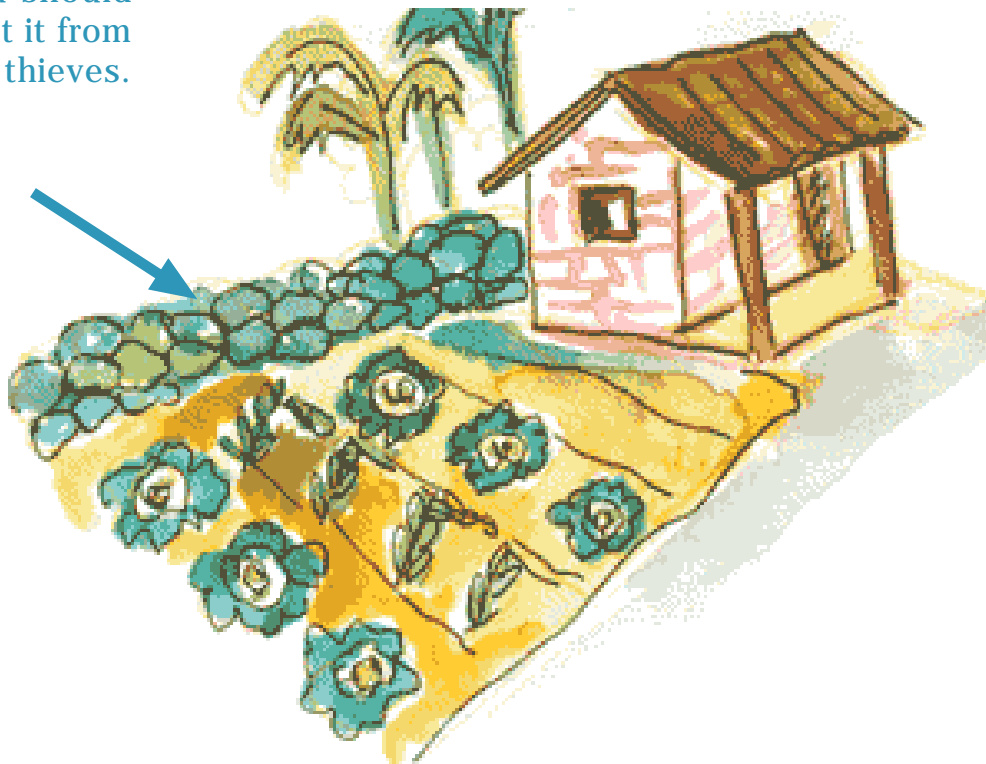


It is important to start the tasks well in the garden.



# 1- Putting a fence around the Garden.

If you have already chosen the most appropriate place to plant your garden, now you should make a fence to protect it from animals and also from thieves.





In order to fence it, it is possible to use various materials.

If the garden is in a windy place, the fence must be higher and stronger on the windy side.

It is not a good idea to make fences with large plants that may take away water, sun and nutrients from the garden.

It is better to take advantage of the fences to support climbing vegetables (tomato, green beans, cucumber, melon, small fruit trees, raspberries and grapevines on trellises).



## 2- Clearing the land.

It is necessary to clear the area well!

You need to eliminate:

- Trees and shrubs, these can be used as firewood.
- Small brushwood, the branches and the leaves can be used to prepare organic compost.
- Jars, glasses, bones, bottles and stones, must be placed in a separate part of the yard.



### 3- Leveling

It is highly advisable that the land has a "slight inclination", so that rain or irrigation water that is not used by the plant can run easily.

You should dig a ditch in the high part of the garden so that it can be used for watering. Also a ditch in low part that provides an exit channel.

This way , you'll avoid flooding your house or your neighbor's.



If the slope is very steep you can make "terraces or steps". This prevents rainwater from washing away the soil and vegetables. Also the soil is preserved and its fertility improves.



### Test 11

Circle the correct word.

