



Grand Prairie

— T E X A S —

PARKS, ARTS & RECREATION

CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE

PARKS AND RECREATION

PRESENTS

SPRING INTO GARDENING!

Susan Henson, Horticulturist

972-237-8102

shenson@gptx.org

1. LOCATION

2. LIGHT - 8 to 10 hours of intense sun.

- * Shade after 4pm is wonderful

- * Shade in the morning is acceptable

3. Drainage - Area must have good drainage

4. Weeds - Remove all weeds

- * 20% Vinegar with Orange Oil

- * Solarization of soil

- * Smother them

5. SOIL PREP - Spade 1st to a depth of 12"

- * Till - As deeply as possible
- * Do not work clay when wet!
- * Incorporate 3" of organic matter
60 to 80lbs of manure per 100 sq.
ft. - other organic matter or
- * Expanded Shale

Testing soil for Clay content - Ribbon method





Soil Testing is one of the most important steps in a successful garden!

Take a proper sample and submit complete paperwork!



Compost

Horse Manure





Mulched
leaves on tarp

Grass Clippings



Expanded Shale



Raised Beds



Spacing Saving
Beds with walk
ways that are
accessible



Mulched Walkways



Gravel Walkways

Raised Bed Alternatives





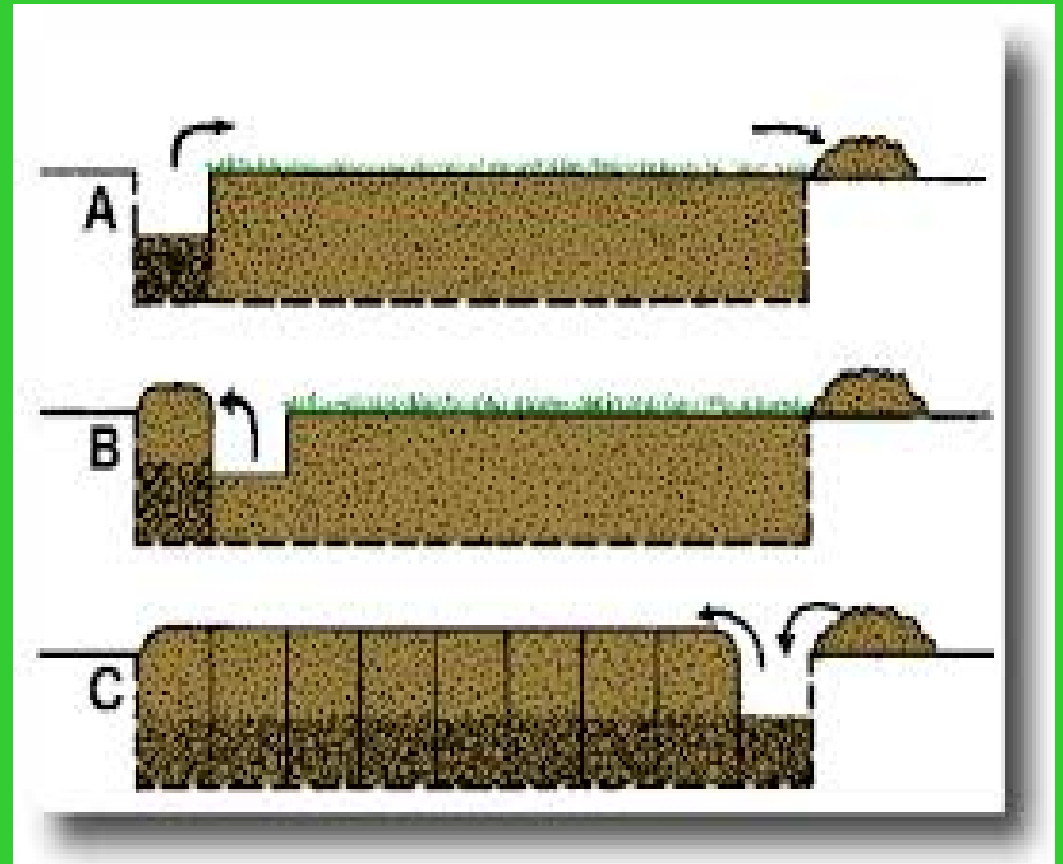
Newspaper can
be used for weed
control and to
line new beds.

Pine Bark Mulch



Pine Needle Mulch





Double Digging the Garden

6. WATER -

- * Before planting
- * After planting
- * During the growth cycle as needed

7. HARVEST -

- * Depends on proper variety selection
- * Handling during growth cycle and after harvest



Leaf Lettuce





Short Carrot Varieties – Best for clay soils



Icicle Radish



Spinach



Cucumbers





Squash



Blackeyed Peas



Leeks



Okra





Egg Plant



Broccoli



Cherry Tomatoes

Remember the keys to a good spring garden

- * Proper soil preparation
- * Right variety selection
- * Water
- * Weed and insect control

Timing is important in the garden but regular monitoring will catch problems before they are unmanageable.