Making Crop Beds

Toutes les étapes pour mesurer, tracer, creuser les passe-pieds, amender, aérer et pailler vos planches de culture permanentes de 75 cm.



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35 Once you have finished preparing the beds, water the entire plot generously.
36 Congratulations, your plot now has 10 beds ready for intensive organic market ga



We are going to show you how to set up cultivation beds for an intensive organic market gardening

enterprise in living soil.





What are cultivation beds?

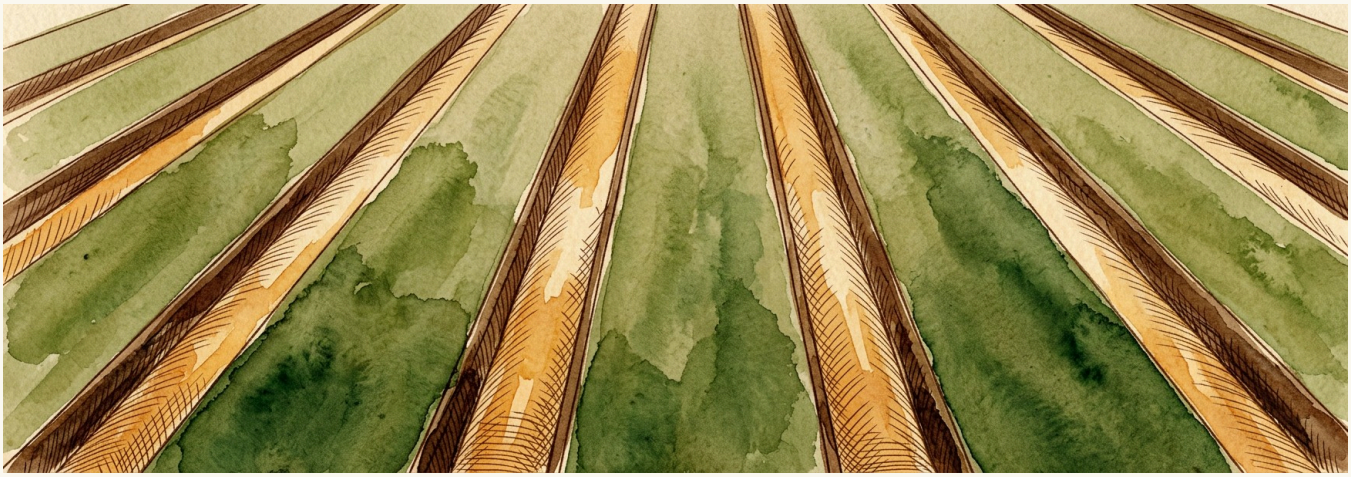
It is a way of farming that optimizes yield and preserves the life of the soil.



CULTIVATION BEEDS

Cultivation beds are strips of earth on which you will grow crops, they are elevated.

