

Summary. This is a method of weed control practiced before planting. Most weeds germinate from very shallow layers in the soil – the top 2 to 3 cm. By allowing the weeds to emerge and be killed before planting with little disturbance to the soil, it is possible to reduce the number of weeds that will infest the crop.

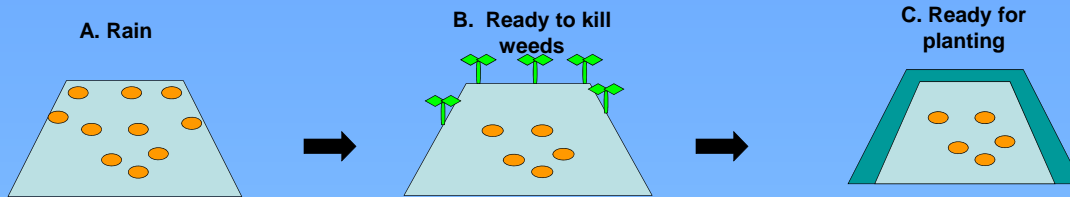


Fig. 1. Here the soil is prepared for planting: A. rain is needed to germinate weed seeds; B 7-10 days after the rain the weeds emerge and are killed with shallow tillage, C. the planting bed is ready for planting.

How to prepare a stale seedbed:

1. The area should be smooth and ready to plant
2. Irrigate area or wait for rain sufficient to germinate weeds
3. About 7 to 10 days after the rain or irrigation, perform shallow tillage with a rake, or hoe to kill the weeds. Also can spray with glyphosate herbicide (Roundup) to kill weeds.
4. Again irrigate or wait for rain sufficient to germinate weeds.
5. About 7 to 10 days after the rain, perform shallow tillage with a rake, or hoe to kill the weeds. Instead of tillage your can spray with glyphosate herbicide (Roundup) to kill weeds.
6. The area is now ready for planting.



Fig. 2. Lettuce grown without a stale seedbed preparation (left) and lettuce grown following stale seedbed preparation (right)

Final notes

Important! To cultivate the weeds do not till the soil deeper than 3 to 4 cm to avoid bringing weed seed from deep in the soil. Use a rake, not a shovel.

