

Fruit Planting Preparation

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If you plan to develop or add to your fruit garden next year, now is a good time to begin to prepare the planting site. Grass areas should be tilled so the grass does not compete with the fruit plants for soil moisture and nutrients. Have the soil analyzed for plant nutrients. Your county Extension agent has information to guide you in taking the soil sample. From that sample, the agent can provide recommendations on what

and how much fertilizer to add to correct any nutrient deficiencies. Organic materials such as compost, grass clippings, leaves, hay, straw or dried manure, can be tilled into the soil to help improve it's condition. Time and weather conditions generally are more suitable in the fall than in the late winter and spring for preparing soil. If fruit plants can be planted by early April, they will have a stronger root system developed to support plant growth than later plantings.

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