



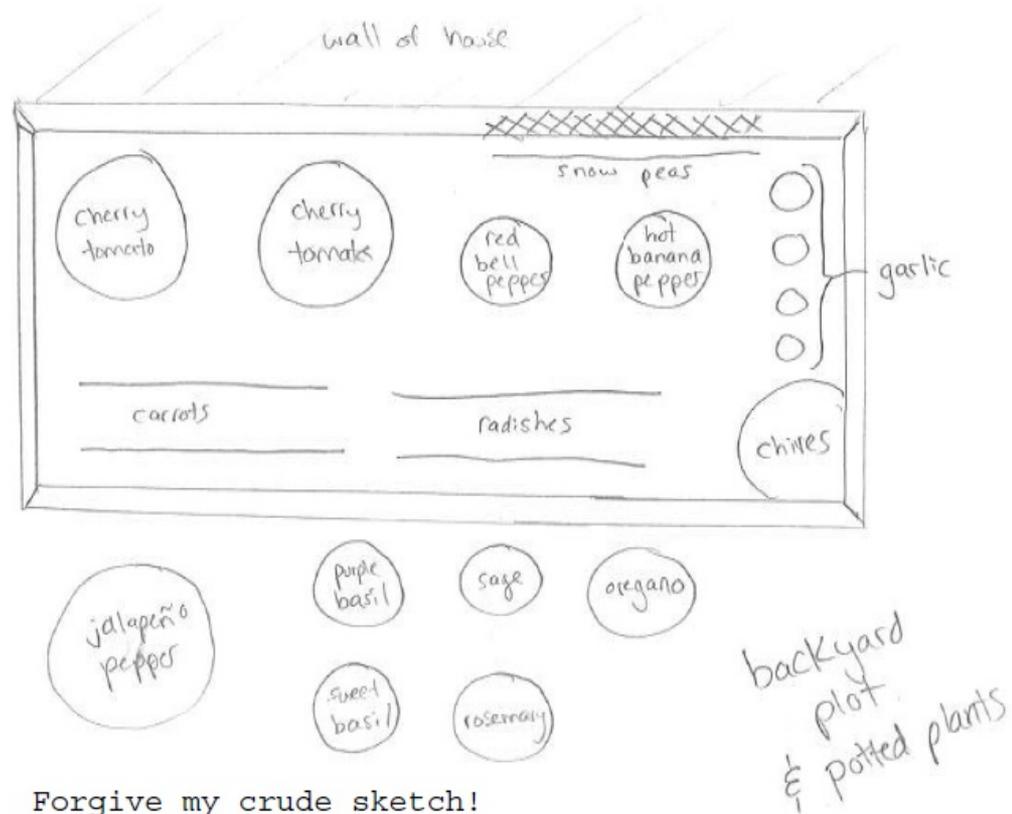
Prep Your Garden Beds for Spring Planting

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Think Big! Start Small

- Plan ahead
 - Orientation of the bed
 - Size of the bed
 - Type of landscape bed – vegetable, annual flower, perennials
 - Draw a garden sketch
 - Carefully choose the plant species for the location
 - Control perennial weeds



Know Your Garden Soil

- Soil is the foundation for a successful garden
- Plants evolved and adapted to soil conditions