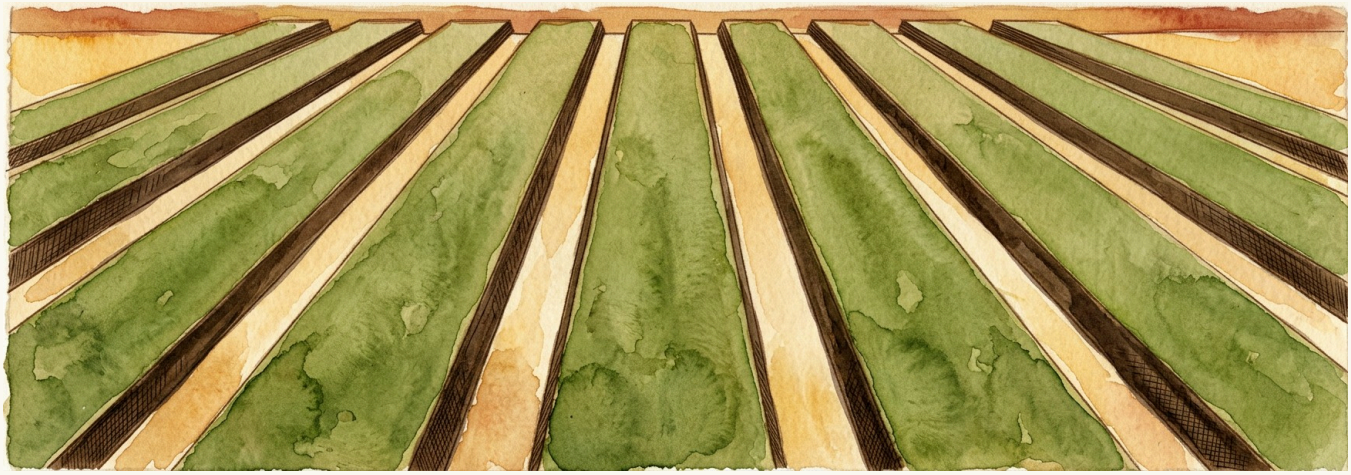
FOOTPATHS



FOOTPATHS

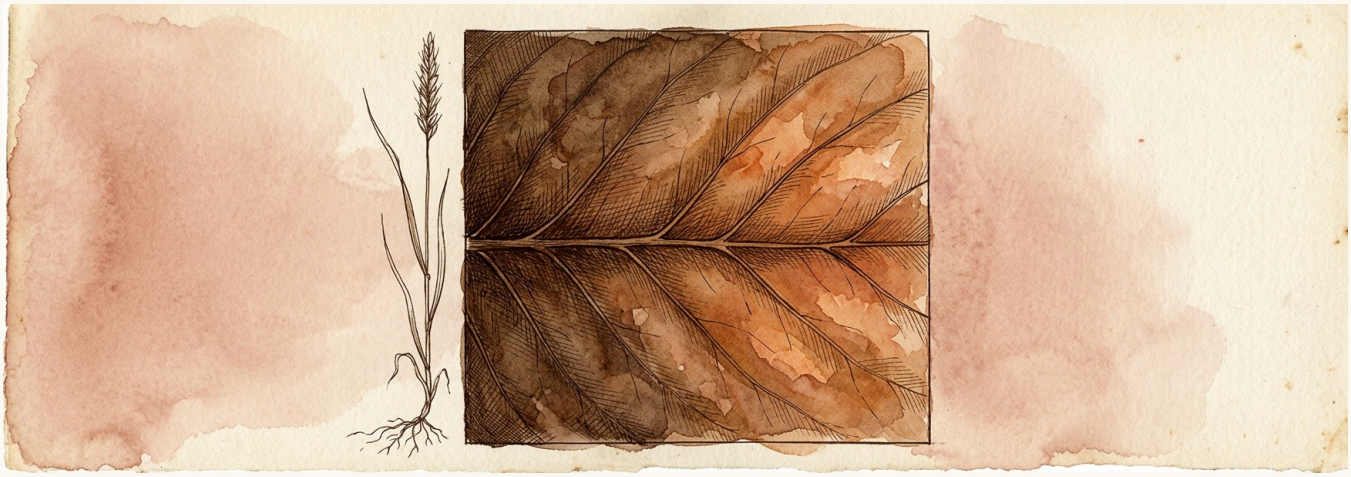
They are separated by footpaths, which are lower than the cultivation beds.

For the training, you will need a plot of about 12 x 12 m.



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10 cultivation beds

You will make 10 cultivation beds of 10 m length in this plot.



You will need the following tools: a meter, 40 stakes of 45-50 cm, 30 meters of string/small rope, a shovel or a

hoe, a pickaxe if the soil is hard, a rake, a broadfork (wide fork) or a pickaxe, a watering can or a hose for watering.

If you have compost or manure, plan for 4 wheelbarrows per bed.



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You will also need dry matter like straw, dry leaves, or dry crop residues. You will need about 5 wheelbarrows per footpath.

The setup of the beds is done in 7 steps.



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If all the materials are gathered, it’s a task that takes no more than one day for 2 people.



