

DIRECT SEEDING

(Field Exercise)

First, discuss what crops to direct seed and why.

- I. Preparation of bed
 - A. Incorporation of green manure crop (discuss)
 - B. Subsoiling (discuss)
 - C. Forming bed, addition and incorporation of amendments – activity/demonstration. Use tractor and rototiller. Discuss that seed size dictates fineness of soil needed to direct seed. Base amendments on needs of crop.

- II. Seeding
 - A. Methods
 1. Seeder – choose correct plate for seed, troubleshooting, gauging success
 2. Hand – slower but more accurate, inappropriate for larger scale
 - B. Determining depth of seed – rule of thumb
 - C. Covering seed – with soil or sand – discuss pros and cons

- III. Subsequent
 - A. Irrigation – frequent and sufficient enough to ensure good germination – critical at seedling stage in hot weather.
 - B. Thinning – when plants reach appropriate size, thin to desired spacing – based on desired size at harvest. Demonstrate/practice thinning.