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dictionary

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Language



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cul·ti·vate  (kŭl tə-vāt')

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tr.v. **cul·ti·vat·ed**, **cul·ti·vat·ing**, **cul·ti·vates**

1.
 - a. To improve and prepare (land), as by plowing or fertilizing, for raising crops; till.
 - b. To loosen or dig soil around (growing plants).
2. To grow, tend, or raise (plants or certain animals, for example): *cultivate wheat; cultivate oysters.*
3. To promote the growth of (a biological culture).
4. To encourage or foster: *cultivate a respect for the law.* See Synonyms at [nurture](#).
5. To acquire, develop, or refine, as by education: *cultivating a posh accent.*
6. To seek the acquaintance or goodwill of; make friends with: *cultivated the club's new members.*

[Medieval Latin *cultīvāre*, *cultīvāt-*, from *cultīvus*, tilled, from Latin *cultus*, past participle of *colere*, to till; see **k^wel-**¹ in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

cul ti·vat'a·ble *adj.*

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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