



NEBRASKA STATEWIDE
Arboretum

BLOOM BOX

Preparing Your Garden using Herbicide



This gardener is using a hose to make an outline.



Layers of cardboard or newspaper can prevent weeds without chemicals.



Adding compost improves the health of the soil.

REMEMBER...

- Preparing a new garden for planting takes 2-4 weeks, plan to start early and give yourself time to work before your plants arrive.
- If you are not ready to plant when your Bloom Box is delivered, keep your plants in a shady area outside and water them daily until you plant.

Things You'll Need

- Rope, hose or spray paint for marking
- Herbicide, follow label instructions
- Sharp shovel or sod cutter (for converting a lawn)
- Rake or shovel
- Compost or topsoil (or a mix), 4-6 inches
- Straw or weed free/chemical free grass clippings for mulch, 1-2 inches

Step One: Outline Your Bed

1. Make a general outline of your garden bed using rope, hose or spray paint. Broad, sweeping curves of different sizes work better than squiggly ones.

Step Two: Kill any Weeds

2. Remove existing, unwanted vegetation within the garden bed you outlined. Treat turf grass and weeds with two applications of an herbicide like glyphosate (RoundUp) to kill it completely, this usually takes 2-4 weeks. Then mow or stamp it down. For lawns, use a sharp shovel or sod cutter to cut the lawn into strips and flip them over so the grass blades are facing down and the roots are facing the sky. This creates a clean bed edge.

Step Three: Add Compost

3. Spread 4-6 inches of compost on top. If it will be a few weeks before you plant, cover this with 1-2 inches of clean straw or grass clipping mulch to keep weeds out and enrich the soil. Wood mulch is okay, but works better for woody trees and shrubs than for BLOOM BOX plants.