



Direct Seeding Vs.

All About Seeds!

- Good seeds and good soil really are the two pillars of a successful garden
- “Without high-quality seed, all the other activities are moot.” - NOG





What about GMO, hybrid, open-pollinated, and heirloom seeds?

- Definitions: (Johnny's Seeds)
- **GMO or Genetically Modified Organisms** –
“The mechanical or biological transfer of genetic material outside of natural methods and between genera, families or kingdoms.”
- **Hybrid** – “The offspring of a cross between two or more varieties, usually of the same species.”
- **Open-Pollinated** – “A non-hybrid variety. One that can reproduce itself in kind.”
- **Heirloom** – “An old variety that owes its present availability to the seed-saving efforts of amateurs.” All heirlooms are open-



1. Why Direct Seed?

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- It is not practical or economical to transplant some plants
 - Examples of these plants are:
 - Tap-rooted crops (carrots, parsnips)
 - Low-return-per-square-foot crops (corn, pumpkin)
 - Legumes (peas, beans)
 - Fast-growing crops (radish, spinach)
 - Herbs (can go either way)

3) How To Precision Seed

- Germination percentages for direct seeding are lower than the percentage on the seed packet.



3) How To Precision Seed



- Allow for a “fudge factor” of 50 to 100 percent germination
- Example: If you want a plant every 4 inches then set the seed spacing at every 2 inches for the seeder

3) How To Precision Seed



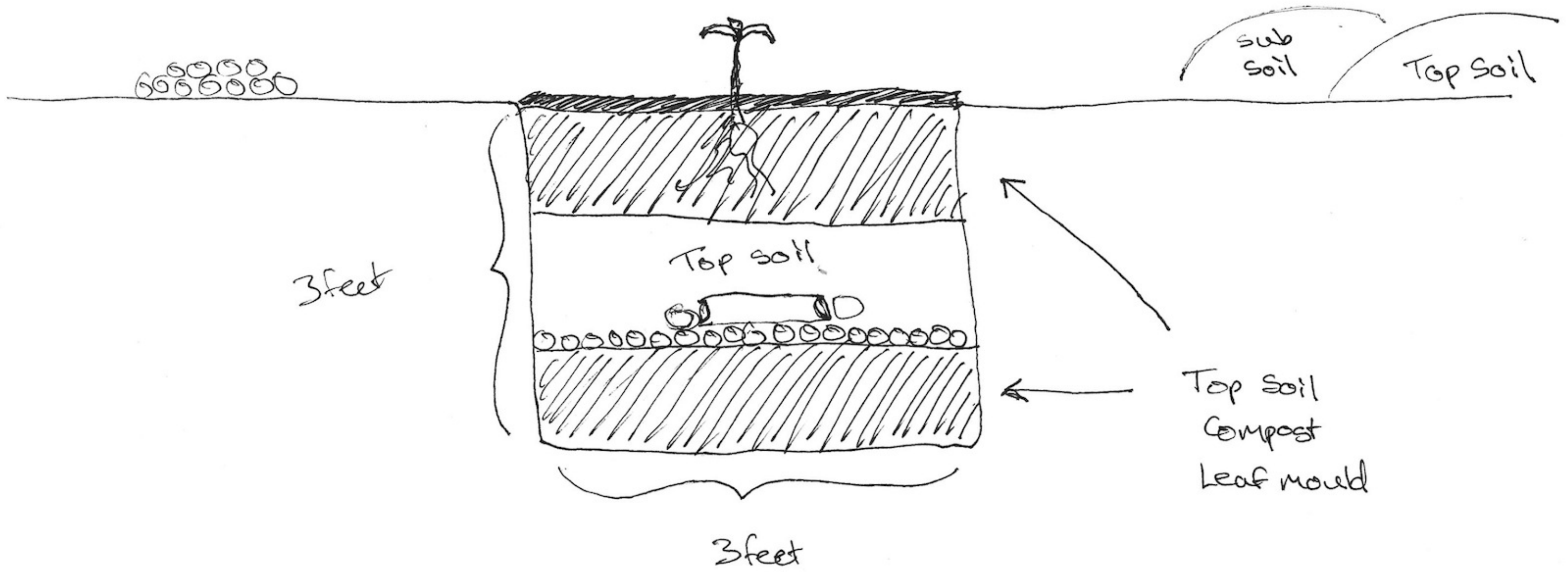
- As a general planting rule, cover seeds to three or four times their diameter (i.e. plant a ¼" diameter pea 1 inch deep)
 - In cool or heavy soils, plant a little shallower
 - In warm or dry soils, plant slightly deeper
 - Keep soil moist until germination

3) How To Precision Seed

- Mark the row before seeding:
 1. Stretch a string tightly along the side of your first row
 2. The row-marker arm on the seeder will mark the following rows for you
 3. Aim your seeder straight for each pass
 4. For larger areas you can use an adjustable rolling marker or marker rake to mark your rows

Why Transplant?

- There are many advantages to transplanting:
 1. Transplanting is more reliable
 2. Better plant care and cost efficiency
 3. An almost sure harvest
 4. Green manure productivity
 5. It is easier to deal with weeds
 6. It increases the effectiveness of succession planting
 7. Shelter gives a head start



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