



Week Eight Spring Bed Preparation

Lesson Objectives:

- Students will be able to recognize when Mother Earth is ready for planting.
- Students will learn the steps to prepare a garden bed for planting.
- Students will be able to plant a seed and a seedling.

Key Words//Concepts:

- *Zone 5b*: Our geographic area is defined to a certain range of climatic conditions relevant to plant growth and survival.
- *Frost Date*: The average date of the last light freeze in Spring or the first light freeze in Fall.
- *Direct seed*: The sowing (planting of seeds) directly into Mother Earth.
- *Seedling*: A young plant embryo ready to be planted into the earth and produce fruit.
- *Soil temperature*: the measurement of warmth in the soil.

Lesson Activity One: No-till Garden Bed Prep

Activity Materials:

- Growing spot (ex. container, garden bed, small earth-bed, large earth-bed, hanging pots, etc.)
- OMRI approved (good for the Earth) topsoil
- Local compost
- Pitchfork (cheap and easy) or broadfork (expensive, but awesome).
- Seeds (ex. Corn, bean and squash = Indigenous)
- Seedlings (ex. Broccoli, tomatoes, and peppers = provided by settlers)

Activity by Observation (due to Covid-19):

Students will observe Ms. Mioux prepping a 4x12' garden school bed.

Step 1: remove winter coverage (ex. Cover crops, coffee sacks)

Step 2: cover area with compost (½ bag of compost)

Step 3: broadfork (pitchfork) no-till preparation - compost gets worked into soil and microorganisms will not get disturbed.

Step 4: measure and mark the soil with how far apart to plant seeds (corn = 24" apart) and seedlings (tomatoes = 24" apart).

Step 5: create plant marker (name, date) and place at the beginning of the row/column

Step 6: plant seeds and seedlings in measured increments

Step 7: gently water new seeds and seedlings