Healthy Soil



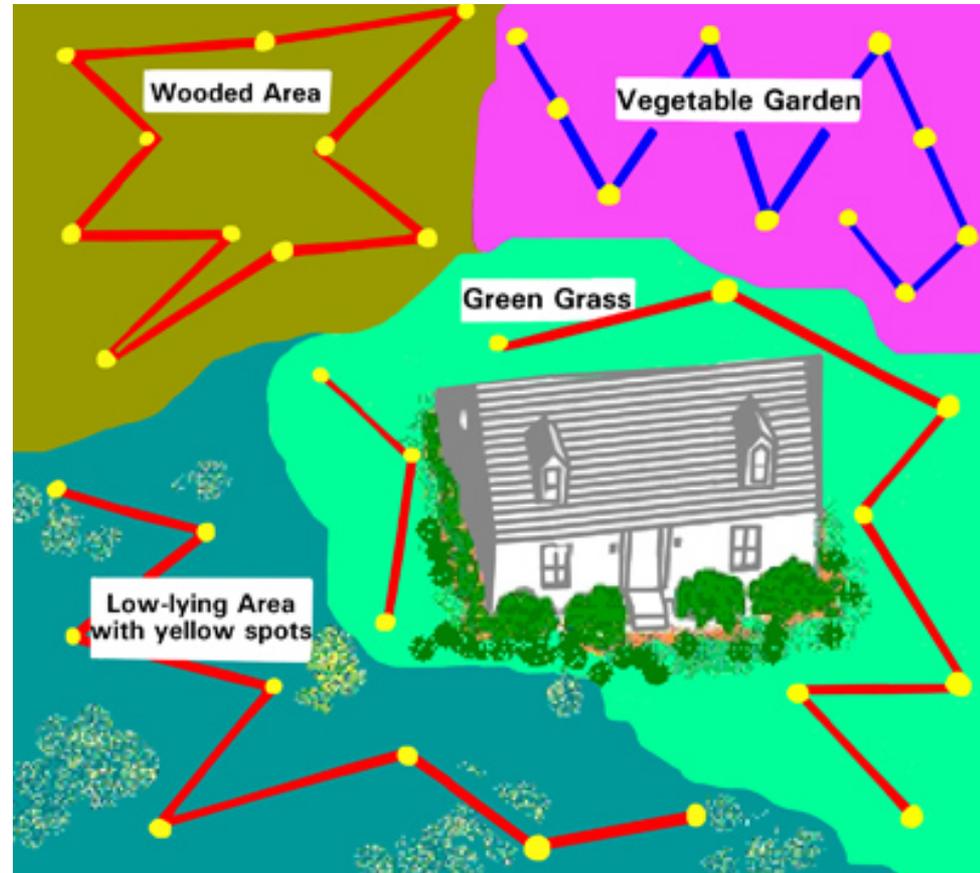
- Minerals
- Efficient pore space
- Organic matter



- Heavy soil – lack of efficient pore space
- Organic matter improves pore space

Soil Test

- Take a good representative sample from your backyard
- Fall is the best time, second best time is spring
- pH, phosphorous, potassium, and organic matter
- Garden soil – 4-6% organic matter
- Cost \$21.00
- Once in 5 years



Sod to Garden

- Remove turf grass with a sod cutter
- Cover with black plastic or old carpet for 6 weeks
- Use herbicide like Round-Up



When to Prep Your New Garden Bed

- Spring – not too wet and not too dry
- Soil ball test
- Add organic matter 4-6 inches deep
- Till the soil 6-8 inches deep
- Add fertilizer and rake it 2 inches deep



Organic Matter & Fertilizer

- Examples of organic matter – compost, fall leaves, rotten cow manure, peat, green manure (peas, beans, soybeans, alfalfa, clover), coir
- Established perennial garden bed
 - Add 2-3 inches organic matter around the crown
 - Can also act as mulch