STEP 1 : CHOOSING AND PREPARING YOUR PLOT

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12 m

12 m

Choose a plot of 12 m long by 12 m wide, preferably near a water source.

If necessary, level the surface of the soil.



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If the soil is too dry, water the plot abundantly to facilitate the next steps.

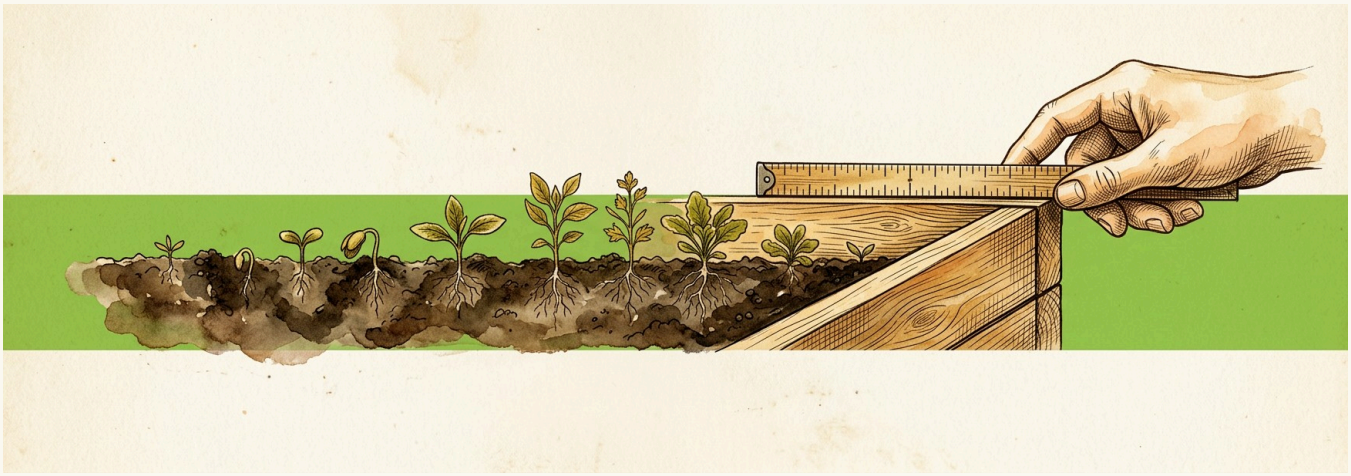
STEP 2 : MEASURING THE BEDS



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First, you must take the necessary measurements to make the beds.



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The beds are 75 cm wide,

The footpaths 40 cm.

You must start and end with a footpath.

Start at one end of the field. Plant a stake. Use a meter to measure 40 cm in width.



Start at one end of the field. Plant a stake. Use a meter to measure 40 cm in width.

Plant a second stake.

You have the boundary of the first footpath.

Then measure the width of the first bed, plant a 3rd stake at 75 cm.



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10 BEDS

11 FOOTPATHS

Then repeat these operations: bed/footpaths across the width of the plot, until you have the 10 beds and the 11 footpaths.

Cross the field in length, over 10 meters.



