

Kū 'Āina Pā
Summer Intensive 2016

Garden Bed Preparation and Compost Application

“Take care of the edges and the corners; the rest will take care of itself.” – Orin Martin

Considerations for a garden bed

- Size
- Access to water
- Access for people and tools
- Sun exposure
- Slope
- Wind
- Soil quality

Before digging, check soil moisture. Do not dig if it is too wet or too dry.

- **Corner posts**
- **Check paths, rake clear and add ½-2” of soil on to your bed**
- **Edge the bed**
- **Deep dig the bed with a garden fork from center out**
- **Add sifted (finished) compost and amendments, evenly**
- **Lightly till compost and amendments into top 4” of soil**
- **Smooth bed with a rake, and string if you want to**
- **Mulch the path if appropriate**

Add Organic Material by:

- Adding compost into soil
- Adding soil amendments
- Topdressing
- Mulching

There are many methods to bed preparation; as you work in your garden, you will tailor a method that best suits you.