

A landscape photograph of rolling hills. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, green grass. A dirt path or road winds through the middle ground, leading towards the horizon. The hills are covered in a mix of green and brown vegetation. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, with a hint of light breaking through near the horizon. The overall mood is serene and somewhat somber.

# **PREPARING YOUR SOIL FOR YOUR GARDEN**

## CLEAR OUT ROCKS AND DEBRIS



- Use a spade to cut sod into small squares and remove grass from the planting area.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of at least 8 inches (12 inches is even better) so that roots can penetrate.
- Remove any rocks, debris, or weeds from the soil.
- Add Organic Matter

COMPOST IS AN EXCELLENT  
SOIL AMENDMENT.



- It provides nutrients, improves drainage, and creates a favorable environment for plant roots.
- Spread 2 to 3 inches of compost onto the soil surface (no more than 4 inches).
- If it is your first garden, work the compost into the soil. For established gardens, leave it on the surface to avoid disturbing the soil structure.



## LEVEL THE GARDEN BED



- Use a steel garden rake or hoe to level the soil surface.
- Consider raised garden beds if you are in a colder region; they help soil dry out and warm up faster.
- Cover beds with black plastic or cardboard before planting to protect them from snow, rain, and erosion.

## KNOW YOUR SOIL



- Understand your soil type (clay, sandy, loamy).
- Test soil pH and nutrient levels.
- Adjust soil amendments based on your soil's needs.
- Remember, healthy soil leads to healthy plants.