

SOIL PREPARATION FOR A POLLINATOR GARDEN

1. IF SITE IS GRASS COVERED, GET RID OF GRASS.

› Dig it up

- Rototill and rake or
- Use shovel and/or pick and rake

› Smother it

- Cut the grass on lowest mower setting.
- Cover cut grass with a 10-12 sheet thick layer of newspaper, wet it down, then apply 4-6 inches leaf mulch (e.g. LeafGro) or 6-8 inches leaves then wet it down again.
- Plant new plants in holes cut in X shape through compost and newspaper. Peel back the X to reveal a circle. Plant the plant and pull up the newspaper around the base of the plant. Remainder of garden will remain weed free and decompose over time.



2. IF SITE HAS BARE SOIL, HAND WEED IT.

(👉 After ground soil has been prepared as above (method 1 or 2), apply 1/3 compost and 2/3 soil to potting hole (if needed according to soil test). 👈)

3. AVOID SOIL AND PLANT IN RAISED BEDS.

- › Raised beds need to be at least 6' deep, 12" deep is preferable.
- › Fill with soil and compost mixture.

4. AVOID USING MULCH.

Many bees need bare soil to make nests. Also, garden will not naturalize and spread if last year's seeds cannot fall onto bare soil.