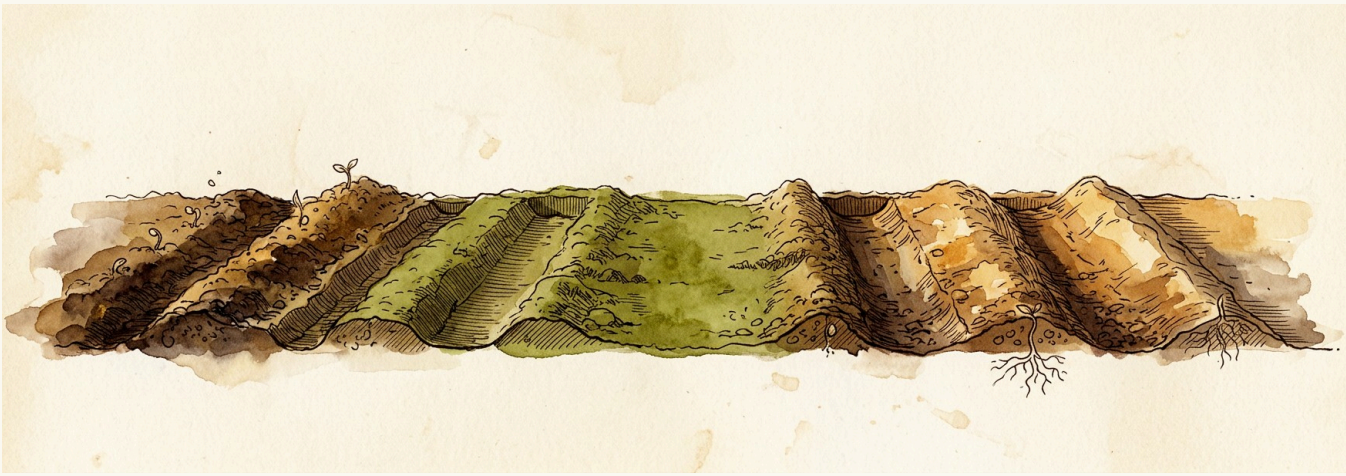
Cross the field in length, over 10 meters.

Measure the beds and the footpaths opposite in the same way by planting stakes.



STEP 3 : DIGGING THE FOOTPATHS AND PUTTING

SOIL ON THE BEDS



To clearly delineate the beds and footpaths, and to make straight lines, you will use a taut rope in the length

between the stakes. Stretch a rope between the stakes that define the footpath.

Dig the footpath with a shovel following the ropes.



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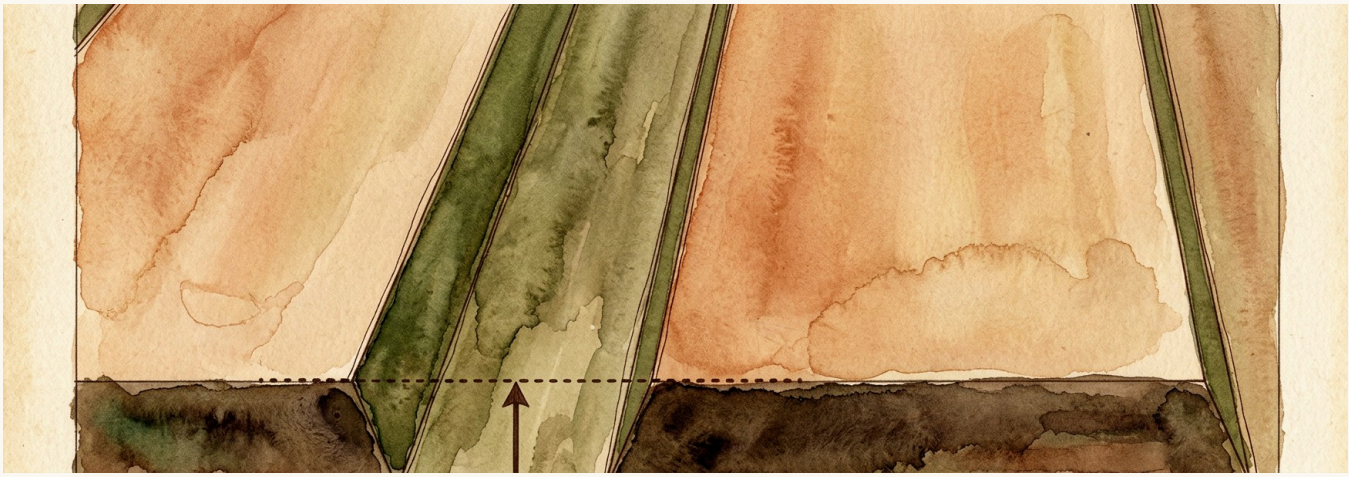
Distribute the recovered soil evenly to the right and left on the beds.

The footpaths should have a depth of 10 to 20 cm.



