



Soil Building Instructions



Step 1 Soil Test

Obtain a soil test. It is important that you do not skip this test! There is good information on how to do this at:
<http://web1.msue.msu.edu/monroe/soilweb2/testing.htm>

Step 2

Broadcast lime per soil test as early in the spring as possible. Disking in the lime no deeper than 4 inches proves to be most effective, but broadcasting it on the surface has worked in the past as well.

Step 3

When weeds reach a minimum of 6 inches tall, spray the field with 2 quarts of roundup and 1 quart sprayable ammonium sulfate per acre. Both Roundup and Ammonium sulfate are available at Ellsworth Farmers Exchange in Mancelona and Gruler's Farm Supplies Inc in Charlevoix. We use a 14 gallon sprayer for an ATV and several people on the island may be able to help or loan you the use of their sprayer.

Step 4

Around the first of June and at least two weeks after first spraying, broadcast fertilizer per soil test and 100 lbs Urea (46-0-0) per acre and till into soil no deeper than 4 inches. Follow this by broadcasting 100 lbs buckwheat per acre. After seed has been broadcast go over planted field with a drag or cultipacker (an old bedspring or fence will work).

Step 5

Around Mid August broadcast another 100 lbs Urea (46-0-0) and 200lbs 19-19-19 per acre. Till no deeper than 4 inches. Follow by spreading 100lbs Rye Grain (Caution NOT RYE GRASS) and cultipack or drag field. For an added benefit you can add 4lb purple top turnips per acre after dragging.

Step 6

Start again with step 1 the following spring and continue to do so until soil test results yield 6.5 ph or higher.

