

BED PREPARATION

1. Clear surface / Remove weed growth – Slice off with sharp spade
2. Fork over in clods – add Lime to help loosen / break down
3. Water or wait for rain / frost / wind to weather / soak
4. When drier but still moist, tread down clods to lumps
5. Add concentrated fertilisers and bulky organic matter (if required)
6. Fork and tread to break down lumps and distribute organic matter

SEEDBED PREPARATION

1. Rake stones off surface – at right angle – crossways or diagonally
2. Turn whole bed with spade removing stones / roots etc.
3. Break lumps down to powder with back of spade and by treading
4. Tread bed flat, feet skating or gliding
5. Rake surface as before to clear stones and lumps
6. Rake deeply, pushing down into the soil, in line with rows

SOWING SEED

1. Establish straight lines parallel to bed edge with hoe or line
2. Flatten soil along in furrows, moving soil either side and clearing stones
3. Hoe along row deeper with angled blade to remove stones under drill
4. Shape drill within furrow, thin and shallow or wide and deep,
5. Sow seed – half all along then rest on return for equal distribution
6. Cover with fine soil drawn in from edge of furrow, at least twice as deep as the seed is long relative to the size of seed and vigour of seedling
7. Level off soil along the drill
8. Water gently with a rose twice, especially along rows or even over whole bed including ridges between rows to settle soil

TRANSPLANTING (assuming adequate soil preparation)

1. Lift seedlings with soil around their roots – moisten / water before
2. Handle root-ball or outer leaves rather than stem
3. Clear stones away from planting area, create a concave dip
4. Break up soil for hole – thrusting trowel in horizontally to vertically
5. Lift soil out of hole, distributing evenly in a circle around hole
6. Make hole twice as deep and wide as the plant requires immediately
7. Place (suspend) the plant at right height in the centre of the hole
8. Bring in loose soil from outside hole in circular motion
9. Shape soil to earth up stem and form a moat around plant
10. Firm in around plant with fingers or knuckles
11. Water twice by filling moat and allowing water to soak in or fists or feet