

A photograph of a garden path leading through trees and a stone wall. The path is paved with dark bricks and is flanked by lush green foliage and trees. In the background, there is a stone wall and a wooden gate. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Glossary

BSI standard: Established in 1901, the BSI is the world's first National Standards Body. It writes and endorses standards for business trading and practice, ranging from health and safety to environmental management and internet security. Many organic products, such as commercial composts, should embody BSI standards.

Clopyralid: is a herbicide (weed killer) used for the control of broadleaf weeds, especially thistles and clovers in lawns. Unfortunately it is known for its ability to persist, even in dead plants and in compost. Therefore it can affect plants which have been dressed by the affected compost. **Aminopyralids** are used by farmers as herbicides and are similarly persistent.

Crop Rotation: is a method of changing where you grow individual vegetables from year to year. It helps maintain good soil structure, ensures an efficient use of nutrients, helps to control weeds, and prevents a build-up of pests and diseases.

See www.gardenorganic.org.uk/planting-plan-and-crop-rotation



Fungicide: Fungi are the main cause of disease in vegetable crops. They include blights, mildew etc. A fungicide is a chemical which kills fungi.

GMOs: Genetically Modified Organisms – plants or living objects which have been genetically engineered in a laboratory. See www.gardenorganic.org.uk/gmos-genetically-modified-organisms

Green Manures: Green manures are plants which are grown to benefit the soil. They can improve soil fertility, by holding valuable nitrogen, and improve the soil structure by giving it better drainage or water retention. They also can suppress weeds and attract beneficial insects. They are sometimes called 'cover crops'. See www.gardenorganic.org.uk/green-manures

HSE Pesticides Guidance: This is the website of the Health and Safety Executive, which authorises pesticides, as well as guidance on how to use pesticide products safely. It also gives information about controls over pesticide residues in food. See www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides

Hot bed: This is usually made from a pile of decaying organic matter, such as well-rotted farmyard manure, which gets hot naturally from the metabolism of the microorganisms in the decomposing pile. They are usually made in a coldframe or greenhouse, where you can use this 'free' heat to start growing early in the year.

Intercropping: Growing more than one crop on an area, for example, planting lettuce beneath runner beans. Intercropping, under-sowing and catch crops are all ways to help improve soil structure and to prevent bare soil which allows weeds to flourish. See www.gardenorganic.org.uk/catch-crops

Leafmould: is made from rotted down autumn leaves. It is dark in colour and crumbly in texture. Often used as a soil improver, it helps break up clay soils in particular. It can also be used as a mulch. To make leafmould, see www.gardenorganic.org.uk/leafmould

Mulch: To mulch is to create a layer on top of the soil which will exclude light and some moisture. Mulches can be made from natural materials such as straw, newspaper and cardboard, grass cuttings, bush prunings, wood chips, bark, and manure. Sometimes a sheet of plastic membrane is used, particularly in weed suppression – some membranes are more permeable than others.

No Dig: This is a method of cultivation which requires a great deal of surface mulch made from well-rotted manure or compost – and patience. In principle, by avoiding digging you will not be disrupting the soil ecosystem, or exposing it to weed seeds. Instead the existing weeds are in darkness, under the mulch, which causes them to weaken and die. See www.gardenorganic.org.uk/no-dig-method

Glossary continued

Non-intensive systems: Intensive agriculture, also called factory farming, raises animals indoors under tightly controlled systems – often with extensive use of drugs and hormones. Non-intensive systems give the animals access to natural resources, out of doors, and respects their natural behaviours.

PAS 100: This is the national compost benchmark, *BSI PAS 100* stands for the British Standards Institution's Publicly Available Specification. It's a way of defining the quality of the compost. See www.wrap.org.uk/content/bsi-pas-100-faqs

Pathogen: A bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that can cause or carry disease.

Perlite: A mineral which can be added to soil to help aeration and drainage. Like vermiculite (see below) it holds water but doesn't become soggy.

Planting trench: This is a trench, about two spade heads deep, which is filled with fresh kitchen vegetable waste. When it is two thirds full, the soil is replaced on top. It supports 'hungry' crops such as runner beans. As the beans grow, the waste will rot and provide moisture and nutrients for their roots.

Stale seed bed: A useful weed control technique which involves creating a seedbed some weeks before seed is due to be sown. This allows any weed seeds that have been disturbed during cultivation to germinate. They can then be hoed off before sowing of the actual crop is carried out.

Vermiculite: A mineral which has the unusual property of exfoliating or expanding into worm-like pieces when heated (the name vermiculite is derived from the Latin 'vermiculare' – to breed worms). Vermiculite in potting compost gives a very light open compost, which holds water well.

Wormery: This is a self-contained unit that is ideal for disposing of kitchen waste. Worms and waste are kept in something as simple as a bucket or, more often, in a sequence of boxes, piled on top of each other. The worms feed on the waste. As raw vegetable and fruit waste have a high water content, the concentrated nutrient rich liquid released by the worms drains into a sump or drainage tray. This can be used as a plant feed.