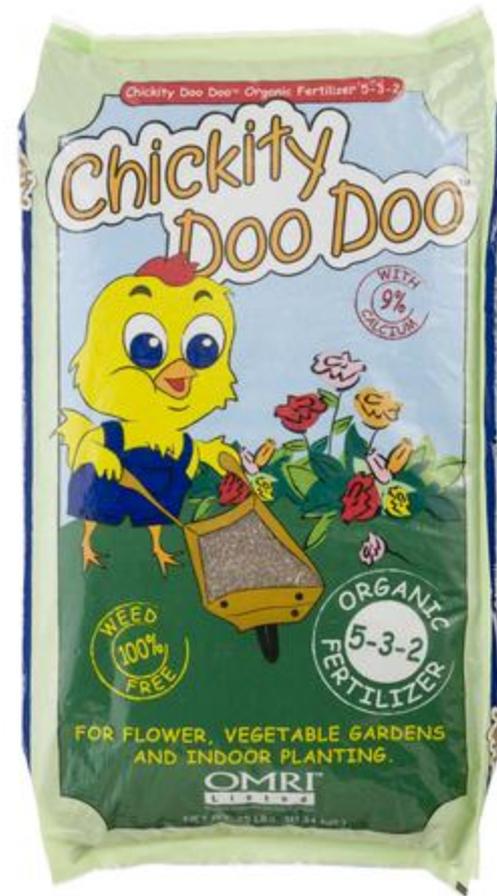
Raised Beds

- Soil mix options
 - Compost, peat, perlite (1: 1:1)
 - Top soil, peat/compost, perlite (1:1:1)



Fertilizer

- Annual flowers & vegetables:
 - If using synthetic fertilizer, use soluble type of fertilizer, sprinkle synthetic a week before planting
 - If using organic fertilizer, sprinkle two weeks before planting
 - Halfway during its growth, side dress with fertilizer



Water Immediately after Fertilizing



Fertilizing Your Home Vegetable Garden

<u>Recommendation</u>	Fertilizers(s) recommended	3-4 weeks	
		<u>At planting</u>¹	<u>after planting</u>²
		Cups per 100 sq. ft.	Cups per 10 feet of row
<i>Nitrogen only</i> 21-0-0 33-0-0 45-0-0 Law 28-4-4,	Ammonium sulfate	4	1/4
	Ammonium nitrate	2 1/4	1/8
	Urea	1 2/3	1/8
	n fertilizer³ 26-0-6, etc.	2 1/4	1/8
<i>Nitrogen and Phosphorus</i>	10-20-10, 7-22-8	8	1/2
	Organic fertilizer⁴	15	1
<i>Nitrogen and Potassium</i>	20-0-10, 18-0-15	6	1/2
<i>Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and potassium</i>	10-10-10	7	1/2
	14-14-14	5	1/4
	18-18-18	4 1/2	1/4
	20-20-20	3 1/2	1/4
Organic	fertilizer⁴	15	1

- Garden perennials
 - Doesn't require heavy fertilization
 - Fertilize in mid to late spring (just before or at the time of new spring growth) using low nitrogen based fertilizer or use slow release fertilizer or organic fertilizer
 - Sprinkle a small handful around the plant on an established bed
 - Keep it off the foliage
- Water immediately – light watering



Garden Beds Underneath Established Trees

- Create ground bed plantings
 - Spread 2-4 inches of organic matter (compost, rotten manure) on the soil surface
 - Use a shovel to incorporate the organic matter into the soil (4-6 inches deep)
 - Too much disturbance around oak trees can kill the tree
 - Choose plants that can take dry, shaded conditions
 - Use small plants for planting, minimizes disturbances
 - Deep soaking water, once a week
 - Add mulch in June
 - Every spring, add some compost around the plants

Frequently Asked Questions

- Can I add grass clippings?
 - Do not use treated grass clippings in vegetable garden beds
- Should I add lime or wood ash to my garden?
 - Not in Brown County garden soils, unless the soil test report suggests

- What do I add in the soil to turn hydrangea flowers blue in summer?
 - Cultivars that have blue flowers: Endless Summer, Nikko Blue
 - Need acid soil with pH 5.5 or lower, where aluminum is available for the plant
 - Use aluminum sulfate (2 Tbsp. per gallon of water) in spring. Beware that a high dose can burn the roots. Take care to ensure the soil is moist before application. Fertilize once a month during the growing season.
 - Mulch with pine needles, pine bark, peat



- Should I use landscape fabric or plastic as mulch?
 - Not needed, they tend to do more harm than good. In a vegetable garden, it helps in warming up the soil in spring.
- Should I be fertilizing every week?
 - No, over fertilization can trigger too much growth or it can burn the leaves or roots. Plus the salt from the fertilizer can build up in the container.

- What's the best kind of mulch?

Vegetable beds – compost, straw, pine needles, rice hulls

Perennial beds – shredded wood/bark, compost, chopped leaves, pine needles

- When to mulch?

– When the hot, dry season is about to begin (mid June)

Contact Us

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