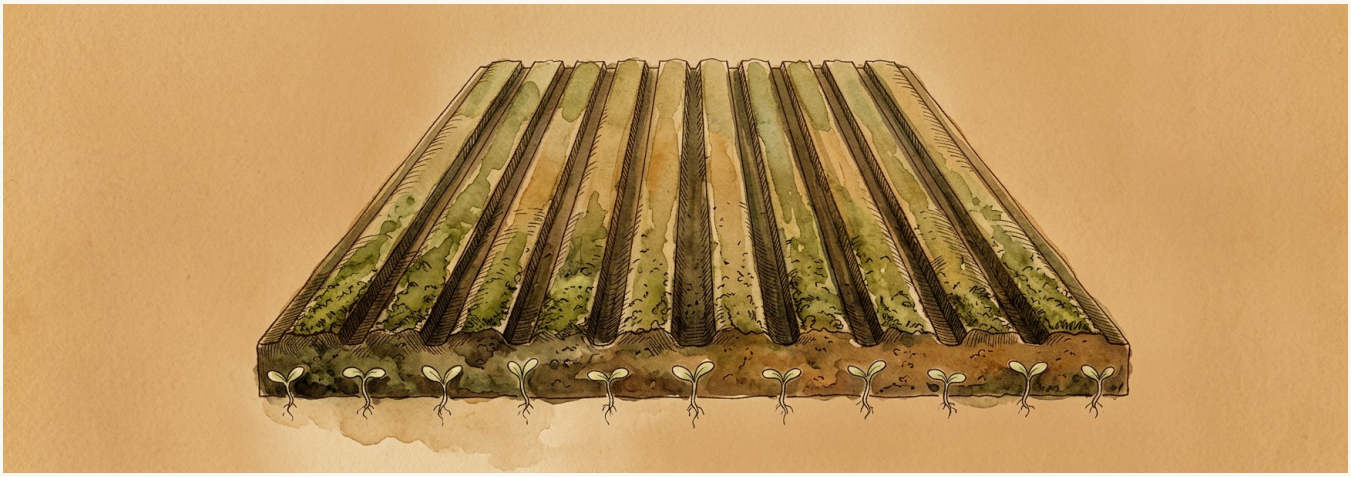
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11 FOOTPATHS

Repeat the operation for the 11 footpaths.



STEP 4 : AMENDING THE CULTIVATION BEDS

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25

It is essential to enrich the soil and improve its texture. For this, you can use compost or manure.



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About 4 wheelbarrows of compost are needed per bed. Distribute it evenly over the entire surface with a rake or by hand.



