

LAWN & GARDEN

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First plowing

As soon as the plants begin to slightly appear above ground, do the first plowing to cover up weeds and grass and to provide moisture. Install the finger tines and, using only the skid bar, begin working between the rows, getting as close to the young plants as possible without covering them up.

Second plowing

A week to 10 days later or right after every rain that has left a crust on the soil, do a second plowing. Install the finger tines and again work as close as possible to the plants without covering them up.

Third plowing

As the plants grow larger, it is necessary to throw more dirt on them. Be careful not to cut or disturb the root system, which will have grown and spread toward the middle.

Install the finger tines and, using only the skid bar adjusted so as not cultivate too deeply, work between the rows. For larger plants, remove the outside finger tines.

Side dressing

Sometime between the first 25 percent to 75 percent of the growth, add fertilizer in between the rows. Be sure it does not come in direct contact with the plant. This is called side dressing. After spreading the fertilizer between the rows, equip the tiller with the inside finger tines, plow bar and 10-inch-wide plow. The plow will push the soil to the sides as the finger tines mix the fertilizer.

One effective way to till is with a mid-tine tiller. For example, the tines on some tillers are set back farther than standard front-tine tillers. This positions more of the engine weight directly over the tines for

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To create a good root system, the seed bed needs to be made at least 8 inches deep.

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