- 1- Fences made of large plants – is not – is – a good idea because they use up the water, sun and nutrients from the garden.
- 2- Watering is done on the – low – high – part of the land.
- 3- Glasses and bones that are collected in the land are useful for the – garbage – fertilizer.

## 4- Preparation of the soil.

Good work!

The land of the garden is ready,

- fenced
- cleared
- leveled



Well prepared soil

Badly prepared soil

Now you have to prepare the soil:

The preparation of the soil consists of tilling the ground and loosening it to make it spongy. Thus, the roots will develop better and the plant will receive more benefits.



Answers  
for test 11

- 1- is not
- 2- high
- 3- garbage



## When do you prepare the soil?

Prepare the soil one month before planting.

Before starting it is necessary to see if the moisture is adequate!

If when you squeeze a handful of soil:



A ball forms but falls apart easily, the moisture is adequate.



If the ball is very moist and it does not fall apart, it is necessary to wait for it to be a little drier.



If a ball cannot be formed and it falls apart, the soil has to be watered a little.

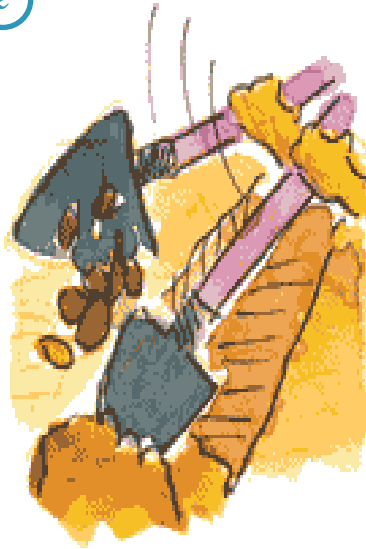
## How do you prepare the soil?

1



Scatter a layer of 2 to 5 kg. of organic fertilizer or manure for each m<sup>2</sup> of land. Mix it with the first 10 centimeters of the soil.

2



Push the pointed spade 30 cm. into the ground then raise it, letting it fall and turn.

3



Continue turning the soil in rows throughout the garden and then return doing the same thing on the side.

4



Remove large stones and garbage.

5



When all the earth has been turned, go over it with the rake to flatten and break up the lumps.

6



If the region is very rainy or very dry, the soil can be covered with mulch so that crusts do not form or that the sun won't over dry it.

### Test 12

Complete each sentence using the following words:

large - protect - a month - organic compost.

- 1- It is important to surround the garden to .....from animals.
- 2- It's not a good idea to make walls with .....plants that will use up water, sun and nutrients from the garden.
- 3- Small branches, grass and leaves can be used to prepare.....
- 4- The soil should be prepared .....before planting.



Answers  
for test 12

- 1- to protect it
- 2- large
- 3- organic compost
- 4- a month

In well prepared soil!

- There is good ventilation.
- Microorganisms are well developed.
- Rain and irrigation water enter easily.
- Plants take full advantage of the nutrients.
- Roots grow better.



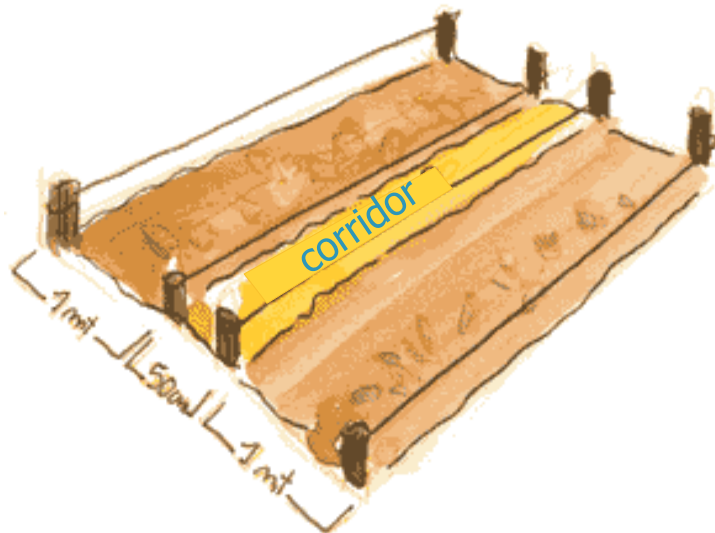
And now, to prepare the raised beds!