STEP 5 : AERATING THE SOIL OF THE BEDS AND

INCORPORATING THE COMPOST OR MANURE

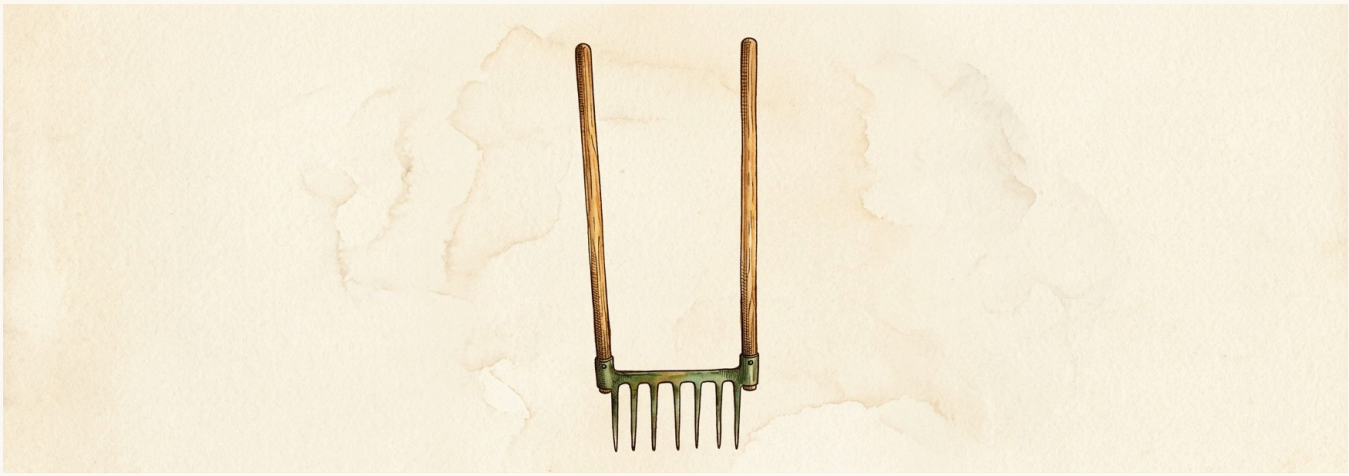


This step allows both to aerate the soil and to mix the earth with the compost or manure deposited in the previous

step. Soil aeration is done with a broadfork or a large fork. If you don’t have one, you can use a pickaxe.

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Insert the tool as deeply as possible into the soil.



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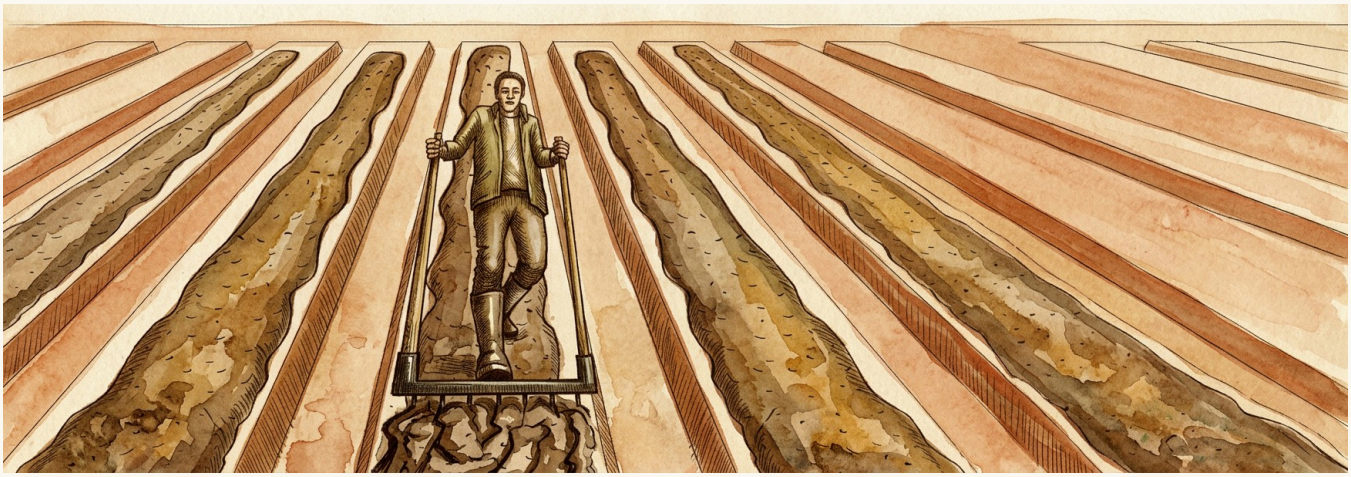
Insert the tool as deeply as possible into the soil.



Gently lift the soil, taking care not to turn it over. Be careful not to disturb the soil layers, the amendment should

simply fall into the cracks created when you lift the tool.

Use a rake to level the soil of the beds.



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STEP 6 : MULCHING THE FOOTPATHS

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Fill the footpaths with dry organic matter. This can be straw, leaves, or dry crop residues.



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An amount of 30 to 40 cm is needed.

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This straw will be compacted over time and as you walk on it. Its role is to prevent weeds in the footpaths and to

retain excess water. Moreover, this dry matter will turn into compost over time.

STEP 7 : WATERING



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Once you have finished preparing the beds, water the entire plot generously.



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Congratulations, your plot now has 10 beds ready for intensive organic market gardening in living soil.



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