Raised beds are ideal when there is little land available; they allow you to take full advantage of the space

How are the raised beds made?  
To begin, mark rows 1m wide by not more than 15 m long leaving a corridor of 1/2 m between them. If the slope permits it, orient the rows from North to South.

Attention!

If there isn't much water for watering, the beds must be made narrower.

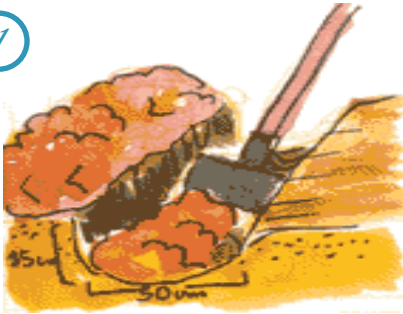


The rows can be marked using cord tied to wooden stakes.



## Making the beds is very easy, just follow these instructions.

1



With a shovel, make a 15 cm. deep furrow between each row and move the topsoil on to the row.

2



Add organic compost or manure on top of the row and mix with the first 10 centimeters.

3



Deepen the furrows another 10 cm. and place the soil on the top of the rows.

4



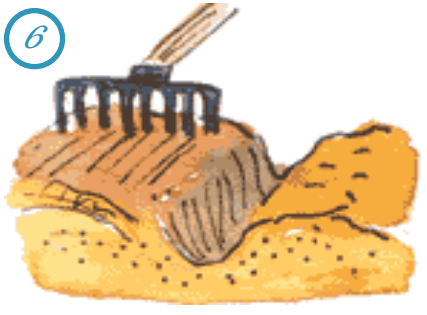
With the back part of the shovel flatten the edges of the bed and also the surface so that it doesn't fall apart.

5



With the hoe, pick the soil on the surface of the bed to break up lumps.

6



Smooth with the rake. Finally the bed will have a height of approximately 50 cm. measuring from the bottom of the soil.

Make the rest of the raised beds using the previous procedure.

If the space is small, it does not matter! 2 to 3 high beds the length of the yard are enough to produce many vegetables.





### Remember:

- If you are in a very rainy area, it is necessary to lay planks or stones on the edge of the beds so that they do not fall apart.
- In raised beds, plants of different sizes can be combined.
- Raised beds can last for many years, but you have to add compost every season and take care that it does not become compacted.







In this chapter  
we have seen:

#### Preparation of the garden:

- 1- Fencing
- 2- Clearing.
- 3- Leveling.
- 4- Preparation the soil.

#### Test 13

Place a "T" if the sentence is true and an "F" if it is false.

- 1- A high and sturdy wall should be built to protect the garden from the cold and wind.
- 2- You should dig a ditch in low part that provides an exit channel for water so that the garden is not flooded.
- 3- The soil has to be worked well so that it has good aeration.
- 4- Roots need air to breathe.
- 5- The moisture of the soil is not important to work the ground.
- 6- A garden cannot be planted if the soil is poor in organic matter.
- 7- In dry areas it is advisable to make raised beds narrower.
- 8- The soil is only useful to hold the plants.

**If the answers were all correct, you can go up another step. Congratulations!**

Answers for test 13

1 T

2 T

3 T

4 T

5 F

6 F

7 T

8 F

If two or more answers were not correct, you should review the material in Chapter 4

**Expert horticulturists**

**Chapter 7**

**Chapter 6**

**Chapter 5**

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**Chapter 3**

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**Chapter 1**

